



17th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### Lockdown Drill

As you will be aware, all schools are expected to have in place procedures to ensure that children and staff can be kept safe in the very unlikely event of a threat from an intruder, dangerous dog or an armed person in the local area. This procedure is known as a lockdown and should be practised each year to make sure that all students and staff are aware of the protocols.

As such, our school will be practising our lockdown procedure in the coming days. Staff have undergone training in how to respond should the lockdown bell sound, students have been provided with information in assemblies and will receive further training and support during Aspire time this week. The lockdown drill will be scheduled to allow time for preparation before the bell and also time to support students afterwards. In the time immediately after the drill, students will be able to ask questions and talk about the experience with their classroom teacher.

Please be aware that we have no information to suggest that there is an increased risk to our school community of a real lockdown occurring however, with our newly installed fence, a new lockdown alarm and many new students, now feels like the right time to practise the procedure.

We understand that for some students the experience will be particularly keenly felt, for example some of our students with special educational needs. Our SENCo and Ambition team will be ready prior to the bell to support these students and have planned for those most likely to be affected.

As I am sure you understand, these preparations are vital should the unlikely need to use them arise. It is important that students are not given lots of notice of the drill time and date, as this causes excessive anxiety and results in an unrealistic version of the lockdown.

### Collett Park Pond

On a final safety related note, please could I ask all parents/carers to speak to their children regarding the pond in Collett Park. As a result of the cold weather currently, the pond is likely to be frozen at different points. We would like to emphasise the importance of students not walking on the ice and certainly not behaving in an unsafe manner near to the pond. We have spoken in assemblies and Aspire time regarding the recent tragedy relating to children being on ice and the importance of students being sensible on their way to and from school. Your support in emphasising this message would be appreciated.

Should you have any questions regarding the lockdown drill or any other aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact me at [guy.swallow@whitstoneschool.org](mailto:guy.swallow@whitstoneschool.org)

Yours faithfully

Guy Swallow

Headteacher