

21 June 2011

To whom it may concern,

Fendalton Open Air Primary School identified the need for a reliable system to be able to instantly and effectively communicate with the wider parent community, in the event of a school emergency. To achieve this goal we decided to partner with the SportCheck text messaging service this year.

The process to implement SportCheck was relatively seamless and it was ready to go in two weeks. This included introducing the concept to the school community, training the office administration staff, as well as importing the school database of mobile phone numbers for parents and caregivers.

We were delighted with how well the system worked following the aftershocks on 13 June. Immediately after the initial quake, the school was able to send a text message to notify parents and caregivers that the children were safe, and to inform parents "To collect children as soon as possible."

A key advantage of the SportCheck text message service is the ability for schools to distribute a message from a designated mobile phone when computer access is not available or there is no power, as may occur with a civil emergency.

Our new text messaging system worked extremely well, and has proved invaluable for the school community during a very stressful time for parents and children. The feedback from the parents has been very positive with many parents commenting on how great the system is.

We found the SportCheck service a simple to use and effective tool to communicate in an emergency. It also provides the facility to communicate other important information for school events and activities.

In the event of a state of emergency SMS/text messaging has clearly proven to be the most reliable and effective means of communication.

We would highly recommend other schools consider this vital communication technology as part of their communication and risk management strategy.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Sibson

Principal

