16 March 2020

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

People may have been watching the media regarding Government responses to the COVID-19 virus. You might be aware that the Australian Government has advised that all organised, non-essential static mass gatherings attended by more than 500 people must be cancelled from Monday 16 March 2020. The Department for Education has been closely monitoring the situation and providing letters we have distributed, to keep our school community informed.

The most recent advice from the Department, received late Sunday afternoon, is that schools will remain open, but that principals in schools with more than 500 students and staff should review internal school operations to consider postponing large in-school student gatherings/events. All preschools and schools, regardless of student numbers, are to critically examine the need to hold events and gatherings, and consider postponing those that are not necessary.

Given this advice I regret to inform you that the school’s annual Sports Day, scheduled to occur on Tuesday 17 March will be postponed, and the Continental, scheduled for Friday 20 March, will be cancelled. Please ensure all raffle tickets are returned by Wednesday 18 March as the Continental raffle will still be drawn on Friday 20 March.

These decisions are about supporting the effort to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19, as responsible members of the Riverland community. Preschools and schools play a vital role in assisting our communities to contain the virus, so we will be considering further measures in line with advice and directions from the Department.

Personal hygiene and the hygiene standards in all preschools and schools are critical to reducing the risk of infection. All children and staff must be encouraged to:

- wash their hands regularly, particularly after using the toilet and before eating
- avoid spreading infections to others by staying home if they are unwell
- cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or elbow

We are prominently displaying SA Health resources and posters and talking to students about maintaining their personal hygiene.

All children, students and staff who are unwell with fever and/or respiratory infection should remain at home until symptoms resolve.

The Department for Education is working closely with SA Health, and we will continue to follow their advice and guidelines.

You can also call the government’s coronavirus health information line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Your faithfully

DAVID GARRETT
PRINCIPAL