**Update - Key Workers**

We are endeavouring, as best we can, to follow government guidelines on the COVID 19 and from DE, the Assembly and our unions. We also have to bear in mind the well-being and safety of the staff and their families in our school at all times.

There are going to be very tough days ahead. We may not have sufficient staff available on certain days as this crisis deepens.

**Our message to you is that children should NOT be in school if at all possible and certainly not unless they meet the criteria below.**

**Below is the most recent advice we have received. Please read very carefully.**

**Key worker parents requiring care provision:**

Many parents working in the identified key workers list **may** be able to ensure that their child is kept at home.

**EVERY CHILD WHO CAN BE SAFELY CARED FOR AT HOME SHOULD BE.**

There is no requirement for identified key worker parents to take up this offer or send their children to school if they do not wish to.

Any children previously withdrawn from school on the basis of risk should not return.

**Only children with BOTH parents working as Key Workers and only when both parents are working AT THE SAME TIME should their children attend school.**

In single parent families, the main carer **MUST** be a Key Worker and be required at work.

Every alternative childcare arrangement should be explored before deciding to send children to school. School should, in effect, be a **LAST RESORT**. This is in order to comply with general **public health advice on social distancing**.

Wrap around services will not be available and schools will **only** be open for normal school hours.

Children who refuse to attend school must not be forced to do so.  Schools cannot be expected to accept responsibility for those children that present a flight risk.

There will be no nurse or medical support available in schools.

Provision of any level of service will be dependent on staff availability and the school may have to be closed if this becomes a problem.

**If you are a key worker and you meet the criteria and wish to avail of this reduced provision, please contact the school via the email address below before 6pm on Saturday 21 March;**

[kwright590@c2kni.net](http://www.orritorps.co.uk)

**Your email should outline how each of the parents fulfil the criteria of a ‘key worker’ and the days which you will need the childcare provision.**

**If this advice changes over the weekend I will update it on this site.**