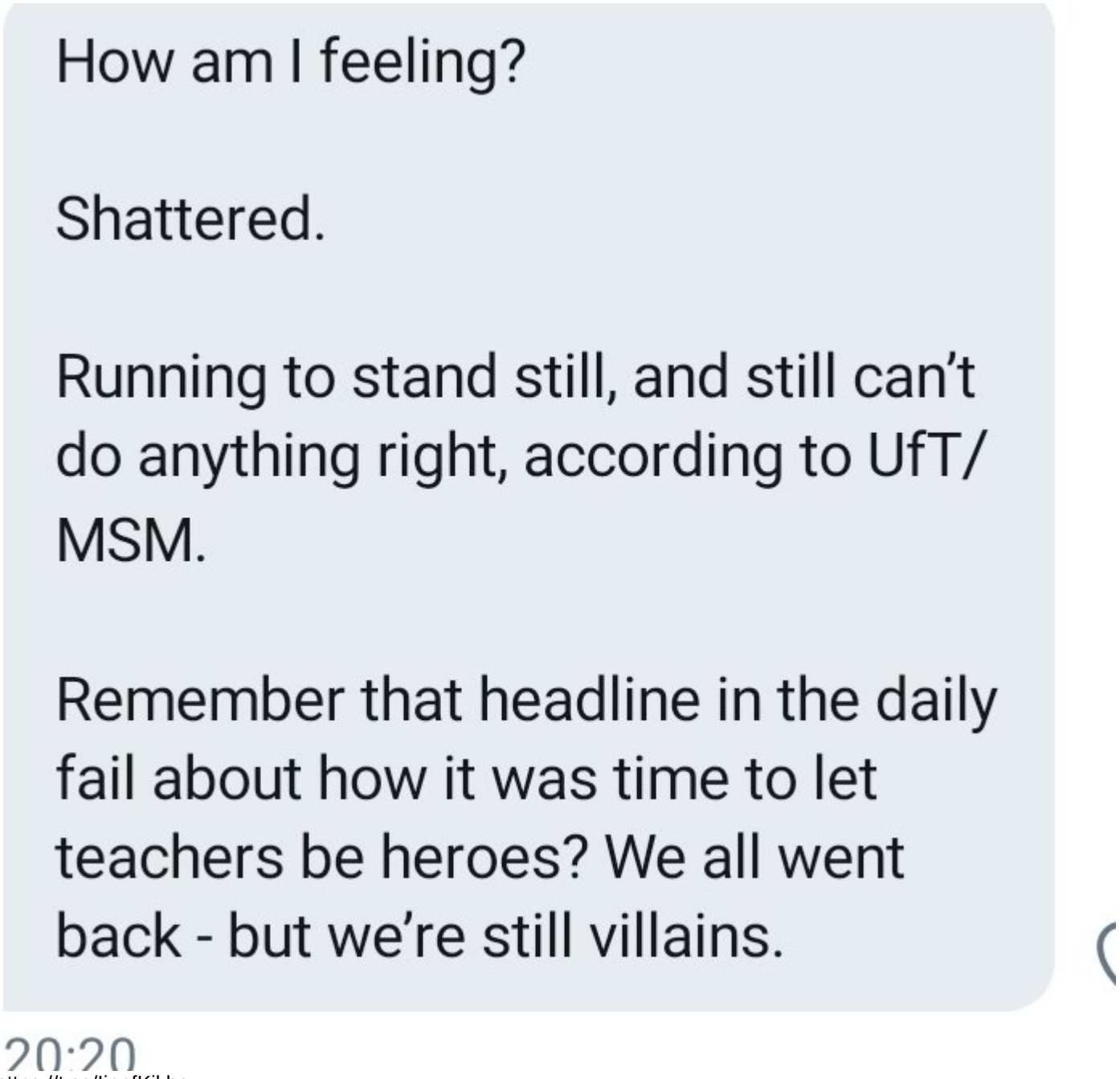
Twitter Thread by James McEnaney



James McEnaney
@MrMcEnaney

Yesterday I asked how teachers were feeling after John Swinney announced no changes to term dates over Christmas.

