

21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – Latest Update for all Trust Schools

I hope you and your families are managing to keep well and safe. Everyone is in our thoughts and prayers.

As you know, our schools have not closed through the pandemic. We will continue to provide education on-site for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

Arrangements for Half Term

During Half Term (week beginning 25th May 2020), arrangements will be as follows:

Bank Holiday Monday (25 th May 2020)	<u>All Schools Will be Closed</u>
Tuesday, 26 th May 2020	Mayfield School will be open East Crompton St George's School will be open Blue Coat School will be closed
Wednesday, 27 th May 2020	Mayfield School will be open East Crompton St George's School will be open Blue Coat School will be closed
Thursday, 28 th May 2020	Mayfield School will be open East Crompton St George's School will be open Blue Coat School will be closed
Friday, 29 th June 2020	Mayfield School will be open East Crompton St George's School will be open Blue Coat School will be closed

Your Headteacher will have contacted you about your needs during the week (if you are a key worker/your child is classed as “vulnerable”) and we have arranged provision in line with this. Therefore, **if your child is a Blue Coat pupil, they will need to go to Mayfield School** and there will be staff from their home school there to support them.

From 1st June onwards

You will be aware that there is a lively debate nationally about a phased return starting June 1st and in particular, about the return in primary schools, especially for Early Years children, i.e. nursery and reception. We are still waiting for the promised national guidance on secondary return. The next update of the scientific evidence which is central to the government's 5 tests is not due until 28th May.

Leadership in all our schools is working with the Trust Executive to develop risk assessments so that when we do start to bring pupils back it will be in a planned and measured way which puts the safety and welfare of all at the heart of everything we do. We are limited by the size of our classrooms, the amount of movement space in schools, and the limits to toilet and hand-washing facilities. Cleaning will be a priority. And staff will be working in a different way – the new normal of phase 2 following lockdown. Therefore, we will need to put training in place first.

Therefore, on 1st and 2nd June, we will continue to provide school-based provision for “vulnerable” children and the children of key workers, **but we will not be open to any other pupils.** Please

contact your Headteacher if your child is now in the vulnerable or essential worker category before Thursday, 28th May 2020. Staff will continue to provide home learning and follow-up.

Details on dates and times for the phased return of other pupils will follow on Friday, 29th May 2020, and earlier if we can. The arrangements will be specific to our individual schools and the assessment of risk in each one and will reflect evolving national guidance.

Thank you for bearing with us so far and working with us. It is not easy for anyone, but we've got so far through hard work, communication and taking a measured approach/not over-reacting.

I will write to you again with our updated provision on **Friday, 29th May 2020. Our Headteachers will follow this up with details of what provision will look like in each school.** Please bear in mind that it won't be the same as it was pre-COVID, and certainly for our older students we need to see this as refuelling and finding/filling gaps in understanding rather than embarking on new learning.

In the meantime, **please do not send Years 1, 6, 10 and 12, Nursery and Reception, or any children other than vulnerable and key worker children back into school on Monday, 1st or Tuesday, 2nd June 2020.**

Please understand that **even for the nationally prioritised groups, the return will be phased over time**, so that it is safe. Whatever the aspirational national position, or what some of the media might be saying, this is a decision for each school depending on the local circumstances and will be finally decided by our Trust Board which is the legal entity for our schools– as government has clearly acknowledged. **We will do our best** – and we will continue to support your children through Free School Meals, through regular calls/contact, through our online lessons and in every way we can.

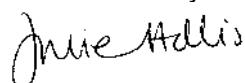
There is nothing we want more than to have all our children and young people back in school but the transition period between lockdown and the “new-normal” is going to be tricky. We can do it, so long as we communicate and listen.

We all need a bit of kindness right now. I've attached a link to our Chaplain's weekly assembly. Do spare a few moments to watch it with your children - they will see people they recognise sending messages to them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVfdgg5sxOA>

Stay safe and God Bless.

Yours sincerely



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust