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**Clea Primary School**

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**Telephone/Fax 028 37 531096**

**Principal: Mrs Clara Duffy BEd. (Hons.) PQSH.**

**22nd March 2020**

**Dear Parents/Guardians**

**I am writing regarding the latest developments linked to the Coronavirus and the provision for ‘Key Workers’. As you are aware, all schools are closed following The Minister of Education’s announcement last week. Nevertheless the Department of Education has directed schools to open for the children of CRITICAL ‘Key Workers’.**

**Naturally, our school community fully supports and recognises the courageous work of all healthcare staff and all involved at the front line, during this difficult time. We do however need further time, advice and protective measures in order to provide adequate care arrangements for the children of ‘Key Workers’.**

**We need to risk assess and make sure we are complying with Public Health Authority guidance. Matters such as social distancing, supervision and child protection are all central to ensuring the safety of all.**

**I have been in contact with CCMS, EA and DE and will follow their guidance to help plan ahead. One suggestion is working with other local schools in the area, to formulate a shared model of childcare for ‘Key Workers’ during this time. *This will not apply to general childcare, only the children of Registered Workers.***

**The guidance released to the schools on Friday evening states, ‘the Executive has asked parents to keep their children at home wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend’.**

**Please contact me at school on Monday 23rd March if I can be of any further help or if you are a ‘Key Worker’ with no other form of childcare.**

**I will keep in touch with you all as far as possible and will advise of any further, relevant developments.**

**Please continue to prioritise your safety and that of your family.**

**Yours sincerely**

**Mrs. Clara Duffy**

**Principal**

**(On behalf of the Board of Governors of Clea P.S.)**