



High Kirk Community Preschool  
65 -71 Thomas Street  
BALLYMENA  
BT43 6AZ

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware Peter Weir MLA, Minister for Education in Northern Ireland announced all schools, including pre-schools, were to close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 until further notice.

An additional announcement followed highlighting the need to support **vulnerable children**, the term **vulnerable encompasses those children who are in need of protection, or in need, as defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995 and children of identified key workers**. Peter Weir MLA has emphasised “**only sending your child to school if there are NO other viable arrangements**”.

#### **A list of key workers**

- **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.)
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services

- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response

**The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

**(Department of Education General guidance on COVID-19)**

**The aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into pre-school low to ensure the safety of children and staff.**

**If you fall into one of these categories and as a last resort require this provision please contact Mrs Dempsey on 07557305699 by text detailing your job description and your intention to send your child.**

**Due to cleaning of premises and resources on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 provision will start on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

**You will receive confirmation before your child can attend on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Contact and confirmation must be made prior to your child attending.**

**Session time will be as normal 9.10 - 12.00 starting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

I thank you in advance for adhering to this guidance.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs L Dempsey*

Preschool Leader