



# Mountnorris Primary School

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**Principal:**

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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As you may already be aware from social media, a directive was sent out last night from Peter Weir, Minister of Education regarding the school closures.

As has been said, schools will close today for all children except those in 'Key Worker' jobs.

The Minister of Education has not given the full list of what these jobs are, but the current list is as follows:

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector
- Education and childcare. This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response
- Utilities and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies, to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g hygiene, medical etc)
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

**Things to consider:**

- 1) The purpose of this is to **significantly minimise the number of children in school** to protect pupils and staff.
- 2) Children should only be sent into school where there is **no other provision** for childcare available.
- 3) Children whose parents **do not fall into these categories are not permitted to be in school.**
- 4) Children should only be in school **when parents are working.** If you work part time, then your child should only be in school on the days which you are working.
- 5) Children of 'Key Workers' **do not have to attend** school if their parents do not wish them to and have other means of childminding.

School App: Download 'School Jotter' and select 'Mountnorris Primary School'



- 6) There is a query over **whether both parents must be key workers or if one parent only needs to be a key worker** – this will be clarified as soon as this is released to schools.
- 7) **Children must bring their work packs and any materials** to keep them busy as teachers will not be teaching.
- 8) We will be exercising **social distancing procedures** and children will be spaced out in class, regularly washing hands etc.
- 9) Normal school times apply: **8:45-1:50 or 8:45 to 2:55pm.**
- 10) School will **not be in a position to provide snack** therefore your child should have snack with them.
- 11) In regard to **dinners**, I have had no directive but will update you when this advice becomes available.
- 12) Children must wear **school uniform.**
- 13) Children must bring their **own writing materials, colouring pencils** etc. These will not be allowed to be shared and should be cleaned each evening by parents.

In the interim, I have provided a 'Form' for registering your child on our school website; this will give us an indication of who will be present on Monday. Go to the '*Parents*' section of the website and click on '*Frontline Workers.*' The submitted responses will go to myself directly. I would ask that you provide the name of the child along with both parents' professions (in the case of both parents needing to be key workers) along with anticipated days.

Please see the school app for arrangements for collecting work packs.

Anyone from a home where people are isolating must not present themselves at school at any time. Again if your child or anyone in your house develops symptoms, **they must not be in school.**

Please remember that at this stage, the safest place for you and your child is at home.

I must once again stress that children should only be at school where absolutely necessary; where it is a choice over not going to a frontline job over staying at home to mind your child. All other avenues for childminding must be explored first and school should only be a last resort.

Once again, thank you all for your support, care and concern at this time. We are all in this together and will support each other where we can.

As further updates become available, I will update you.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Andrew Frizzell

