

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

From Wednesday, 6th January 2021 all schools in the Cranmer Education Trust, i.e. Blue Coat, Mayfield Primary and East Crompton St George's Primary, will close for onsite attendance for pupils except for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Provision at Mayfield Nursery will remain fully open. All other pupils will be provided with remote education until February half term, which will be tailored to suit the age of the child/young person. For older pupils, this will be online lessons; for younger pupils there will be a mixture of online provision and paper. Pupils' work will be assessed by teachers so that their learning does not fall behind. Your Headteacher will contact you with the specific details for their school.

Arrangements for pupils receiving Free School Meals are not yet clear – we will let you know as soon as we have something definitive. In the meantime, schools will make grab bags available for children, to be collected from their schools. Again, your Headteacher will advise re the details.

This isn't how we had hoped to begin the new year, but we understand that it is necessary to protect everyone and prevent the NHS being overwhelmed. The good news is that it **isn't** like the first lockdown – we are better prepared for remote learning, staff will be working from school, communication will be better and easier, and all our schools have done a lot of work on the curriculum to ensure pupils are concentrating on the essentials.

The lockdown guidance states that “we do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as normal” and the DfE is working with Ofqual to put alternative arrangements in place. As yet we do not know what these will be, but last summer's experience of Centre Assessed Grades was based on school data and rankings. It is therefore really important that pupils keep up to date with learning and that we collect robust and accurate data of progress which would be the basis of school assessments. Over the next few weeks we will do our very best to ensure your children are fully supported, that they have the structure of a school day at home, and that their education is of a high quality. Home and school working together to ensure children and young people engage with this will be critical.

We look forward to your support.

Yours sincerely,



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust