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Dear Parents or Carers

Preparation for a school lockdown

I am writing to inform you that following on from our successful school lock down drill last summer, we will be running another in the coming few days.

For parents and carers new to the school, this is due to the ongoing climate of attacks on schools, whereby we have taken the precaution of preparing a strategy to enable our students and staff to safely 'lockdown' the school. We are preparing for both 'lone wolf' and organised terrorist attack, using the most up to date advice from counter terrorism organisations. In the drill, we will practise with the students how to securely lockdown in school and keep themselves as safe as possible.

In assembly this week, **Year 7 students** were told what to do during a lockdown and then **all students** have begun practising lockdown drills in classrooms and in the PE areas individually with their teachers. The assembly was delivered sensitively with support from the SEND team to minimise potential stress some children might experience. We have encouraged the students to discuss the lockdown procedure with you.

Later in the week, we will be running a full lockdown drill across the whole school, much as we do with fire drills. We are deliberately not informing staff or students of the exact time to replicate the circumstances of the 'real thing'. Students who have sensitivities to loud noises or unexpected events have been prepared by the SEND or Student Support Team for the incident and will be supported during it. We do, however, expect them to take part for their own safety.

In the event of a real lockdown, we would try to inform parents/carers as soon as possible, but given the nature of a lockdown, the safety of the students would take priority and getting the news to you might be delayed. Please do not ring the school or your child as this would put staff and students in jeopardy but contact Peterchurch Primary who will relay any information they have. The primary school has also offered to be an assembly point for parents/carers as we would also ask you to NOT come up to the school as your presence will only hinder the emergency services and add greater pressure to the lockdown situation.

I would stress that preparing for lockdown is the school preparing for the very worst-case scenario and would not want to alarm you or students unnecessarily. We are viewing the need to have a lock down strategy rather like house or car insurance, by preparing for the worst but hoping that you will never have to use it.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Jayne Conway
Deputy Head



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