



School Recovery Plan

A Letter for Parents and Carers

Friday 16th September

The amount of time lost in school during the initial stages of this pandemic will very likely have had a detrimental impact on many of our children's education and for some, sadly, their mental health and wellbeing. We wanted to share with you how we plan to address these issues in the coming months. We have outlined our key priorities to be the following:

1. Get back into the rhythm of everyday school life
2. Support children, their families and staff in improving wellbeing
3. Provide a strong curriculum of basic skills
4. Identify gaps in learning
5. Provide targeted support for each and every need

Please read below for answers to some of the questions you may have.

Will my child start where they left off in March?

No. We have decided that the strongest approach is to start with their new year's curriculum and we are going to plug the gaps as we move through the year. Regular and rigorous assessment throughout the year will inform how we can best do this for each and every pupil. We are interweaving areas that were missed into our current curriculum offer.

How long will it take for my child to catch up?

Every child will be different but our goal is to catch up children as quickly as we can, wherever possible. However, we are also committed to embedding deep knowledge and understanding and this will take time. Our initial target is that through a carefully planned curriculum offer, we will be able to catch up most, if not all of our pupils to where they would have been, by the end of the school year.

What are you doing differently in school?

We have recently revised our curriculum and with that we had very specific timetables which clearly support a broad curriculum. However, these have had to be suspended and if you go on to the website you will see our current ones which whilst addressing the whole curriculum are very much focused on improving basic skills in maths and English. We are building up stamina for learning again, so our lessons are a little shorter to support this. We are also broadening our PSHCE offer so that children have daily opportunities to talk about things which may be causing them anxiety or distress either in school or the wider world.

What will happen if classes have to close or my child can't attend?

There is no substitute for being taught in school but the government have tasked schools with being able to offer online learning for children who are unable to attend. We are currently working with parents and carers to see what challenges this would present for them as well as coordinating staff efforts to ensure that we can support your child remotely if we need to. The website offers a lot of supplementary materials to help your child learn from home but we will soon be putting specific lessons and tasks on **Seesaw (login codes are attached to this letter)** which is a platform that all parents and pupils will need to have access to.

How will remote learning help my child make progress?

Best progress will always be achieved by working in school with our staff. We hope that our remote learning approach will keep families more closely connected with school while Seesaw will provide a platform on which work can be shared but more crucially, assessed by teachers. We do hope that as we all become more confident in the use of technology in this way, we will be further able to supplement our school-based learning with opportunities to work at home in a way we haven't done before.

When will school get back to 'normal'?

We honestly don't know but we do know that for all the challenges we have faced (and probably have yet to face) children are very happy to be back in school and much of what we did before, we can still do. Some of the changes we have introduced (such as staggered lunch times) have actually improved things in school and we may well continue them indefinitely.

What will we do if a child is struggling to get back into routines?

Children have settled well and there haven't been the challenges or issues we anticipated for just about all of our pupils. We are closely monitoring the well-being of all our pupils. Where children and their families do need additional support, we will continue to work closely together to help improve every child's experience of school.

What will we do if a child is struggling to keep up with the new workload?

We will monitor this closely but we are not necessarily trying to cram more into the day we are just working smarter and in shorter bursts. The additional support and intervention we provide for children who need it will be one way of avoiding increased workload.

What would happen if classes had to close / children had to be off school?

If the whole class has to isolate then the teacher will provide online activities each day which children can access and receive clear instruction and direct support for. They will also be able to submit their work electronically and receive feedback before the next day's activities. In the case of individuals being told to self-isolate, we will endeavour to offer the same or similar levels of support. All of this requires everybody to have access to and be able to use an internet-based device. If your child is off school due to illness, it wouldn't be appropriate to send homework, but we would ensure the children had support to catch up when they return.

My child was achieving highly in school prior to school closures. How will they be supported?

As part of our school improvement / recovery plan, we are looking at ways in which we can further support high achieving children. As well as providing continuous challenge and opportunities to go further and deeper in class, we will be offering additional intervention groups and online challenge. We will also be meeting regularly in school to specifically discuss those children who are exceeding in curriculum areas, how we are supporting them and what we can do further to maximise progress.

My child received small group intervention in the previous year group. Will this still take place?

Yes, but there are certain interventions we can't deliver in the same way. For example, we have a phonics programme called Read Write Inc where children from different classes come together to get the bespoke support they need. We can't do this at present but Read Write Inc is still being delivered within individual classes. Similarly, our teaching assistants have particular strengths which are often shared between classes. Again, this is not something we are able to do at present.

How will home learning be monitored?

Children will still receive a weekly diet of basic skills practise to be done at home. This will be monitored in school through regular assessments.

What assessments will school carry out? Will my child be sitting tests all the time?

We have a very clear structure as to how we assess in school. These are termly tests which inform us as to the next steps needed to support each child. This approach will continue as will the weekly tests we carry out in basic skills such as times tables and spellings. Assessments are crucial in supporting each child's education but it's quality learning time that is the real key to making good progress. To this end we are committed to ensuring that high quality teaching and learning is happening every day across the curriculum.

I have other questions which are not included here – what should I do next?

If there are still some things you wish to know more about, then you should contact your child's teacher directly. You can do this using Class Dojo or Seesaw. Alternatively, you can email the office with a question to be passed on to the relevant staff. Finally, you can email or phone the office and we will arrange a telephone appointment with your class teacher to discuss any specific questions or concerns.