



# Cropredy C of E Primary School

Interim Head teacher Mrs Margaret Gwynne  
Cropredy Primary School,  
Station Road,  
Cropredy,  
OXON OX17 1PU

Chair of governors – Mr Chris Kaye  
Email – [office.3000@cropredy.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3000@cropredy.oxon.sch.uk)  
Tel – 01295 750210

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

## **WE ARE CLOSING TOMORROW for most pupils.**

I'm sure there is a mixture of relief, trepidation and confusion about the news that schools, in general, are closing at the end of the school day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Here, we are still waiting for further clarification over who may be in school, both staff and pupils, and who will not be in school. It's a bit of a roller coaster ride but we will do everything in our power to ensure our children are safe and happy.

During this time of closure, we will endeavour to keep in touch with all our families. This will be dependent on the good health of staff and, at the moment, we're holding up pretty well. Although we have several staff not in school, it is not necessarily because they are unwell; they may well be caring for others who have pre-existing conditions that make them vulnerable. Contact with you over the next two weeks may be by email or phone. We will just check that you have what you need and try to answer any questions you may have.

So which children will be allowed to be in school? Stating the obvious, the aim of the exercise is to reduce contact with each other in order to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. Therefore, we must dramatically reduce numbers in schools, only accepting children where both parents are front line workers and are required by the government to continue working. To help me to make the final decision, and I'm afraid my decision has to be final, here are a couple of examples:

***If one parent is a nurse but the other parent is a builder, for example, the child(ren) cannot attend school because one of the parents is not a key worker.***

***If one parent is a police officer and the other parent is a supermarket delivery person, in the current climate, the child(ren) would attend school if a) the parents wanted their child(ren) in school during the Coronavirus crisis and b) no-one in the family was displaying any of the symptoms ie. a new (within the last 2 weeks), persistent cough or a high temperature.***

We will not be able to take care of pupils, keeping numbers down to as low a level as possible, if we provide childcare for parents who may face difficulties at work if they can't work because of looking after their children. Parents will need to make other arrangements for their children. I am acutely aware of how tough this is going to be and, no, we don't have a definitive list of front line/key

*'The Lord is my shepherd.' Psalm 23*

workers from the Government yet. This is going to be very difficult and upsetting. I will do my best to be fair but I have no choice other than to follow guidelines.

Please do not get angry with the staff at school. They have to follow my instructions and it's simply not fair to argue your case with them.

When we know which pupils are eligible to attend school, these parents will be contacted either by phone or email.

Pupils who are home learning have packs that they will bring home tomorrow. Currently, we have a number of children not in school for a variety of reasons and **we would really appreciate your help in delivering the packs**. Please let our office staff know if you can deliver packs to parents who live near you whose children are not in school. Thank you.

Our home learning packs are great! I want to thank all the staff who have gone 'above and beyond' in sourcing, trialling, making, copying and compiling 170 packs. We have been very selective and careful with the work we have put together. I have had a good look at what other schools have produced and it's been quite underwhelming. So many home learning resources are totally dependent on online access. We have included plenty of these too but learning doesn't need to stop if the internet crashes. We realise that our pupils may well be sharing a computer with other siblings or with parents who are home working. The work in the packs is varied and much of it can be done independently of IT.

We don't know how long this crisis will last. However, the school will respond with appropriate provision as required.

Finally, I must apologise for not responding to all emails to individual parents. This is not going to be possible with the current demand on time. Yesterday, I responded to so many individual parent(s)/carer(s) that I was unable to update everybody in terms of where we had got to in our planning. I simply ran out of day.

Please take good care of yourselves. You are all very much in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless

Mrs M C A Gwynne