

Statement on the use of Covid-19 Catch-up Funding 2020 - 21

The government has announced a catch-up premium, equivalent to £80 per pupil, for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time. The guidance on the use of funding states that "although all children have had their education disrupted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, it is likely that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups will have been hardest hit". Each school is responsible for allocating this money in order to meet specific, identified areas for focus - such as those relating to learning, assessment, intervention strategies and pastoral needs, in order to help reduce the impact of Covid-19 on children's learning.

Amount of funding available to Whitley Chapel First School 2021 - 22

Funding available this year is £1,100

Areas of need

Pupils in Class 2 who were unable to attend school during Lockdown have displayed some mental health issues, and also some delay with learning key parts of the Maths and Literacy curriculum. Pupils in Year 1 who were not able to attend Reception during Lockdown have shown some delays in acquiring key skills in Phonics and Handwriting.

We were concerned that some of the pupils currently in Reception but who would have been able to attend Nursery in the second Lockdown might be experiencing some spoken language delay. However, we registered for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme (NELI) and carried out the assessments, but all Reception pupils came out as average or well-above average, so we have not needed to engage any further with the programme.

How the areas of need will be addressed

Prior to this year (2021 – 22), we have been unable to afford a Teaching assistant in KS2, so have concentrated our funding on deploying Teaching assistants lower down the school to help younger pupils gain a secure start in early maths and literacy skills.

We have put some of the funding towards employing an additional Teaching Assistant in Early Years, to allow the more experienced Teaching assistant from KS1 to move up into KS2 with the Year 3 pupils, to enhance staffing ratios in order to free the teacher to give more individual support with pupils who need it, and also to be available as an extra support for pupils who are demonstrating anxiety.

We have upgraded our subscription to the online Learning resource Twinkl to allow us to use the DFE approved Phonics programme. This is of particular benefit to Year 1 pupils as it gives additional practice in Phase 5 phonics and handwriting, and gives pupils more opportunities to go over basic writing skills that they may have missed during Lockdown.

Success criteria

- All pupils will achieve the Expected Level or better in Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of Year 3
- All KS2 pupils who have been demonstrating anxiety will be able to seek out a designated adult for support and encouragement.
- All pupils in Year 1 will pass their Year 1 Phonics test.
- All pupils in Year 1 will achieve the Expected level or better in Writing.

How this will be monitored

- By book scrutinies, classroom observation and end of year assessments.
- Head teacher's report to governors