



Clare Primary School

58 Cloghoge Road
Clare
Tandragee
Co Armagh
BT62 2HB

Tel: 028 38 840 843

www.clareprimary.com

Miss S Lindsay (Principal)

Supporting Children of Key Workers in Primary School

Friday, 20th March, 2020.

Dear Parents / Carers,

Yesterday, the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir MLA, made a statement outlining how schools will be closed from Monday 23rd March except for the children of 'Key Workers' who require ongoing childcare support in order to fulfil their role. Many questions still remain following the statement from the Minister, but we expect clarification on the key issues in the coming days.

At Clare Primary School we want to ensure that we can provide the necessary support to our Key Worker parents. In order to facilitate this, we are asking that all Key Worker parents email the school info@clareps.tandragee.ni.sch.uk to register their need for provision before 6pm on Saturday, 21st March. It is vitally important that the school is aware of how many Key Workers' children will be attending school on Monday morning to ensure that staffing levels are sufficient to meet demand. See the template at the bottom of this letter for the detail to include in this email.

Before completing the form, **please pay particular attention to the following points**. The school will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. Like many other schools, we expect to be operating with a reduction in staffing due to isolation requirements.

Points to consider

- A list of key workers, issued by the Department of Education, can be found below. We understand that this list will be revised to prioritise certain Key Worker groups before Monday. It is being clarified if this relates to only children with **BOTH** parents working as key workers, and **both** parents out at work at the same time should consider attending school.
- In single parent families, the individual parent **MUST** be a key worker.
- If possible, alternative childcare arrangements should be sought before deciding to send your child to school. For example, with other family members, friends etc. Please try and use schools as a last resort. **This is to try and limit the number of children and adults together indoors in line with recent social distancing guidance.**
- The school's normal opening and closing time will apply 8:45am – 2pm/ 8:45am – 3.15pm.
- Children attending will be required to wear their school uniform. Please be advised that school will be performing childcare duties, rather than teaching, as not all teachers are currently available to teach specific year groups and teachers will be continuing to work on our Home Learning program.

We would ask that you pay attention to the points outlined above before deciding to send your child to school. It goes without saying, if your **only** option is to send your child to school, we will look after them in order to support you in your important role.

The provision of childcare places for Monday 23rd March is a rapidly developing situation. Please keep up to date with developments on our LATEST NEWS and HOME LEARNING pages on our school website.



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LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 19TH MARCH 2020 (We understand that this list will be revised and prioritised before Monday 23rd March)

- 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
- 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

Please remember for social distancing the safest place for your child to be is in your home.

Kind regards,

Shona Lindsay
Principal

Child(ren) Name(s)	
Parent 1	
Name	
Occupation	
Key Worker Category	
Email contact	
Parent 2	
Name	
Occupation	
Key Worker Category	
Email contact	
Days school provision required	
Lunches	Paid/free Days required: MTWTF