Dear Parents / Carers,  

18.03.20  

**Covid 19 Based on Update Tue 17 March 2020**  

Following yesterday’s announcement I am writing to reiterate government advice regarding self-isolation which we are adhering to. The advice around self-isolation has changed, for clarity, the new advice around self-isolation is as follows:  

- If any member of a family show symptoms (high temperature / new continuous cough) the advice is that the **whole household should self-isolate for 14 days.** This is to help to protect others in the community.  
- An announcement about self-isolation for particular groups of people is expected later this week; these groups include:  
  1. Those who are pregnant  
  2. Have serious underlying health conditions  
  3. Are aged over 70.  
- **Please Do Not Send** your child into school if they are displaying the above symptoms and always err on the side of caution with regard to this and keep your child away from school if in doubt.


Local schools are facing clear challenges to stay open, we are hearing of some secondary schools having partial closures already. Our schools we will do our very best to operate during this period while the government are stating schools should stay open. Any decision to close will be based on the Safeguarding issues we face and in reality that will be the adult to pupil ratio in school. It may be that we have to enforce a partial closure if staffing numbers reduce. In this case we may only be open for children whose parents work in the NHS, care industry or other areas to be confirmed. I am sure you can understand the rationale behind any such choice.

The challenge we face is unprecedented. Most children will remember how their family / school life felt during the coronavirus pandemic more than specific details about the virus. We have an opportunity to help children understand kindness, tolerance, patience, resilience in the coming weeks by responding to this crisis in ways to keep our children as safe mentally as we aim to physically. I am sure that communities will be strong in supporting one another. Again, thank-you for your understanding at this difficult time for everyone.

Yours sincerely,  

Susannah Edom-Baker (CEO Attain Academy Partnership)