



Russell Hill Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2XP
Telephone: 020 8660 0115 Fax: 020 8660 9656
Email: office@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Head Teacher: [D. J Mooney](#)
Assistant Head Teachers: C. Garcia, E. Holloway

Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Assessment and Covid Catch-up – Update for parents

Like all schools, we are working hard to ensure that any impact on pupil progress and attainment caused by school closures over past months is addressed systematically and plans are put in place to cover key areas of learning in English and Mathematics that may need additional focus for individuals, groups of pupils or the class as a whole.

By the end of the first ten days in school, each teacher had designed an action plan in conjunction with the English and Maths leaders, which outlined which areas of learning their class would focus on until Easter. In the last week we have been carrying out detailed assessments in Literacy and Numeracy which the teachers will be analysing next week and over the Easter holiday period. This 'gap analysis' will provide us with very detailed information regarding what each child needs to practice and learn next. These targets will be shared with you as part of the parent consultations after we return to school in April.

We are avoiding using the term 'Catch Up' all the time in school, particularly with our children, as this may make them feel that they are under pressure and significantly behind. For many children we are finding that this is not the case. However, we are very mindful that practice and revision in aspects of English and Mathematics will be required for a number of terms, to ensure that progress and attainment don't suffer longer term. Our teachers are already employing lots of strategies to achieve this, for instance, additional 'little and often' phonics sessions during each day, increasing opportunities to write and practice basic skills and more prolonged writing (something that we noticed pupils struggling with during lockdown), number skills; including place value, counting on and back in jumps of more than one, revision of the four rules (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and multiplication table fluency. These are just some examples.

We are also implementing a number of additional programmes that will help support us in literacy and numeracy. We have taken advantage of the National Tuition Programme, which is 75% direct funded by central government and are running a pilot group this term, with a view to rolling this out for some more pupils in the Summer Term. We are planning other focussed support resources that will be used over the Summer Term and into the next academic year. For most pupils, quality first and very focussed teaching in class will be the most effective method of ensuring that any impact of the last year is mitigated quickly, and there is no one size fits all approach that we will be using. You can find our covid-19 catch up plan on the school website. Please bear in mind that this is a dynamic document that will be updated each half term, in light of our ongoing assessment of pupils.

You may also have noted from media reports that, for this year, there will be no formal SATS or other assessments at any Key Stage, from Reception up to A Level at a national or local Authority level. This does not mean that we will not be carrying out formal assessments in the Summer Term, as we will, and will be reporting the outcomes of these to you in your child's end of year report.

'Catching up' is also not about just English and Maths and we are ensuring that our focus does not exclude all the other aspects of school life, a broad curriculum with experiences that make our days fulfilling; for instance, we will maintain a focus on good physical & mental health, overall well-being and fun.

I hope this information is helpful. I will continue to update you as the year progresses on how we are doing and how you can support us with this. This area of school life and leadership is also at the top of our priorities for school governance, and our Curriculum Committee and Full Board are working in partnership with our staff.

Sincerely

Mr Mooney
Head Teacher