



March 16 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you after receiving advice from the Minister of Education last night.

At this time the best advice we have from Public Health officials is that continuing to keep schools open, whilst exercising good hygiene practices, is appropriate.

For this reason, schools will remain open for as long as it is safe.

To remain as safe as possible, and for the safety of the broader community, particularly those who are vulnerable, there are a number of measures that we need to now put in place to ensure this.

Cancellation of gatherings:

As a precautionary measure to reduce exposure the following activities will be cancelled:

- all assemblies
- excursions
- fairs
- concerts (with audiences)
- all sports carnivals
- school camps
- parent teacher meetings
- we will also limit gatherings across the school of more than one class of students including buddies, digi tech, choirs

This reflects advice that limiting occasions on which a number of people, larger than a class group, come together and are in close proximity to one another, lowers the chances of spreading the virus.

The restriction on these activities will be in place until further notice.

Supporting good hygiene practices:

- To protect ourselves and each other, the best thing we can do is to make sure we are regularly washing our hands and refraining from touching our mouths and faces. Practising these simple steps can reduce the spread of illness by up to 80%.
- We will be adopting strict hand washing protocols.
- Students and staff will also be encouraged to limit personal contact and use their elbow to cover their nose and mouth when they sneeze.
- Hard surfaces in classrooms, such as door handles, keyboards and desks will be regularly wiped down.

- We have reiterated with students the importance of not sharing food and we ask that food for sharing and celebrations is not sent to school during this time

As we have already seen across the world, this situation is likely to continue for some time and is constantly evolving.

A fact Sheet has been developed to assist you with having conversations with your child around Coronavirus. This is also attached to this email.

Further Information:

The Department is continuing to provide up to date information for parents on the situation as it evolves. I suggest you follow the Departments Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/tasgoveducation/> as well as the Alerts website page – <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/alerts/>

For the latest advice, information and resources about coronavirus go to the Australian Government Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au and follow the link from the homepage.

For general information about coronavirus, including the national response, call the National Coronavirus Information Line on 1800 020 080.

We continue to post messages on our school Facebook page when appropriate

Regards

Monique Carter

Principal

Lansdowne Crescent Primary | Gourlay Street | West Hobart | 62341030 | 0417727288

<http://education.tas.edu.au/lansdownecrescentprimary/default.aspx>

<http://www.facebook.com/lansdownecrescent.primary>

RESPECT FOR ONE AND ALL