**St Peter’s Primary School**

**Plumbridge**

**415 Lisnaragh Road, Plumbridge, Omagh, BT79 8AF**

**Tel: 028 816 48412** **info@stpeters.plumbridge.ni.sch.uk**

**Principal: Miss S Falls**

23rd March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

**RE: Supporting Children of Key Workers in Schools**

The Department of Education issued written guidance on Friday evening highlighting how schools will remain open to support identified Key Workers needed during this highly critical period. We seek to support the children of front line key workers in St Peter’s, however we need to balance this with the ultimate aim of reducing the spread of the virus.

**The recent advice (PHA) on how to reduce the risk of, and limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear.**

**If Children can stay at home they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. Therefore, children MUST be looked after at HOME, where this is possible**.

The message is that schools are closed. The overriding priority is to reduce the spread of the virus through social distancing and effective hygiene especially in schools which are by their very nature, ideal environments for spreading infection.

The Minister of Education stated that schools should make provision for children whose parents are critical to the COVID -19 response, and who would have no other option to stay at home. If you meet the Key Workers Criteria \* (Refer to attached page) and wish to be considered for a place, please contact the school by 6pm on Monday 23rd March by emailing info@stpeters.plumbridge.ni.sch.ukand completing the Request Form.

This is to try and limit the number of children and adults together in a small space in line with requirements for social distancing. It is important that DE are aware of how many children of key workers need this service.

The CRITICAL point is;

***Key workers’ children should only go into school BUT ONLY where there is NO OTHER VIABLE OPTION. If you can use an alternative don’t send your child to school.***

Please note that this is a letter of request and when risk assessments are carried out we will be in contact with you as soon as possible. In line with current best practice children wiil be required to present with protective gloves and a mask.

Best wishes to your family and keep safe during this difficult time.

**Your Sincerely**

**S Falls**

**Principal**

**LIST OF KEY WORKERS AS OUTLINED ON DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO SCHOOLS ON 19TH MARCH 2020**

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

* **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.

**Supporting Pupils of Key Workers: Request Form**

Name of Key Worker:

Telephone number:

Occupation;

Work Place:

Days when you require support:

Name of Child/Children;

Class /classes;

Reasons for Request: