



**Dromore Road Primary School**

Upper Dromore Road  
Warrenpoint  
County Down  
BT34 3JH

21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you are probably aware from the news, although schools are now officially closed to pupils, the Executive has asked schools to remain open to undertake a different role by providing supervised learning for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Obviously, this will be a very different type of provision than schools normally provide and for these pupils it's about care, not education.

Clarification, received last night, from the Permanent Secretary of Education reinforced that we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That is why the UK government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing. And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. Clearly the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. The aim of this new measure is to keep the number of pupils coming into school to a minimum so that is safe for pupils and staff attending whilst sustaining the continued operation of vital services that are needed to keep society functioning.

As a school we are keen to support our key workers during these difficult times and we will spend the weekend working on putting measures in place which reduce the risk for the whole school community whilst complying with Public Health Agency guidance. When operational, pupils of Key Workers and vulnerable pupils will be able to attend during normal school hours 9am-2.50pm. Please note pupils will be expected to wear their school uniform and depending on pupil numbers and staffs' health we expect to operate on a skeleton staff. Given the fluid nature of the situation we find ourselves in, this will change as further advice and guidance is received.



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Given the timescale and concerns on how we comply with Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing, our local Principal group believe it is not realistic to be ready to open our doors on Monday. The first step for all of us will be to ascertain the need in our own school community. I have included a list of key workers as reference and if you are a parent who will be unable to carry out their key worker role without your child being supervised by the school please contact me over the weekend by emailing [smcgrath554@c2kni.net](mailto:smcgrath554@c2kni.net) or by phoning Mrs McParland (02841775656) before 10.30am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. I can then directly communicate with key worker parents or parents of vulnerable pupils about future arrangements.

We are thinking about all our Key Workers and indeed everyone in our school community with the challenges we will face in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon McGrath  
(Principal)

**LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector
- Education and 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 and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles



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- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response
- Utilities and Communication. This includes staff needed 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)
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.