

Covid-19 'Catch-up' Premium

As part of the response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government has introduced a catch-up premium grant for schools. Further information about this grant can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium>

Since schools were able to open to more pupils in June 2020 and open fully in September 2020, we have implemented a number of measures to support children to return to education and to meet their personal, pastoral and academic needs.

The catch-up premium is funded on a per pupil basis at £80 per pupil. This will be based on the previous year's school census, meaning we are predicting that Thorndown Primary School will be in receipt of around £43,000 (£80 x 540), spread over three terms. The spending of this money will be down to schools to allocate as they see best. To support schools to make the best use of this funding, the Education Endowment Foundation has published a guide containing evidence-based approaches to catch up for all students.

There are two broad aims for "catch-up" at Thorndown Primary School:

- The mental health needs of pupils are met and supported by the school
- Attainment outcomes at end of 2020-21 for all year groups will be at least in line with, or just above, those at the end of 2018-19. (These can be found on our website.)

At Thorndown Primary School, this money will be used in order to provide:

- Resources and materials that support "catch-up" and the mental health of our pupils
- Additional support staff or online tutoring opportunities to develop the outcomes of children who have been identified as needing "catch-up" in their learning.

Catch-Up at Thorndown Primary School is

- **For all children**
- **Supporting great teaching in the classroom.**
Making sure each teacher is supported, prepared and able to adjust school life within the present restrictions. Planning will need to reflect the time lost during the lockdown period by individual children.
- **Pupil assessment and feedback**
Teachers will work to identify gaps in learning and adapt teaching accordingly. Pupil Progress Meetings will ascertain who may require further support.
- **Additional time to practise basic skills**
This will be dependent on the need of children in order to re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing spelling accuracy, improving vocabulary use, writing and mathematics) and there will be flexibility within timetables to allow this.
- **Targeted support for those who need it**
We are exploring a variety of ways to support pupils catch up learning. This could be through one to one or small group tuition or intervention programmes, which could be online or before school starts. These groups will change half termly as further assessment and monitoring occur.
- **Time spent on mental health, well-being and social skills development**
This will be at the core of all catch-up work as many children will have not been in a formal school setting for a number of months. We also offer music and play therapy if needed.
- **Additional lesson time on core teaching**
Reading, writing and maths teaching will require increased teaching time in order to cover missed learning – particularly in the autumn term. In order to keep a broad and balanced curriculum, some subject areas may be taught as blocked days rather than weekly lessons, e.g. music.
- **Particular focus on early reading, phonics and spelling**
This is always a focus in the school and will continue to be so in order to develop children's reading ability, knowledge of key spelling patterns and vocabulary.
- **Ensuring pupils have access to technology**
Providing pupils with access to technology has been important this term and will be in the future as the potential need to work from home, due to Covid testing or quarantining continues. We are using technology to facilitate

some one-to-one and small group tuition, run parents sessions and assemblies and teach remotely. We are able to provide some pupils with technology on loan during quarantine times.

- **Supporting parents and carers**

Parents have played a key role in supporting children's learning at home and we are now working, as always, to support families now their children have returned to school. We offer advice, guidance, signposting to outside support and encourage good attendance. We are also able to offer advice on key learning strategies, such as reading, with children.

Catch-up at Thorndown Primary School IS NOT:

- Rapid cramming of missed learning
- Pressuring children and families into rapid learning where learning isn't placed into long term memory
- Teacher time spent highlighting missed objectives
- Teacher time spent ticking off assessment points and extra tracking