

Covid Catch up premium

The children at St Nicholas School experienced a major disruption to their school routine and subsequent learning as a result of the Covid 19 National Lockdown.

Our pupils missed out on curriculum content and social interaction with other children and adults specifically trained in strategies to meet their needs. Additional activities such as communication groups, sensory integration activities and in school therapy services within school were also interrupted.

Parents were drafted in to help their children learn and this was successful for many of our families, however we acknowledge that children from vulnerable and disadvantaged households will have been the most affected by this time out of school.

Despite the additional disruption of moving into the new unfamiliar school building, the children of St Nicholas have managed remarkably well and the majority of children have returned to the routines of school with little difficulty.

We endeavour to use the Covid catch up funding to provide support for our children practically, emotionally and to benefit them in both on a short term basis but also with the intention of leaving a legacy to benefit the school in the future.

The government announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up. This includes a one-off universal £650 million catch-up premium 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.

Final allocations of payment will be calculated on final allocations using pupil numbers from the October 2020 census for mainstream schools.

We expect this census to be also used in special schools

For special school Funding will be released in November 2020

First payments will be $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total allocated, the rest of the funding will be divided into two payments.

Funding allocation 2020-2021	Number of Pupils on roll September 2020	Total Amount of Funding £240 x 204	Total amount of funding allocated by CROYDON council We think taken from Numbers on roll July 2020 159 children -7 out of borough children
£240 per child	204	48,960	£38,160

Total Croydon council allocation	Autumn 2020 allocation $\frac{1}{4}$ of total	Spring and summer 2021 allocation Remainder of funding $\div 2$
38,160	1 payment of £9,450	2 payments of 14,355

Proposed implementation of Covid Catch up funding (Approx. amounts)

1. HLTA to be released from class to work on communication activities with children. this time is ringfenced and not to be used for cover. Approx cost £8,000

- Two days a week including prep time,
- Agency TA to be employed to fill HLTA role in class class.

2. TA (possibly more than one) in school to be trained in basic counselling. This could be level two training with Place 2 Be or ELSA training. (If two Tas approx. cost £2000 inc cover costs and resources)

The TAs will have the opportunity to apply for this training and be given time out of class to undertake this work with children to work with children

- 3. Drama therapy to be offered for groups of children in the summer term. Children will be selected from across school and will be for all key stages (funding available for this approx. (14,000)**
- 4. Additional buy in of Occupational therapy and resources additional time in late spring and summer term to buy in additional time from Sensational Kids (12,000) This would be for key stage 1 pupils.**

Proposed Intention of the use of Covid catch up funding at St Nicholas school

Government guidance states; 'For pupils in key stages 1 and 2, school leaders are expected to prioritise identifying gaps and re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics)' (DFE Coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium

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- 1. At St Nicholas school We propose that this additional funding is best used to develop children' communication skills without which they cannot access the wider curriculum. This will be done with communication groups undertaken on top of class activities.**
- 2. A number of our children are anxious about the virus and its effects. Training staff in emotional literacy and basic child counselling skills will provide a legacy from the Covid catch up which will benefit children at St Nicholas in the future, providing a safe space for them to express feelings and work through them with a familiar adult.**
- 3. We already have music and play therapy at St Nicholas. The idea of including drama therapy into our offer has been discussed in the past and it will be an opportunity to work with larger groups of children to develop their emotional awareness, sense of community and communication skills**
- 4. With growing number of children who have sensory integration needs the profile of occupational therapy has been raised in school this academic year. The therapist**

from Sensational Kids is working successfully with classes in school and we would like to extend this to as many children and staff children in key stage 1

Proposed Impact of Covid catch up funding at St Nicholas school

1. The HLTA will work with children and their communication skills will improve This will be shown by achievement of short-term communication targets.
2. Teaching assistants will feel confident in roles offering basic counselling to children. feedback about children will be given to class teachers and action plans to support children's emotional needs can be drawn up and evaluated.
3. The drama therapist will work as part of the wider multidisciplinary team at st Nicholas and feedback will be given to teachers and next steps can be planned accordingly.
4. Staff will feel more confident in understanding the purpose of sensory integration activities and how they benefit pupil's behaviour. The children of St Nicholas will be accepting of therapy activities and it will have a positive effect on their behaviour in school

How this will be measured

- Cases studies
- Use of targets from pupil passports
- PSHE tracking booklets
- Other assessments SDQ, Blanks, etc.