



Dear Parent / Caregiver,

The safety of our children in the bushfire danger season is our first priority.

The State Government will close high-risk public schools and preschools in specific fire Ban districts on days when the fire danger index is forecast at 100 or more - Catastrophic (Code Red) level. The reason behind this move is that most Education Department buildings were built to standards that will protect people in conditions below, but not above this 100 point index level.

As Mary MacKillop Memorial School has a 'low risk' rating, our school will remain open on declared Catastrophic Fire ban days. However, all buses in the Lower South East Fire Ban Region will be cancelled on Catastrophic Fire Ban days in our area.

A CATASTROPHIC WEATHER FORECAST ANNOUNCEMENT will be made on ABC radio before 6am, 6.30am, 7am, 7.30am and 8am.

In the event that a prediction of Catastrophic weather conditions is made, we will warn parents of bus students via SMS or a phone call that buses may be cancelled and by sending a letter home with all bus students the day prior (if we receive notification in time).

For this reason it is extremely important that any changes in mobile phone or other contact details are communicated with the school as soon as possible.

In the event of a local fire, it is also necessary to listen to 1161AM to find out where the Safe Refuge will be – while some places have been named as a Refuge in the past, in the future the CFS will decide for each community where the Refuge will be.

Further information is available at www.bushfirereadyschools.sa.gov.au including a full list of high-risk school and preschools.

When a Catastrophic (Code Red) level bushfire weather is forecast a parent hotline (1800 000 279) will operate the day before and throughout schools/preschools closures.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Nicole Coote

Principal