



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

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“Let your light shine”

16th March 2020

Hello Parents and Carers,

All schools received updated correspondence today regarding new restrictions regarding the coronavirus. There is a lot of information, but it is all focused on the very important role schools need to play in both protecting the health of our students and staff, and in supporting broader efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

It has been made very clear that normal daily work and attendance at school should not be interrupted at this stage and communities should continue to go about their normal activities.

School Events

Unfortunately the latest updates discourage large gatherings and we are required to CANCEL the following school events **until further notice**:

1. School Assemblies (including Thursday's Easter Liturgies).
2. All Camps and Excursions.
3. Interschool Sport (including regional “tryouts”).
4. Our School Cross Country event this Friday.
5. Easter Bonnet Parade.

To replace regular assemblies, we will be holding **Audio Assemblies** over the PA on Friday this week at 2:30pm and next Friday (last day of school) at 12:30pm. It will be as close as possible to normal assemblies and parents are welcome to sit in the school grounds to listen to these assemblies.

There has been no decision made regarding school closures (unless specific cases of COVID-19 have been identified).

Travel Restrictions

Everyone arriving in Australia from overseas from midnight on Sunday 15 March are required to self-isolate for 14 days. This obviously includes students and staff who may be returning from overseas excursions or other travel.

Importantly, it also includes parents, carers and any other relatives or friends of your students who are returning from overseas travel. As they are required to self-isolate, **they must not visit the school to pick up children or for any other reason.**

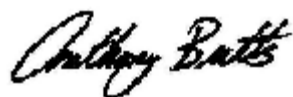
In addition, in response to the New Zealand Government's travel restrictions announced over the weekend, staff and students can no longer travel to New Zealand. This is effective from Sunday 15 March 2020.

It is crucial that we are vigilant and ensure we follow the recommendations made by the governing authorities and I appreciate everyone's understanding of this in the turbulent climate we are currently in.

It is also extremely important however, that we remain calm regarding the challenges that the coronavirus is presenting. Discuss the situation with your children where you see fit and answer any questions they have to reduce anxiety. Please contact me at school if you believe your child needs extra support in this area.

I will continue keep all parents and carers up to date with new information as it comes to hand.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Butts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony Butts
Principal.