16th March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

On Friday I met with other Bollington Headteacher’s in order to discuss our procedures to ensure the wellbeing of our entire Bollington family. Please see our attached joint statement.

As a school we are urging you to follow the government’s advice, and to take whatever measures you feel necessary to protect your family. These are unprecedented times, the landscape is changing daily, but the health and safety of our school community is our top priority.

We have, in line with the attached statement, taken the decision to postpone our forthcoming trip to the Sea Life Centre, and to cancel our Class 3 Easter assembly.

Just to recap, the advice regarding schools at this stage is that they should remain open until advised otherwise by the Government. The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves remains washing their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Make sure you cough or sneeze into a tissue, put it in a bin and wash your hands.

The Government is asking anyone who shows certain symptoms to self-isolate for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means they advise people to stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

* A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
* A new, continuous cough

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, please contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

If your child displays any symptoms as described above please keep them at home for 7 days. On the first day of absence please contact the school on 01625 572025.

As a school we continue to follow all advice from the Department of Education and Public Health England. The advice is updated daily and we are actively monitoring this for any developments. At the time of writing, we have no recorded incidents of Covid-19 within our school. As a school we are wiping down surfaces, bannisters and key touch points regularly.

Please be assured that we also have detailed planning in place in the event school closures are announced over the coming weeks. We will use our school website to download daily lessons that pupils can complete at home. In the event of any school closure announcements we will contact you by email and update our website.
I am conscious that some children may be alarmed by the situation that continues to develop. Please do reassure your child that we are taking all necessary steps within school.

ChildLine and Newsround have put some information on their website aimed at children.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51204456>

We hope you find this useful.

With kind regards,

Melanie Walker.