

COVID-19 Catch Up



In June, a £1 billion fund for education was announced by the government. Further guidance has now been released (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-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 previous year's census. St Mary's will be in receipt of £16,320 (204 x £80). 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 support guide for schools with evidence-based approaches to catch up for all students.

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

- curriculum resources and materials that support "catch up" and mental health of pupils.
- E-learning resources 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 Mary'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.

Catch Up at St Mary's

(For all children)

- **Working through well sequenced, purposeful learning schemes.** For example, our school-created whole school curriculum and timetable is being adapted to incorporate and focus on missed objectives and consolidate the basics. In maths, we will utilise Power Maths Scheme as our spine of learning and we have been able to use catch up premium to purchase additional resources that will help to address gaps in learning.
- **Focus on consolidation of basic skills.** The core skills which enable successful learning will require increased curriculum time across all year groups. These include: handwriting, spelling of high frequency words, basic sentence punctuation, times tables recall, basic addition & subtraction fact recall and reading skills relevant to age.
- **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 and spring term. In order to keep a broad and balanced curriculum, some subject areas may be taught thematically and as blocked days rather than weekly lessons in the autumn and spring terms.

- **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.

Spaced retrieval Practice. Retrieval practice is where bringing information to mind increases learning and retention. Pupils will be encouraged to recall facts from memory. St Mary's will use this study technique where mental effort is used to recall information. Spacing is a powerful strategy that boosts learning by spreading lessons and retrieval opportunities out over time so learning is not crammed all at once. By returning to content every so often, students' knowledge has had time to rest and be refreshed.

- **Time spent on mental health, wellbeing and social skills development.** This will be at the core of all catch up work.

(For some children)

- **Additional support and focus on basic core skills.** Supported by staffing utilising catch up premium – dependent on need as identified through ongoing assessment.
- **Additional time to practice basic skills.** This again will be dependent on need 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.