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OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
& NURSERY UNIT

www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com

Friday 20 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers at Oakfield PS & NU

The Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir, has made a statement outlining that schools will close formally on Friday 20 March 2020. We have been requested to attempt to provide support and care for the children of key workers. This is not a statutory requirement – schools are being asked to help as part of a national response to the pandemic. The key message is that schools are closed for all pupils but we are doing what we can to support our families given these unprecedented circumstances.

On Monday 23 March 2020 no pupils will be admitted to our school.

We will be having a formal application process for Oakfield parents who are key workers and deem that they fulfil criteria listed below. The aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into school to a minimum. Applications should be made directly to myself by email, gmclluskey739@c2kni.net, by **12 Noon on Monday 23 March 2020**. Application emails should include the following information:

1. Child's name & class
2. Name of parent/parents
3. Parental contact details (email address & mobile no.)
4. Key worker role clearly defined
5. Name of employer & contact details of line manager
6. Full-time or part-time working hours

We aim to notify parents of any potential offer of places by **Monday 23 March 2020 by 5pm**. Only children with an offer of a place should attend Oakfield PS & NU from **Tuesday 24 March 2020** and only when directed to do so by the Principal. School opening hours will be **9am – 2pm** for any eligible pupils. Our school will not be able to operate a normal school day as we are already operating with a reduction in staff due to self-isolation etc.

Important criteria to consider

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

Only children with **BOTH** parents working as key workers, and **both parents out at work at the same time** should consider making an application. In single parent families, the individual parent **MUST** be a key worker.

Children attending will be required to wear their school uniform.

Schools are being asked to provide a very different type of limited childcare provision for children of some key workers. School staff 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.

G. McCluskey (Principal)

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