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“Prime Minister, what about schools?”

After yesterday’s briefing, and all the attempts at clarification thereafter, essentially there is no change to the official advice – **any high temperature, fever, continuous cough means that the whole household needs to isolate for 14 days.**

When the above question was asked, the Prime Minister was in no mood to give details, he looked like he’d rather go into isolation with the Opposition Leader than answer it directly! We can only surmise that the ‘what about schools’ question will be answered when they feel it’s time, and not before.

So, what about schools? Here’s what we think...

I have spoken to teachers to see how they feel, given that they are ‘excluded’ from the advice about ‘distancing’ at work. They, like all of us, would love a bit more clarity. They, like all of us, are uncertain and apprehensive.

In the absence of any clarity, they understand that they too need to arrive at decisions based on their own circumstances, and to not take any health or wellbeing risks unnecessarily, and to not worry about any consequences of their decisions – they will be made with a good heart I am sure. As I said, we can pick all of this up afterwards.

They are all in today, and that it is a wonderful thing. I am so proud of our staff.

Nothing, however, should be ‘at any cost’, and I know that our staff and families understand that – the decisions being made, and the discussions, show that this is the case.

So, what about schools? Schools are amazing places, full of amazing people. We will be open for as long as it’s safe to be.

Finally, a dose of perspective is always at hand when we consider the challenge facing our nurses, doctors and hospital workers, many of whom we have among our parent community. No one is even asking “what about them?”

Please take a few moments to send our positivity, thanks and prayers their way.

As ever, I wish you well and I wish your families well as we wait for the next instalment!

Yours sincerely,

Stephen McNicholas

Headteacher