

Tuesday 20th April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing today to share with you how we have been, and are going to continue to, spend the Catch-Up Funding the government have allocated to all schools.

As you are well aware, the children's education has been disrupted for the last year now, with children either learning from home or in school as part of key worker groups. Although we distributed daily learning for the children, we are sure you will appreciate it's not the same as being taught at school by their own class teacher.

Inevitably, there are gaps in the children's learning. There are maths topics we haven't been able to cover, strategies not fully understood, missed regular reading, and writing that has just not taken place.

The government are keen to close these gaps and have therefore offered all schools funding to help children to catch up. It is up to each individual school how they spend this. We have given it a lot of thought and consideration.

So far, additional TA hours have been used in some classes to help with interventions. A subscription to Collins ebooks has been purchased to give children access to a wide variety of books from home. Extra maths tutoring sessions will be used in KS2 in the summer term using Third Space Learning.

We know that the person who knows your child the best educationally is their class teacher. They know the skills and knowledge the children need to have and they are best placed to support them in acquiring these.

We are also aware that, in this current situation, **all** children have missed schooling.

We are therefore proposing to offer Catch Up to all children. Every class (from Year 1 up to Year 6) will have two additional sessions on two separate days, which will mean that we will extend the school day by 1 hour, two days a week.

This would mean that on a Tuesday and Thursday your child would finish exactly an hour later than they do now (4:15pm).

This is completely voluntary, and there is no obligation for your child/ren to stay for the extra sessions.

In these two sessions, one will focus on English and the other will focus on maths.

In these two sessions, one will focus on English and the other will focus on maths. We are proposing that we run this for the next 5 weeks up until the next half term holiday, when we will evaluate its impact and if necessary, make changes to its format for the final term of the year before the summer holidays.

Just like the government, we want all children to benefit from this funding as well as targeted children to have additional benefit from it. We feel this is the best way to use our funding. It meets the government's criteria and offering it to everyone on the same nights makes pick up for parents manageable.

We hope you can see the logic to this plan and, in particular, see the benefits for your child. As ever we fully understand the decision of every family and appreciate your continuing support.

These sessions will start the first week back after the Easter break on **Tuesday 27th April and Thursday 29th April, and every Tuesday and Thursday thereafter until Spring Bank half term.**

We will, in time, be restarting our after school sports programme in order to also meet the needs of those children who would benefit from a physical / social programme. The clubs will run as before for year 3,4,5 and 6. More details on that will come in the next couple of weeks.

Myself, the staff and the governors and all at Renishaw Primary School, we believe that catch up and education in general is an entitlement for all of its pupils.

Please complete the attached slip and return it to school by Friday 23rd April.

If you have any questions regarding this, please don't hesitate to contact us either by phone or via the school email address.

Kind regards.

Mr Fuller and Mr Harrison
Head Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher



Child's name

My child will attend the session every Tuesday (please tick)

My children will attend the session every Thursday (please tick)

My child cannot attend the sessions and will be picked up between 3:00pm and 3:15pm

Signed

