



The Catlins Area School

Te Kura Taumata O Catlins | To be the best you can be

17th March 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Caregiver(s),

Since the Government announcements yesterday, a number of events have been cancelled or postponed. Here is a list of the events we know about at present:

Date	Event	Status
18/03/2020	Prime Lamb / Disco	Prime Lamb – prizegiving/BBQ are postponed, lamb collection and competition to go ahead Disco - postponed
27/03/2020	School Swimming Sports	Postponed (Term 4)
30/03/2020	GRIP Leadership Conference (Y7, Y11-13 and Junior Leaders)	Event cancelled; online version will be made available to schools for use in class
02/04/2020	Otago Primary Triathlon	Cancelled
04/04/2020	Otago Swim Champs	TBC (awaiting confirmation of cancellation)
07/04/2020	Football Tournament	TBC (awaiting confirmation of cancellation)
09/04/2020	Splash 'n' Dash	Postponed (Term 4)

We will endeavour to keep you informed of other events and notifications as they become available to us.

The rules around school assemblies (larger groups in one location) are:

“For assemblies you need be confident that participants can maintain a safe physical distance from each other. This would be 1.5 metres and for immune compromised people, 2 metres from others. Consider:

- *encouraging good hygiene at all times – hand washing, coughing etiquette etc*
- *splitting the assembly where this is an option*
- *reducing the number of assemblies*
- *thinking about current practices – handshakes, hongi, hugs etc - as noted by the Prime Minister we need to stop these practices.”*

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Te Kura Taumata O Catlins

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As such, we will be ceasing assemblies and house meetings until the end of this term, for review after the holidays. Information will be conveyed to students through tutor classes and homeroom teachers.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Education contacted all schools to check our capability to provide online learning in the event of school closure. Our teachers are currently ensuring their online learning platforms are up to date. We use systems such as Google Classroom and Education Perfect and would continue to do so in the event of school closure. Our younger students would be issued with their school device for home use if ever required.

As a school, we have stepped up our cleaning regime with recommended practices from the Ministry of Health, and continue to support the following steps:

- Avoid close contact with people with cold or flu-like illnesses. Please ensure your child is kept at home if they are unwell.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing.
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with water and soap 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.

In the event that you are required to self-isolate for any period of time, please contact the school on (03) 415 8036 to clarify the details of your absence and return dates.

Many thanks in advance for your cooperation on these matters,

Kate Staniford

Principal