**Notice regarding Nursery School opening - beginning Thursday 7th January, 2021**

In response to Minister Weir’s latest announcement that, ‘**all pre-school, primary and post-primary pupils will be taught remotely until after the half-term break in February’,** school would like to keep you informed of what this means for Eglinton Community Nursery

As instructed by Minister Weir, Nursery School will provide ‘**supervised learning for vulnerable children and key workers’ children.’ from 9am to 11.45am (beginning 7th January)**

This applies to vulnerable children/key worker children as detailed below:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/weir-announces-changes-schools-reopening-arrangements?fbclid=IwAR3eaV9yK6YC36hlxC3q65P_0k9o0yqXViX6NjDQC4Vb-SmE07mle97GFpU>

However, medical advice on how to reduce the risk of and 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.

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 all of us with the essential services that we need.

Children will be taught remotely via Google Classroom. The code is: **he567jy**

It is vitally important that Nursery School is aware how many children of key workers will be attending school next week. Schools will have a limited capacity due to social distancing regulations and a reduced workforce.

With this in mind, before you apply for a school place for your child please consider:

1. Your work role, days and hours of supervision required
2. Do you have a partner, another family member or safe and trusted friend who can look after your child?
3. Your partner or family member is working from home and is therefore considered to be able to provide childcare.

If you can make any alternative arrangements, we would ask that you consider doing so. This is to try and limit the number of children and adults together in a small space in line with recent social distancing guidance.

Refer to the list of specific job titles (in the web link above) within each sector to check if you are:

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

If you would like to request a place for your child/ren, please complete the application form which can be found on the Primary School’s website and return it to school by email ([info@eglinton.londonderry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@eglinton.londonderry.ni.sch.uk)) before 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

\*Please note that this is only a request. You should **not** bring your child to school until notified by the school that there is a place available. Only families with an offer of a place should attend the school and they should only do this when directed to by the school.

Please bear in mind schools can only offer places based on their capacity and have to take into careful consideration the safety and wellbeing of all the staff and pupils. This may mean schools have to prioritise according to need and availability of staff i.e. not accept the children of every key worker on the Minister’s list.

The Department have stated children who qualify as children of key workers will be in the Nursery school building for **'supervised 'learning'**. This is not 'face-to-face teaching'; this is being supervised in the Nursery School building.

We would ask that you pay attention to the above points before applying for a place for your child/ren.

Yours sincerely,

J. Crooks