



Creeting St Mary CEVAP School

Headteacher: Mrs C Friar BEd (Hons)
All Saints Road, Creeting St Mary, Ipswich IP6 8NF
Tel/Fax: 01449 720312
E-mail: office@creetingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk
Website: www.creetingstmary.suffolk.sch.uk

20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Essential Childcare Provision during School Closure due to COVID-19

The government has today (Friday 20th March 2020) issued further guidance to schools and parents. The enormity of the closure of schools across the world is indicative of the serious nature of the threat of coronavirus, schools are closed to help stop the spread of the disease to pupils, parents and staff. Whilst we have identified 28 potential pupils whose parents are listed as Critical Workers we do need to confirm that the school is not allowed to have more than 20% of pupils on the premises during this time (20 in our case).

I would like to draw your attention to the following publications regarding school opening for critical workers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

A list of critical sectors can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The key principles are:

- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.

Government guidance says, 'many parents working in critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be'.



The message from the government is clearly that to reduce risk of infection throughout society you should only send your child to school as a last resort. This in reality means that, even if a parent is classed as a critical worker, unless both parents are out at work and there is no-one in the home to look after the children your children should be kept away from school. If one parent is able to work from home then we have to follow this advice and say that we are unable to offer your child(ren) a place. Please take a moment to consider this rather stark message from the government which is designed to keep everyone as safe as possible.

If you have no other option and still need to send your child to school then please email school to confirm which days of the week your child(ren) will need to be covered to help us to make arrangements before they arrive. We are currently planning the day to be 8:30-3:15 providing staff and their families remain symptom free.

For regular updates please check our website or look out for parentmail news, both of these services are struggling as I write, due to the increased pressure on their services but hopefully this is purely because every school in the country is accessing at the same time.

These are historic times; I hope that in years to come we are able to look back and be proud of how the whole community came together for the benefit of all. In true Creting tradition 'Anything is Possible' if we have faith, trust and compassion for one another.

My very best wishes to you and your families.

Mrs Christine Friar

