



Ballykeel Primary School & Nursery Unit

22 Crebilly Road, Ballymena BT42 4DN
Tel: 028 2565 3902 Fax: 028 2564 5887
Email: info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.ballykeelps.org.uk



Dear Parents / Carers,

Supporting Children of Key Workers

I am sure that you are aware that the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir MLA, has stated that schools will be closed from Monday 23rd March, but will open to support a limited number of children whose parents are identified as Key Workers.

Before contacting school, please pay particular attention to the following points:

- Only children with **BOTH** parents working as key workers, and **both parents out at work at the same time** will be considered. In single parent families, the individual parent **MUST** be a key worker.
- You are being asked to keep your children home, wherever possible, and only to send your children to school if you have no other alternative childcare arrangements open to you, eg other family members, friends. Please try to use school as a **last resort** as we aim to try and limit the number of children and adults together in a small space in line with recent social distancing guidance.
- Bear in mind that the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in the wider society.
- The school is operating with less staff and therefore has a limited capacity to cope. This will probably continue to get worse over time.
- The school's normal opening and closing times will apply, 9am – 3pm.
- Children attending will be required to wear their school uniform. Please be advised that schools will be performing childcare duties, rather than teaching, as not all teachers are currently available to teach specific year groups and teachers must also be available to provide online / remote learning.

A list of key workers, issued by the Department of Education is on the next page. I reiterate that you pay attention to the points outlined above before deciding to send your child to school. Obviously, 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.

It is vitally important that we know how many children of key workers will be attending school on Monday morning. With this in mind, if you wish your child to be considered, please phone the school **between 2:00 and 4:00pm today (Fri 20th March)**. 02825653902 or 02825650296. We will need the following details:

1. Child's name & class
2. Name of parent/parents
3. Parental mobile number
4. Key worker role/s clearly defined
5. Full-time or part-time working hours

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Sheeran



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LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 19TH 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
- 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.