

20 March 2020

Dear BSBJ Families,

BSBJ and COVID-19

The dance school is complying with all recommendations and guidelines from the Ministry of Health around COVID-19 and we trust that all students/families are doing likewise.

The dance school is currently open and still offering classes. However, if your child is sick, please keep them at home so they don't pass their illness on to other students and the teachers. Also, we realise that some students may have medical conditions that would make them more vulnerable to COVID-19 or they may have family members in this situation. For this reason you may choose to keep your child away from dance classes. If your child is going to be absent from class, please email Mrs Bennett and let her know.

Although the dance school continues to run classes at this time, we're very aware of the need to introduce stricter hygiene procedures at the school and the following have now been implemented:

- A paper towel dispenser has been installed in the toilet together with a rubbish bin for used paper towels.
- Students are instructed to wash their hands before entering the studios.
- Props are not being used in classes, there is limited use of barres and teachers have introduced non-contact alternatives to high fives, etc.
- Teachers are instructing students not to hold hands in classes.
- Teachers are instructing students to maintain the recommended distance between each other.
- Surfaces, including door handles and barres, are being cleaned regularly.
- The toys have been removed from the Dressing Room.

We also ask that students play their part too and adhere to the hygiene guidelines from the Ministry of Health. This includes:

- Washing hands with soap and drying them.
- Coughing and sneezing into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue.
- Throwing used tissues directly into a rubbish bin.
- Not sharing drinks/drink bottles or food.
- Avoiding touching other people (including hugging, handshakes, high fives, etc.).

This is a very uncertain and worrying time for all of us, but particularly so for our children who can sense our concern but don't have the same capacity to process it as adults do. Moreover, children's routines and activities are being disrupted as many events, including most sports, have been cancelled. Being able to continue to come to dance class may be important in helping your child through this difficult period – it provides some physical activity, lets them engage in something that brings them joy and happiness and gives them a break from the stress of living through a global pandemic.

However, it is your decision, as the parent/caregiver to decide what is best for your child and we respect whatever decision you make for your whanau.

If the above situation changes, you will be advised via email. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of your children and our staff is of primary importance to us and all decisions are made with this in mind.

Be kind to one another and look after yourselves.

Kind regards,  
The BSBJ Team