This thread gives a very small selection of the overall responses.



https://t.co/lippfKikbo

Hi James, you asked for feedback on Swinney's statement. I was gobsmacked by it. He says that pupils will be more likely to contract COVID through social mixing outside school if they are off, rather than in the 'controlled environment' in school. So, my 12 year olds are more likely to contract it sitting at home watching Elf than being in a room with other 31 other pupils and running around with them at lunchtime (today they were putting ice down each other's backs, social distancing, aye right!). I'm not sure what disturbs me more, the possibility that JS knows so little about kids that he genuinely believes this guff, or the idea that he's happy to lie even when it makes children and their families less safe. Ditto contact tracing. In

https://t.co/8uQcIYDJAN

As a teacher I am livid and have vowed to get out of this utterly thankless profession. We are abused in the media and online and our government are treating us with contempt. We are nothing but cannon fodder to allow the SNP to please the mobs and maintain their power. Us for Them are the tail that wags the dog. SNP would sooner pander to Covid deniers and anti vaccers than listen to scientists.

https://t.co/2uQ00zc9Fu

Not putting this public...he's shat it! Passed the buck to LA's to make a decision so no consistency. I was happy to do online learning for 5 days to give me, my kids and students the opportunity to reduce the spread. I waited till the end of my October holidays (2 weeks) to hug my own mum so I reduced the risk. Now do I hug her at Christmas after being out of school for 3 days...no chance. Does she hug my kids after them being off for 3 days...no chance. Ragin at him and his lack of backbone!

https://t.co/Z6DZtqjB8k

Hello James, the anger which I have seen today is unlike anything I have seen in the last 15 years. So many staff who have given everything to the CfE cause are left feeling utterly dejected, worn out and feel like they don't matter at all. Nicola Sturgeon is viewed by most staff, as is John Swinney and the SQA with almost vitriolic hatred currently. To a person, we all had materials ready to support home learning over the holidays but this is now worthless. From the u turn in the summer, the SQA farce that continues, the lies about covid and schools, the lack of consideration of workload and no one standing up for us, the damage I fear is now going to be long term and potential terminal to Scottish Education under the SNP.

