

Falconhurst School 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 and will not include Nursery numbers, meaning Falconhurst will be in receipt of £26,000 (325 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.

Spending:

At Falconhurst, this money will be used in order to:

- Purchase digital resources (devices, routers, data, storage) that support pupils to bridge the 'digital divide', fully engage with remote learning and benefit from an acceleration curriculum within school which is enriched by the improved access to technology. We believe that this will account for approximately two thirds of the funding allocated over time.
- Fund additional resources and staff time to effectively deliver the Nuffield Early Language Intervention in Reception. Funds in the region of £3,000 allocated to this.
- Fund additional teaching staff hours to develop the outcomes of children who have been identified as needing "catch up" in their learning. Remaining funds will be deployed to this priority.

Aims

The broad aims for "catch up" at Falconhurst:

- Attainment outcomes at end of 2020-21 for all year groups will be at least in line with those at the point of lockdown in March. This means that if a child was working at an age-related expectation in a subject in March they are working at least to an age-related expectation in that same subject by the end of the year.
- By the end of the 2021-22 year, attainment outcomes for all year groups will be at least in line with those at the end of the 2019-20 year.
- The mental health needs of pupils that have arisen as a result of the pandemic are met and supported by the school.

Catch Up at Falconhurst is

(For all children)

- **Working through well sequenced, purposeful learning schemes.** For example, our school-created passport schemes are being deployed to focus on missed objectives and consolidate the basics.
- **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.
- **Sustained Approach to the Pathways for learning.** Key vocabulary, using and applying writing for purpose and consolidating mathematical concepts will be enriched and enlivened through the whole curriculum approach across school. Children will still work towards milestones in all subject areas with some being taught in blocks whilst others are taught 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.
- **Ongoing learning in the event of isolation or lockdown.** Teachers will work with all families from day one of remote learning to provide learning which matches the school based provision. Remote learning will be digital and paper based with ongoing support and feedback from teachers.
- **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 and many have been affected by inconsistency of schooling and adverse experiences whilst at home.

(For some children)

- **Additional support and focus on basic core skills.** Supported by additional 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.
- **Personalised support for remote learning where needed.** Leaders, teachers and support staff will talk to families and offer support in the event that their child is unable to attend school for on-site learning.

Catch up at Falconhurst IS NOT:

- Cramming missed learning with a surface level depth of understanding which sits only in a child's working memory
- Pressuring children and families into rapid learning and engagement with home learning over and above their ability to provide with support from school
- Teachers' time spent on bureaucratic tasks which do not provide meaningful insight into pupils' needs or abilities.