

Covid-19 'Catch up'

In June, a £1 billion fund for education was announced by the government. Further guidance has now been released ([Catch up premium - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/catch-up-premium)) showing that the money is split between a catch-up premium and a national tutoring scheme.

The catch-up premium is funded on a per pupil basis at £80 per pupil. This will be based on the census from October 2020 and will not include Nursery numbers, meaning we are predicting that St Saviour's will receive £16,880 (211 x £80).

Schools can decide how best to spend this money in order to meet the needs of their cohort and circumstances, and to help pupils catch up on missed education.

To support schools to make the best use of this funding, the Education Endowment Foundation has published a support guide for schools with evidence-based approaches to 'catch up' for all students.

At St Saviour's, we believe our focus should be on reducing the impact of Lockdown on pupils' learning rather than trying to cram an extra 6 months of teaching into a short amount of time. Our emphasis is on ensuring high quality provision from experienced and highly knowledgeable teachers and support staff.

At St Saviour's, this money will be used in order to provide:

- curriculum resources and materials that help to reduce the impact of the Lockdown on learning and support the mental health of pupils.
- Additional time with teachers and/or support staff to develop the outcomes of children who have been identified as needing "catch up" in their learning.

There are two broad aims for "catch up" at St Saviour's:

- Attainment outcomes at end of 2020-21 for all year groups will be at least in line with those at the end of 2019-20.
- The mental health needs of pupils are met and supported by the school.

What "Catch Up" looks like at St Saviour's:

(For all children)

- **Working through well sequenced, purposeful learning schemes.** For example, we have reviewed and adapted our schemes of work to identify key learning in order to allow for missed objectives to be covered. We have revised the coverage of our phonics teaching to make sure that all children work systematically through the phases.
- **Focus on consolidation of basic skills.** The core skills which enable successful learning will require increased focus across all year groups. These include: handwriting, spelling of high frequency words, basic sentence punctuation, times tables recall, basic addition & subtraction fact recall, KIRFs for each year group (Key Instant Recall Facts) and reading skills relevant to age. We have changed the way that we teach spelling to ensure that it is fully integrated with the texts the children are reading in class.
- **Focused teaching in reading, writing and maths.** Reading, writing and maths teaching will be flexible and will be responsive to the needs of the children in order to cover missed learning – particularly in the autumn term.

- **Experience of a broad and balanced curriculum.** It is essential that all pupils continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum, which embeds and consolidates the key skills of reading, writing and maths. Teachers have been given flexibility to design their timetables to facilitate this, so children may cover some topics in blocks rather than weekly.
- **Particular focus on early reading and phonics.** This is always a focus in the school and will continue to be so in order to develop children's reading ability and vocabulary.
- **Assessment of learning and of basic skills to identify major gaps.** Teachers will work to identify gaps in learning and adapt teaching accordingly.
- **Time spent on mental health, wellbeing and social skills development.** This will be at the core of all catch up work as many children will have not been in formal school setting for a number of months. This will include training for teachers and support staff.

(For some children)

- **Additional support and focus on basic core skills.** We will use a range of interventions, adapted for the needs of specific children. We will use the catch up premium to fund staffing to run interventions and/or purchase additional resources. Ongoing assessment will be used to identify pupils' needs.
- **Additional time to practise basic skills.** This again will be dependent on the needs of children in order to re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics) and there will be flexibility on timetables to allow this.

Catch up at St Saviour's IS NOT:

- Cramming missed learning
- Narrowing the curriculum and focusing solely on reading, writing and maths
- Pressuring children and families into rapid learning
- Teachers' time spent highlighting missed objectives
- Teachers' time spent ticking off assessment points and extra tracking

How we will measure the impact:

Assessing the impact of this work will not necessarily have an end date. Academic progress will potentially be easier to ascertain, whilst social and mental health issues may well present themselves later in the year or become more apparent over time.

- **Ongoing assessment of pupils' academic needs.** Teachers and support staff will use formative assessment and intuitive knowledge of the children to identify missed learning. They will moderate pupils' work and share professional expertise in order to track pupils' progress against age-related expectations. We will use diagnostic tests sparingly.
- **Regular feedback from pupils about their mental wellbeing.** We have always valued the 'pupil voice' at St Saviour's and will use a range of ways for pupils to share their feelings about being and school and their experiences in the pandemic.
- **More frequent meetings with class teachers.** Senior leaders and subject leaders will meet regularly to ensure that pupils' needs are being met, and that teachers have the tools and resources they need in order to do this.

- **Regular contact with parents.** This will take the form of meetings, phone calls and opportunities for parents to share their thoughts e.g. surveys. We will also take the time to give parents regular updates about what is happening in school through newsletters and the school website, and will endeavour to address any concerns they may have.