



May 2020

I hope everyone is well and keeping safe. After a beautiful spell of weather, it has become cooler and damper again and for many lockdown cabin fever is beginning to kick in.

It is important at this stage we do not become complacent and keep adhering to government guidance for when restrictions are relaxed, which hopefully be in the not so distant future.

### Key Worker Childcare



We have been working with the Education Authority to ensure that when families need childcare we are able to facilitate this or provide alternative arrangements.

Where possible children will be looked after on site in Omagh County PS, where this is not viable due to reduced availability of teaching and non-teaching staff or cleaning staff, children will attend another local school where they will be supervised by a member of Omagh County PS teaching or non-teaching staff.

Where Omagh County PS staff are unavailable they will be supervised by staff from other local schools or EA staff.

**It is imperative that this is not abused as it puts everyone's life at risk and should only be used as the absolute last resort.** Parents are reminded-

- To ensure strict health and hygiene measures and social distancing, places will be limited
- Parents must be key workers- priority will be given to NHS staff and critical key workers
- Parents must be out at work while their child(ren) is in childcare - a key worker working from home is not viable for a place.
- Where there are siblings in a family they should be kept together to limit spread of infection- an older sibling or family member may be able to look after them or where there are younger children families may be able to avail of the Home Childcare Scheme.

Some of our NHS and front line staff have been in touch and do not know if or when they might need support - we are in a very fluid and unprecedented time and we appreciate this and will work with you and support as much as we can.

If you need childcare-

1. Email [jfunston506@c2kni.net](mailto:jfunston506@c2kni.net) or [adempsey642@c2kni.net](mailto:adempsey642@c2kni.net) or ring 02882242642 or send a message through the PTFA Facebook page
2. If you get no reply please go to the EA website ([www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)) and place a Key Worker School Placement Request (see end of newsletter) - an EA employee will then contact you re providing a place in a local school.

Can I also thank all our parents for your responsible approach to schools as childcare facilitators.

So many of you who I been talking to have so rightly said you want your children home safe and sound with you and that school will be your very last resort - we know and appreciate that, but likewise we appreciate the essential work you as essential key workers are undertaking and we will support you as much as we can.

You will also need to complete the following Key Worker form and email it to [jfunston506@c2kni.net](mailto:jfunston506@c2kni.net) or [adempsey642@c2kni.net](mailto:adempsey642@c2kni.net)



### **Free School Meals**



As a result of school closures due to the Coronavirus outbreak, the Minister for Education has agreed to make payment to families who have been assessed as eligible for free schools.

If you have already submitted your bank details and they have not changed payment should be made within the next seven to ten working days.

Also if you think you may now be eligible for free school meals or have any queries please email [MealsandUniforms-Omagh@eani.org.uk](mailto:MealsandUniforms-Omagh@eani.org.uk) or go to [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)

### **Home School Communication and Learning**

Thank you for keeping in touch with school either via email, messages on Weekly Home Learning Folders and PTFA Facebook page. Your feedback has been greatly appreciated and we are delighted to share in the highs and positive experiences you are having with

both lockdown and home school learning and also to help and support you with the challenges as well.

By now all staff will have been in touch with all families in Omagh County PS.

However, here are a few families we have been unable to contact - if you are one of these families please contact school (0288224264) or email [jfunston506@c2kni.net](mailto:jfunston506@c2kni.net)



**Food Parcels**



If any family is struggling financially and would benefit from a food parcel delivery if you can contact school either by email [jfunston506@c2kni.net](mailto:jfunston506@c2kni.net) or ring school 0288242642. Please include -

- Family name
  - Number of adults in family
  - Number of children in family
  - Contact Telephone Number
  - Email Address
  - Preference - brown or white bread
- and we will ensure you get a food parcel delivered.



**Thank you**

- To everyone who sent in posters and photographs to school to say thank you to the NHS and the key workers who have been working relentlessly over the last few weeks.
- To Scripture Union team and the ministers from the local churches for providing us with weekly assemblies.
- To Gary Wallace from Core NI for his daily PE lessons.



