

# COVID-19 Update

St Joseph's School is planning carefully to ensure the health and safety of all. Due to recent Ministry of Health and Education advice around assemblies and gatherings of large numbers of students we have decided to make the following precautions:

## St Joseph's Day Prayer Service

This has been cancelled. We will have a prayer service in each classroom.

## St Joseph's Day Tabloids

This will go ahead as we are outside in the fresh air. Students are to **wear sports uniform** to school **on Thursday**.

## Assemblies

Due to the number of people fitting into the hall for assembly we are unable to create a social distance between people so for the rest of this term we are cancelling Friday assemblies. Class awards and the Mercy shield will be presented in classes.

## Year 7&8 Basketball

We have received the following from the Basketball Association:

*" We would ask that schools **DISCOURAGE spectators and non-essential personnel** from attending games for at least the next 3 rounds"*

- While we have approximately 120 people in attendance at each round of games that we have a " Play and go away" mindset - (this still means you have to do score bench though.)
- We will no longer be supplying bibs for uniform clashes- please be mindful of who you are playing and if needed, bring your own bibs.
- Shaking hands after your game should be avoided- I don't believe anyone will be offended.

The Ministry of Health states " the situation and our response to it is changing all the time" and as such SCBA will keep in touch on any changes in advice.

## Guidance for parents, caregivers, whānau and teachers

Here is a useful link with ways to support children's anxiety

[Talking to children about COVID-19 \(novel coronavirus\)](#)

### Simple steps to protect your whanau and your community

- Avoid close contact with people with cold or flu-like illnesses.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, or sneeze into the crook of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds\* with soap and water and dry them thoroughly:
  - Before eating or handling food
  - After using the toilet
  - After coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses
  - After caring for sick people.
  - If you don't have soap and water available, you can use an alcohol-based hand gel. Rub it all over your hands, including the backs of your hands and between your fingers. Rub it in until it dries.

\*(As a guide for how long you should wash your hands for 20 seconds is about as long as it takes to sing two verses of 'Happy Birthday to you')

- Clean all hard surfaces regularly with disinfectant or diluted bleach (one teaspoon of bleach diluted with 500 ml of water) especially if someone in your household or workplace is unwell.
- Importantly, if you're sick please stay home.

We ask for your support by keeping unwell students at home.

This is a rapidly changing situation and we will endeavour to keep you fully informed.

Carmel Brosnahan-Pye  
PRINCIPAL