

# ANNALONG PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

## Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers

Dear Parent/Guardian.

Following the statement made by the Minister for Education, Peter Weir, outlining how schools and nursery schools/units will support those families of parents who are **key workers**, I am writing to ascertain how many families/children within the school are likely to need this service from Monday onwards. I would like to highlight that from Monday we are officially closed to pupils and this service will be run by a reduced staff. **Parents must only use this provision if absolutely necessary.** We will prioritize health workers in the first instance as medical guidance recommends a 20% limit on numbers supported. Please note that the school will be available during **normal school hours** with no after-school programmes provided.

Schools and nursery schools/units are being asked to provide a very different type of provision than schools usually provide; for these pupils, it will be **about care, not education**. All expectations regarding educational provision have been lifted. This provision will be based upon supervision of the completion of home learning packs. Children must be self-sufficient having a pencil case and contents for their own use only. Supervision will be undertaken by both teaching and non-teaching staff. I want to assure that the educational opportunities for all our pupils is equal at this time.

At the time of writing, I have received no information in relation to school meals and if they will be provided from Monday. Lunch at this point will be via **packed lunch only**.

**As the minister has highlighted, this service is to be considered a last resort for the pupils of parents who are key workers who have exhausted all other means of childcare.**

If you need to avail of this service, please reinforce with your child the importance of personal hygiene, especially handwashing and social distancing. While we will make every attempt to keep the school clean, we cannot guarantee that infection will not be passed on while in school.

**Given the fluid nature of the situation this advice could change.** Obviously, it goes without saying, if it is necessary to use this service we will look after your children in order to support you in your important role.

PTO.

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With this in mind I ask that you contact the school either by phone: 437 68336 or by email; [agoucher539@c2kni.net](mailto:agoucher539@c2kni.net) to inform us if your child will be attending by 9.00am on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to make essential preparation and to inform affected parents of further arrangements.

Yours sincerely  
*Mr A. Goucher*  
Mr A. Goucher  
Principal