



ORCHARD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
To Treasure Our Past and Invest in Our Future

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20th March 2020

Dear Parents,

You will no doubt be very aware of the information released by the Education Minister. This confirmed the closure of all schools on Friday 20th March, but with skeleton staff being available on Monday 23rd March to support identified Key Workers. This announcement was then followed by a letter to Principals in which the extensive list of key workers was highlighted. (see the list below).

It is worth bearing in mind that we have been instructed to close to minimise the risk of infection transfer at a time of national and global crisis. It is essential, therefore, that we are still able to comply with this ultimate reason for closure. Consequently, we will only be able to offer places for childcare based on capacity. To inform that decision, we need to be able to manage who can access the care, otherwise the original reason for closure of schools becomes meaningless.

Once key information has been gathered and decisions made, only families with an offer of a place should attend school next week and they should only do so when directed to by the school. It could potentially be impossible to accept the number of families who may apply for such provision, given the extensive nature of the Minister's key worker list. Please consider the current guidance and be aware, guidance may alter later today if we receive more specific updates from the Education Minister.

If you are an identified Key Worker as listed below, please consider the following points before sending your child to school:

- Only children with **BOTH** parents working as key workers and **both parents out at the same time** should consider attending school. In **single parent families**, the individual parents **MUST** be a Key Worker
- **If possible, alternative childcare arrangements should be sought*** before deciding to send your child to school. Use school as a last resort in order to limit the number of children and adults congregating together; social distancing cannot be guaranteed in a school setting
- If your child is attending, he/she must be wearing **full school uniform**.
- The teachers/classroom assistants on duty in school will support your child with their home learning work. Normal school hours apply (8.50am-1.50pm/2.50pm).

Remember:

DO NOT send your child to school if:

- He / she is unwell
- Any member of your family is unwell
- Any member of your family is in the 'vulnerable' category

***Social distancing and good hygiene are VITAL to preventing the spread of Covid-19. Your child is significantly safer at home than in any other setting.**

If you require the services of the school, **please email me (jmcmillan521@c2kni.net)** with the following information **by 4pm today** so we know which and how many children will be in school each day next week:

- Your name
- Name of pupils who will be attending
- Which Key Worker category you and, if relevant, your partner falls in to
- Which day(s) your child will be in school between **23rd and 27th March 2020**

Best wishes to all of you and your families. We are thinking about all our school community at this time. Please stay safe, stay healthy and we will see you, hopefully, before long.

LIST OF KEY LINE WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 19 MARCH 2020

- **Health & Social Care.** This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector



- **Education & Childcare.** This includes, nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response
- **Public Safety and National Security.** This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire & Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles
- **Transport.** This will include keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response
- **Utilities and Communication.** This includes staff need for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies, to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery services and waste disposal
- **Food and other necessary goods.** This includes those involved in food production, processing distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical etc.)
- **Other workers** essential to delivering key public services
- **Key national and local government** including those of administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response

Yours faithfully

J McMillan

Principal