

Creeting St Mary CEVAP School

The school has 101 children on its roll as of May 2020. It has 15 pupils in each year group, with one exceptional group of 16 due to twins in that year group. As with so many other businesses, the pandemic has presented the school with significant challenges.

On commencing lockdown, the school identified 28 children with a parent who is a key worker. The first morning had three children arrive, and on the second one, with no-one on the third. The school continues to have members of staff at school, in case a child should come. Staff are in a rota with strict social distancing observed. Throughout the lockdown, we had children attend when their parents required it.

As we face possibly reopening on 1st June, the headteacher has been contacting the parents of children in Reception, Years 1 and 6. They are trying to establish how many children might be coming back to school. The school is quite compact, and we will be looking to develop routes within, or around, it that keeps social distancing possible. Year 6 have missed their SATs, which will have been a relief to some and sad to others.

During the lockdown, the school has ensured that children who receive free school meals have been in receipt either of a food parcel or vouchers. We are looking at arrangements that might need to be in place over half term and the Summer holidays. The guidance from the Department of Education is fluid currently, as policy is being formulated on the go. Apart from ensuring the continuance in the provision of free school meals, the school has kept in contact with children and families. It is clear that the impact of the lockdown varies from family to family, and that it will take time for normality to return.

September is still some time off, and it is unclear how we will have to adapt if schools are to reopen fully. If social distancing is in place for the foreseeable future, the school will struggle due to space constraints. It is, however, too early to speculate on September.

Mark Mathewson
Chair of Governors
20th May 2020