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Dear Parents/Carers

I just wanted to pass on the latest advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education with regard to attending school.

It is clear that discussion around this virus is changing and moving rapidly through social media and mainstream media outlets. That we as parents and carers of loved ones being bombarded with a set of messages, but the message is clear for schools, stay open and try to keep things operating as calmly as possible.

I am not a Doctor and cannot offer advice on any medical issue, nor can I debate the virtues of the plan the government is running with, but I do know that my children are anxious. That my 8 year old is frightened of what is going to happen, that my 11 year old has a million questions that he is struggling to even articulate and their 13 year old brother thinks he needs to look after them. I also know that as a result of schools being open, they know where they are every day, they know their routine, they are with their friends and they believe that as adults we have some of the answers to some of their questions, because that is why they are in school.

The advice at the moment is that children come to school, unless a child is displaying the following:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature - the NHS define a fever as 38C (100.4F)

The most important advice remains that you wash your hands thoroughly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and hot water and that if you sneeze, sneeze into a tissue, put that into a bin and wash your hands.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

If you need further advice and support the use of 111 or <https://111.nhs.uk/> is suggested.

Equally if you have been overseas or taken your children out of school even to areas that are not at risk and you haven't told the school, please let us know, as invariably your child has told their friends that they are going on holiday and rumours are started that way.

Kevin Flanagan