**We are all in this together**

We are all in this together. Please do contact your child's teacher if you have any questions at all.

Please do remember if there is anything we as a school community can help you with or if we can direct you to someone or an organisation who may be able to help, don't be afraid to ask.

Jill

*we're all  
IN THIS  
together*

**COVID 19 INTERIM DATA COLLECTION**  
**OMAGH COUNTY PS**  
**CHILDCARE TO ASSIST FRONT LINE/EMERGENCY STAFF**

Omagh County PS will be open from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April, when required, **SOLELY** for parents who work within the key worker categories **AND** who have exhausted all other childcare provision for their family.

**Name of Pupil (s)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Parental Information:**

If 2 parents or adults reside in the house as a family unit, the name of both adults and their occupations must be declared.

	Name of Parent 1	Name of Parent 2
Name		
Occupation		
Employer		
Working Hours		

**Reason for childcare application:**

We understand that you will only make this request as a last resort.

(It is essential you explain why childcare at school is necessary for you)

**Temporary Contact Numbers: - all three must be completed**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Any medical conditions/allergies/ Special Educational Needs staff need to know about?



After taking advice the following arrangements **MUST** be followed to try and ensure that Omagh County Primary School can remain open for Key workers families and to support the children;

**\*\*I (please insert you name) am in agreement with the following arrangements**

**Failure to insert your name means your application will be void.**

- All transport to and from school is the responsibility of the parent/carer.
- Only pupils that have had confirmation of attendance can attend.
- If your child requires Medication this will be transported with the child on a daily basis.
- Arrive at the front entrance/drop off area between 9.00 and 9.05am (no earlier). On arrival please wait in your car outside the entrance hall until a staff member indicates that you can come forward. (or??)
- Each child will have their temperature taken and hands sanitised before entering the building.
- If your child has a temperature you must take your child home immediately and not return for two weeks. We insist that you follow Public Health advice.
- If you or a member of your family/household has the symptoms the child must not attend.
- Parents and carers must not enter the building at any time.

- All children must bring their home school learning packs that they can work independently on. Activities provided in school will be of a child-care and supervision nature.
- Each child must bring their own stationary- including colouring pencils etc
- Each child must bring in their own water bottle, snacks and packed lunch in a sealed clearly labelled lunch box.
  
- Each child needs to wear a t-shirt or short sleeved shirt to allow for regular handwashing.
  
- If your child has long hair please ensure it is tied back.
  
- On returning from the School and each morning please ensure that you child showers and changes their clothing, washing whatever they have worn.
  
- Parents and carers must arrive at 3.00pm to collect their child. They must wait in the car or on the steps and a staff member will escort the child to the front door.
  
- Please respect social distancing for our staff and parents/carers you meet in the car park.
  
- This provision will be open on a day to day assessment, note that it may be closed on a moment's notice if we have no staff to safely operate. The staff are committed to stay open as long as we can but we also must follow the Public Health advice.

**These arrangements may be reviewed at any time following new advice or issues that arise.**

Thank you for your support and following the above. Stay safe Jill

Digital Signature:

Please return to [jfunston506@c2kni.net](mailto:jfunston506@c2kni.net)

or

[adempsey642@c2kni.net](mailto:adempsey642@c2kni.net)

## 5 Steps to looking after your mental health whilst staying home



**CONNECT** - Keep in touch with friends, family, and colleagues. Make phone calls, send texts or use video calling apps such as FaceTime or Whatsapp.



**BE ACTIVE** - Play games with your kids, join an online yoga class or take a walk outside (keep a 2m distance).



**GIVE** - Caring for others can help our own mental health. Offer support to a friend or neighbour in isolation.



**KEEP LEARNING** - Find out more about something that interests you. Read books, watch documentaries or learn a new craft.



**TAKE NOTICE** - Notice the beauty around you. Feel the sun on your skin. Listen to the birds. Breathe...