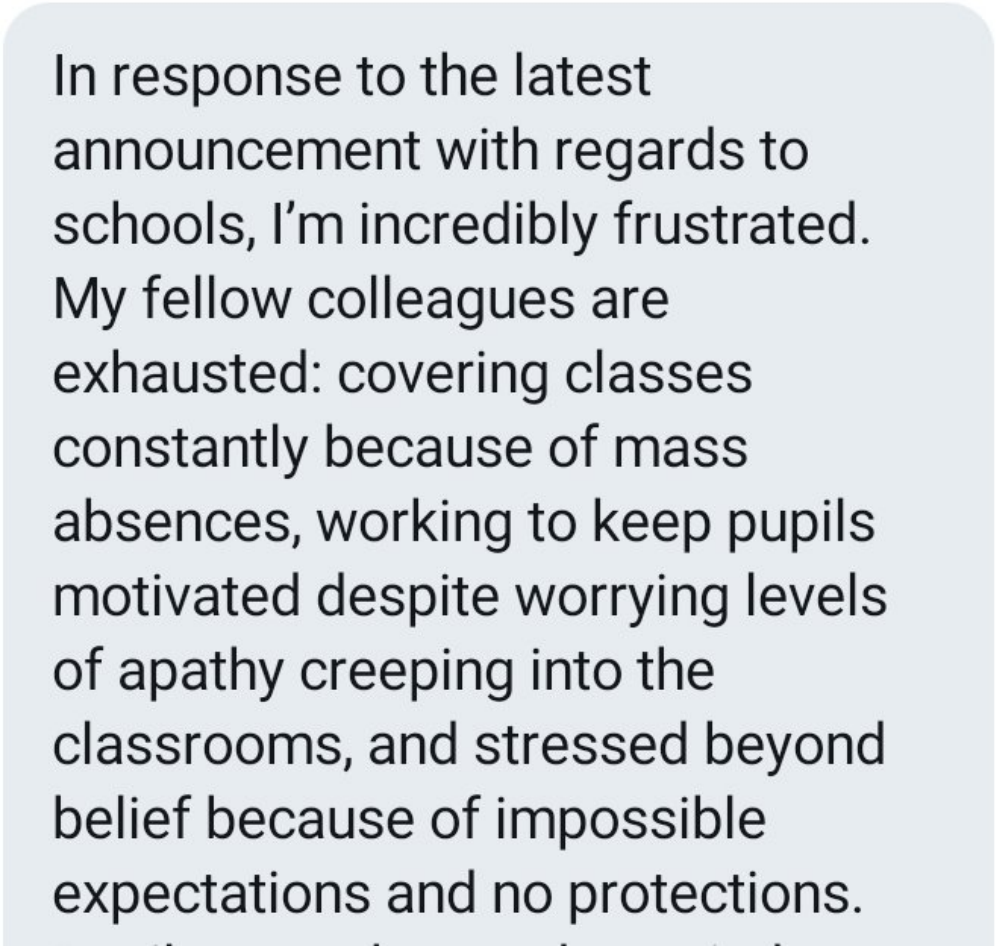
12:10

https://t.co/fnyPntlyL6

Pupils are exhausted, worried, acting out, and showing signs of real struggle. Closing schools is never ideal, but the thought of a longer break so people can rejuvenate and potentially see family or loved ones in a safe way was keeping many pupils and staff above water. I feel like as a teacher, if I die from covid19 complications, my job will be advertised before my funeral will be announced. Feeling unprotected, unsupported and deeply unhappy. I'm a massive Nicola Sturgeon fan and believe in Scottish independence, but I'm very concerned the governments policies and rules over the past few months have lost their impact and are causing too much confusion, will turn many teachers away from voting for the party in the next election.



https://t.co/tUWVz3Vz2Z



https://t.co/DKA4nqq0Zo

Increasingly I feel like we are just at the mercy of John swinney's inability to admit he's ever wrong.

It's astonishing that they're openly telling us they can't extend holidays in case we are proven right. I also don't know if they realise the workload nightmare they're going to create in February when they cancel highers.

17:57

https://t.co/ILMJpvbBhS

I feel shattered by this. I was previously shielding and have gone back to work in August . I feel betrayed on all levels. Government literally putting lives at risk. Now I can’t see anyone over Christmas at all. Wouldn’t be safe. Also expected to go back in January and put up with the spike in infections .

https://t.co/RPYy9QN6sS

That teachers lives [redacted] have been risked so that Governments can retain the votes of the public sector hating general public, disgusts me to my absolute core. This has had nothing to do with children's education, as has been proven by their failure to provide laptops for disadvantaged children or to provide sufficient resources for schools to staff all lessons. Our lives are being risked for votes.

https://t.co/m2HD9LawBb

school. I caught this at school. I haven't been anywhere else and my only other member of my household works from home. I've been very ill. I actually feel like quitting the professional over this lack of care for our lives. (Sorry I

https://t.co/99PC8TZGtt

I'm absolutely furious about that letter Swinney sent out, I actually can't believe they've openly said it would undermine their message! I can't believe they're so comfortable saying that teachers don't matter.

That was the only way I and [redacted] would see my parents this Christmas as both are vulnerable health wise. I know it sounds dramatic but it will be the first time in my life I've not seen them on Christmas. I'm raging!!!

https://t.co/ZIbg1ArwxQ

I have never known anger like it. It is like they are playing a game of winding teachers up to test at what point they will flip. The SNP were the ones who leaked/briefed out the idea of an early finish then THEY backtracked when dipping their toe in the water (which was the whole point) provoked the parental backlash. Timid, timid, timid.

ALSO the bigger picture is- still nothing on Highers, nothing. It is fucking December.

https://t.co/d335amGjC9

Hi James. This is rock bottom. I don't think I've ever been so exhausted. We are rushing kids through a higher course when we're not even sure if they'll sit the exam. Every day brings a new positive case and more kids isolating. Every day is hard work and fear. I've never seen teacher morale so low. And the pupils are exhausted too. They are scared they're going to harm their families. Schools are incredibly unhappy places just now and the mental health of pupils and teachers is declining by the day. A truly dark time.

https://t.co/PTqiUjupfy

Couldn't agree more with the thread of DMs from other teachers. I have taught my own lessons in my department today as well as covering for two other departments in the school for absent teachers. I have just returned to work following a difficult time battling covid and have recently been bereaved as a result of it. I am physically and emotionally unwell and I don't know how long I can last with things as they are. I've lost my love for this job and for the SNP. I am pro independence but will find it exceptionally difficult to ever vote SNP again after the utter contempt teachers have been shown. We are being treated like glorified babysitters and our lives are at risk because of it. I'm devastated.

And here's one from a pupil:

