



Dunclug Primary School
Doury Road
Ballymena
Co. Antrim
BT43 6SU

Principal: Mr A Beacom BEd MEd PgDp
Telephone: 028 2565 2327
Fax: 028 2563 0107
E-Mail: info@dunclugps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.dunclugps.com

Saturday 21st March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday evening (Friday 20th March), schools in Northern Ireland received some clarification on the position of schools on Monday. Schools have been asked, where possible, to contribute to the community response to this crisis by remaining open for specific groups of children and to enable parents who are front-line key workers to continue with their valuable roles in these very challenging circumstances. The staff of Dunclug Primary School fully support this effort and would like to invite these parents to avail of this service. For further information please see the Department of Education website <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk>. I would ask parents to access this information before deciding whether they consider themselves eligible for this service.

The Education Minister stated that the aim is to keep the number of pupils coming into schools to a minimum. The aim of this service is to facilitate specific groups of children and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 team. Priority will be given to children with both parents working as key workers and both parents working at the same time. The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of Covid-19 is clear: **If children can safely stay at home, they should do so, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.** Every alternative childcare arrangement should be explored before deciding to send children to school.

Our school will be available for the children who need it, between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm, Monday to Friday. Children will be required to wear their school uniform and follow the normal school routines. These arrangements will be kept in place as long as we have staff who are well enough to offer care.

If you would like to be considered for a place for your child please inform us, via this email address, info@dunclugps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk as soon as possible. Please note that we will consider each case individually and will respond to parents over the weekend, to inform them if a place can be made available for their child, beginning on Monday 23rd March. Those parents whose children have been given a space for Monday will be contacted by me directly and will be informed of arrangements for Monday. Those parents will be asked to inform me directly before 8.30am if they will not require care for their child, especially if this is due to symptoms and self-isolation.

Please continue to follow the Public Health Agency advice and isolate as a family for 14 days if anyone in your household develops symptoms of the Covid-19 virus. As soon as I have any further information regarding school reopening, I will be in touch.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Beacom
Principal



Eco-Schools
Award



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