



153 Roemill Road
Limavady
Co L'Derry
BT49 9EX

Tel: 028 777 68695

20th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Roe Valley Integrated Primary School will close today, Friday 20th March 2020. However, we will reopen with skeleton staff on Monday 23rd March to support identified key workers.

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.

That is why the Government has urged parents to keep their children at home wherever possible and asked schools to remain open **only** for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational settings the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Children must be looked after at home where this is at all possible. Our school facility is a service of last resort. This is to protect our children and to ensure that the maximum possible number of key workers are able to go to work to provide us all with the essential services that we need.

Before contacting the school please pay particular attention to the following points. Schools will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day. There will be a significant reduction in staffing and this will probably continue to get worse over time.

A reminder that if your child has an underlying health condition and is within a vulnerable group, please exercise your own discretion with regard to sending your child to school and follow the relevant guidance.

Children attending will be required to wear their school uniform. Be advised schools normal opening and closing times will apply: 9am to 2pm/3pm. Please be advised that schools will be performing childcare duties, rather than teaching, as not all teachers are currently available to teach specific year groups and teachers must also be available to provide online/remote learning.

Refer to the attached list of specific job titles within each sector to check if you are currently:

- A single parent identified as a key worker
- Both parents are identified as key workers
- If both parents are key workers consider your roles, day and hours of work pattern. One parent might be at home during school hours on various days.





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If you require a place please contact the school by phone by 6pm today (Friday 20th March 2020) or by email to info@roevalleyips.limavady.ni.sch.uk by 3pm Saturday 21st March 2020. If emailing, this correspondence should contain information that is relevant to the request including name of pupil/s, parent/guardian name/s, contact telephone number and stating clearly how you meet the government criteria. We will assess your criteria in line with our capacity to deliver this service and safely care for your child. We will then contact you on the number provided on Sunday with further information.

Only families with a confirmed offer of a place should attend school and they should only do this when directed by the school.

A List of key workers, issued by the Department of Education includes:

- **Health and social care** - doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, and home carers.
- **Education and child care** - nursery and teaching staff and specialist education professionals.
- **Public safety and national security** – civilians and officers in the police, fire and rescue service, prison service and other national security roles.
- **Transport** – air, water, road and rail transport.
- **Utilities and communication** – oil, gas, electricity, water and primary industry supplies as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal.
- **Food and other necessary goods** – food production, processing, distribution and sale as well as hygiene and medical etc.
- **Other workers essential to delivering key public services**
- **Key national and local government**

We would ask that you pay attention to the points outlined above before deciding to send your child to school. Obviously, it goes without saying, if your only option is to send your child to school, we will look after them in order to support you in your important role.

Yours sincerely

Joanne O'Donnell
Acting Principal

