



St Patrick's Primary School & Nursery
Bunscoil Naomh Padraig
Coilleach Eanach

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Friday 20th March

Dear Parents/Guardians

To ensure vital services such as healthcare can be maintained, schools have been instructed to be available for childcare from Monday 23rd March for parents who are designated Key workers and are needed in the workplace at this difficult time.

Our school had already planned for many visitors to the school on Monday to collect work packs and after this has been completed the school will then undergo an extended clean for possible reopening and accommodation of Key workers children.

Therefore, our school will be closed on Monday to children.

I will be contacting parents between now and Monday to ascertain possible numbers of children this may apply to and also consult with staff to determine how best to accommodate the children in the safest possible way.

Please see letter issued by a collective grouping of local Principals this evening.

P. Quinn

Dear parent/carer,

All schools are now closed for the foreseeable future.

Further to the announcement regarding key workers, we would like to offer the following statement.

The Newry/South Down/South Armagh Primary Principals Group are keen to show our unreserved support for the ongoing challenge our healthcare services are currently facing. We realise we have a role to play in providing support for our communities.

However, with the lack of clarity, without a detailed operational plan from DE (by close of business today) and without appropriate protective measures in place we feel we cannot safely provide childcare for the children of key workers on Monday. We need adequate time to risk assess in our schools to ensure we can comply with Public Health Authority guidance relating to Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing.

We will use this time to work with our colleagues in DE/EA/CCMS/NICIE/CnaG to meet the challenges being faced.

At present medical professionals advise that the safest place for your children is at home.

We will keep you fully informed of further developments on Monday

Yours sincerely

The Newry/South Down/South Armagh Primary Principals Group