



Dear whānau,

The tragic situation on Friday is a sad reminder that we do need to be prepared for unforeseen traumatic events.

If your tamariki have questions about what happened and you are not sure how to explain to them this article might help.

<https://www.theparentingplace.com/how-to-tal.../world-trauma/...>

Within school hours we practise lock downs and evacuations regularly. In fact we had a fire drill practice on Thursday morning.

Last year we did a full school evacuation practice for the first time. This went well, we learnt a lot from it and have added to our procedures for the next practice. The reality though is that, sadly we could easily be in a situation that is not planned and not a practice.

Please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details and a list of adults who may pick up your child in an emergency. You can access this from the eTap parent portal, send us an email on [office@birchville.school.nz](mailto:office@birchville.school.nz) or just check in with the office.

Our thoughts and aroha go out to all those directly or indirectly affected by Friday's shocking event. We give nothing to racism as this is not who we are living here in New Zealand.

Our school vision is:

Aroha ki te ako, Ako ki te aroha

Learn to love, Love to learn.

Nga mihi nui koutou

Robyn Brown

Principal