

Covid – 19 Catch-Up Funding Grove Park Primary School

In June, a £1 billion fund for education was announced by the government. Further guidance has now been released: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-up-premium-coronavirus-covid-19>. 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 we are predicting Grove Park will be in receipt of £33,200 (415 children at £80). It is up to schools to allocate this money as they see best.

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

- Curriculum resources and materials that support “catch up” and mental health of pupils;
- Additional 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 Grove Park Primary School:

- 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 children are met and supported by the school.

‘Catch Up’ at Grove Park

‘Catch-up’ at Grove Park Primary School is for all children and we use targeted and meaningful assessments and analysis of all children’s attainment and progress to ensure any gaps in learning are addressed.

Well sequenced, purposeful learning: for example, Reading and Writing lessons are being adapted to focus on missed objectives and consolidate the basics. In Maths, we are utilising the White Rose Maths Scheme and we have been able to use catch up premium to purchase adapted resources that have been specifically designed for ‘catch-up’.

Focus on mastery 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, punctuation, times tables recall, basic addition & subtraction fact recall and reading skills relevant to age.

Focus on early reading and phonics: this is always a focus at Grove Park and will continue to be so in order to develop children’s reading ability and vocabulary. We have purchased new reading books and on-line Reading Schemes to support children where necessary.

Assessment of learning and of basic skills to identify gaps: our current approach to assessment is robust and means that we have a range of methods for effectively assessing children and identifying any gaps in learning.

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. We are also investing in additional staff training and resources to support the work of our Learning Mentors in school. We are using the Jigsaw PSHE scheme which includes lessons on a positive transition back to school.

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 practise 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 additional staffing to allow this.

Monitoring of ‘Catch Up’ at Grove Park

The impact of the use of this funding will be closely monitored through:

- Teachers’ on-going assessments, marking and tracking of children’s attainment and progress;
- Regular Pupil Progress & Data Meetings;
- Termly assessment reports to Governors at the Teaching & Learning Committee.