



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent

### Supporting Children of Key Workers in Primary School

Following the announcement from the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir MLA, last night, I write to inform you that **schools will close** from the end of the school day today, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, however, will open with skeleton staff from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to support identified Key Workers.

Firstly, it is vitally important that schools are aware how many children of key workers will be attending school on Monday morning to ensure appropriate supervision can be arranged in advance. With this in mind, if you fall into the category of a key worker, please make contact with school **TODAY before 3:30pm** to inform us if your child will need supervision on Monday. This can be by phone or e-mail.

Before contacting school, **please pay particular attention to the following points**. Schools will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. All schools are already operating with a significant reduction in staffing and this will probably continue to get worse over time.

#### Points to consider

A list of key workers, issued by the Department of Education is listed below.

- **Only children of KEY workers where BOTH parents are out at work at the same time should consider attending school. In single parent families the individual parent must be the 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 in a small space in line with recent social distancing guidance.**
- School's normal opening and closing times will apply. Eg 9am - 2pm (P1-P2) 9am - 3pm (P3-P7) (School will **only open** at 9am for drop off and collection is to be promptly at 2pm/3pm.)
- Please be advised that schools will be performing **childcare duties, rather than teaching therefore in Camphill PS it will be similar to our 'Little Stars' provision.**

I would ask that you pay attention to the points outlined above before making any decision about sending your child to school. If you believe you meet the Key Worker criteria and have **NO** option to stay at home to ensure the safe supervision of your child/ren and would like a place for your child (understanding it is 'reduced provision') please let us know immediately. 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.

At this stage we are awaiting more clarification from the Dept. of Education so please note no child should arrive into school on Monday until a Parentmail is received as confirmation. Please understand that prioritisation according to need may be used to determine our available provision and this may change if staff

or family members succumb to illness themselves. Prioritisation may also include BOTH parents needing to be KEY Workers and out working at the same time.

Until further notice, school will remain open **ONLY** to facilitate the supervision of children of identified key workers. The situation is rapidly changing and my staff and I are constantly juggling new information on a minute to minute basis.

As ever I thank you for your continued support in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. K. McMaster

Principal

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

**Please work with us to ensure that schools operate with a limited number of children and staff.**

**In Priority order -**

- 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.

