Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst schools have been told to remain open in the current circumstances, the Headteacher’s of Bollington Cross, Bollington St John’s, Dean Valley and St Gregory’s have met in order to work together to ensure the safeguarding of our staff and pupils, and their families.

We are collectively following the frequently updated advice from the government, which comes to us through the Department for Education and Cheshire Local Education Authority.

We must stress that the government advice is to be followed by anyone who displays the symptoms concurrent with the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). It can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Any pupils absent from school for self-isolation will be marked as ‘Y’ in the register for any sessions missed. (Code Y is unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances.) The advice from the UK government is to self-isolate for 7 days.

The Headteacher’s have worked together in order to make continuity plans for our schools, which take in a number of scenarios. Today, we want to share the following headlines from those plans. As of Tuesday 17th March, school will follow these Local Authority guidelines:

* Avoid any non-essential gatherings until further notice. (E.g. parent whole school assemblies.) After school clubs will continue as normal for the time being.
* To close the school if we cannot guarantee the safety / safeguarding of pupils. Therefore, if staff sickness reduces the teaching staff to a level below safe ratios, the school may be forced to close. Please understand that this may happen at different times for different schools depending on their numbers.

We appreciate that this will cause inconvenience for pupils, staff and parents and for this we apologise, but health and safety must be paramount. The guidance to schools is frequent and schools will adjust to reflect this guidance. Please appreciate that this is a fluid situation and that schools are working together to continually assess the national and local situation and make the right decision for our school communities.

Please be aware that we are not party to any information that is not already publicly available, and therefore our guess as to what will happen over the coming days, is as good as anyone else’s.