******[www.ballytreaps.com](http://www.ballytreaps.com)

52 Gortnaskea Road,

Stewartstown,

BtT71 5NY

Tel: 028 877 38619

**Key Worker Support**

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parent(s),

On Thursday 19th March, the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland, Peter Weir MLA, issued a statement outlining how schools will close from the end of the school day today (Friday), however, will open with skeleton staff on Monday 23rd March to support identified Key Workers where they cannot find an alternative. It is anticipated that the number of pupils coming into school is kept to a minimum and therefore there are strict guidelines to adhere to.

Our message to you is that children should **NOT** be in school if at all possible and certainly not unless they meet the criteria for Key Workers. The support offered will be of a childminding nature rather than a normal school day.

**Below is the most recent advice we have received. Please read very carefully!**

**Key worker parents requiring care provision:**

* Many parents working in the identified key workers list **may** be able to ensure that their child is kept at home.

* **EVERY CHILD WHO CAN BE SAFELY CARED FOR AT HOME SHOULD BE.**

* There is no requirement for identified key worker parents to take up this offer or send their children to school if they do not wish to.

* Any children previously withdrawn from school on the basis of risk should not return.

* **Only children with parents working as Key Workers and where they cannot find an alternative should send their children to school.**

* In single parent families, the main carer **MUST** be a Key Worker and be required at work.

* Every alternative childcare arrangement should be explored before deciding to send children to school. School should, in effect, be a **LAST RESORT**. This is in order to comply with general **public health advice on social distancing**.

* Wrap around services will not be available and school will only be open to pupils from 9am-3pm.
* You must be in an emergency situation where no family members, e.g. husband, wife, partner, older children, extended family members, friends cannot support.
* Children must bring their home learning packs with them.
* Children will be following social distancing advice and will sit at least two metres away from others. They will have outside time, but not playing in close proximity to each other.
* Children will be required to wear their school uniform.
* Children should bring a packed lunch with them to school. School dinners may be provided for those children attending who wish to avail of this service, but as yet we have no definitive information on this.

We have been asked to communicate to parents that any decision to send a child to school **must** be based on trust and we appeal to parents not to abuse the service to further promote the spread of the virus and put staff and other children at risk.

If you are a key worker and you meet the criteria and wish to avail of this reduced provision, please contact the school via the email address below before **8pm on Saturday 21st March**:

kblack585@c2kni.net

Your email should outline how each of the parents fulfil the criteria of a “key worker” and the days which you will need the childcare provision. Reply slip is added at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Black **Tel:** 028 877 38619

**(Principal) Email:** kblack585@c2kni.net

**REPLY SLIP**

If you would like to apply for emergency support for your child at school, please complete the following and return via email to: kblack585@c2kni.net by **8pm on Saturday 21st March**.

Name(s) of Primary School Child/Children:

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Class(es)

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Reason for application (please detail key worker role or roles where both parents are key workers):

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Please indicate days supervision may be required:

Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday / Friday

Signature: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Emergency Contact Number: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

***Please note the school will only be able to provide this service providing there is a safe staffing level to do so or until otherwise notified by the Authorities. In the event of the school being unable to provide the above service due to staff absences, you will be notified as soon as possible.***