23rd March 2020

Dear Parents,
**Ref: Supporting Children of Key Workers**

As you are aware, the Department of Education has asked that schools remain open this week to provide child minding for the children of key workers who may have no other option for childcare at present.

The Minister for Education has communicated with trade unions, stating that children of key workers must only avail of sending their children to school when there is **NO OTHER OPTION** available to them and all other avenues have been exhausted. If there is a parent/guardian/elder sibling (14 years or older) at home or other provision available to key workers, then they must use that provision. **THE SAFEST PLACE FOR CHILDREN IS IN THEIR OWN HOME.**

Having explored the vital need for social distancing and the need for a rigorous cleaning regime that each child must take seriously. We aim to facilitate the supported self-learning of the children within the school assembly hall. The children cannot leave the hall save to go to the toilet. They shall have their own desk spaced 2 metres from each other in line with guidance.

The ‘Derrynoose, Cill Chluana and Tynan’ Principals Group are keen to show our unreserved support for the ongoing challenge our healthcare services are currently facing. We realise we have a role to play in providing support for our communities.

Therefore, if you are a key worker and need to avail of child care provision, please get in contact with me, via email, kmccrory179@c2kni.net or school phone 07857858270 by 2.30pm today (Monday) and state which days this week you may need your child to be in school.

I intend to follow up this letter to you with a personal phone call to discuss all the details included. There is the very real possibility that circumstances and guidance will change as we operating hour by hour, day by day at this stage. Once again I urge you to take every precaution available to protect yourself and your family and I keep every member of our school community in my personal thoughts and prayers at this time.

Yours sincerely

Kieran McCrory

Principal