

# Plimmerton School

School Road, Plimmerton  
Tel: (04) 233-8677 Fax: 233-8657



## KŌWHAI SYNDICATE: Firewise Programme

17th October 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As part of our Kōwhai Syndicate focus on safety in Term 4, we will be working on a Firewise unit in Weeks 3-7. The students will learn some fire-safe behaviours. They will practise what to do to get out FAST if there is a fire in a building they are in. We are also lucky to have firefighters and fire engines coming to visit the syndicate to share their work and answer student's questions.

### Supporting the programme

During this Get Firewise unit, your child or children will bring home your copy of a Get Firewise Family Book/DVD. These have some simple homework tasks your child or children will be asked to complete as we do the unit. We encourage you to read the story with your child or children, watch the DVD and involve all your family or whānau in making your home fire safe. We also encourage you to practise what to do if a fire starts anywhere in your house.

There are three things you can do to get out quickly and safely if a fire occurs in your home.

1. Install working smoke alarms in lounges and family living areas, halls and bedrooms to alert you to the fire. If you are asleep, you cannot smell smoke.
2. Have an escape plan so that every family member knows two ways to get out of every room and knows where to go to a safe meeting place.
3. Practise getting out of every room FAST when the smoke alarm goes off or if someone shouts FIRE, FIRE, FIRE.

### Why this is important

Each year the New Zealand Fire Service attends about 5,000 house fires. Around a quarter of house fires start in the kitchen from unattended cooking. Once a fire has started in a room, people have three minutes to get out of the room before they breathe in poisonous smoke and die.

### Concerns or questions

There may be some families in our community who have had an experience of fire. We want to make sure every child can participate positively in this learning programme. Please contact your child's teacher if there are any concerns about your child or children that we should be made aware of.

Yours sincerely,  
**The Kōwhai Syndicate Team**