

Our Lady School



Parents have been understandably concerned about areas of the curriculum pupils did not learn because of Covid restrictions, including isolating classes and school closure.

What teaching did we provide during lockdown?

Most pupils in our school will not have experienced very much 'lost learning' as a result of isolating pupils or school closure.

Since September 2020, the school has provided a full timetable of remote learning for pupils isolating at home due to whole class isolation, including all pupils in the school during the national lockdown from January 5th – March 5th 2021. Teachers provided 3 daily lessons which included 1 live lesson: one daily English lesson (including daily phonics); one daily maths lesson and one other subject each day so that RE, science, history, geography, art, DT and PSHE were taught weekly. The parents were provided with a suggested timetable which which start from 9am and went up to 3:15pm. Other directed tasks such as reading, spelling and times table practice and physical exercise were provided. Weekly pre-recorded assemblies were shared with all pupils which focused on the Gospel and included missions (tasks) for the children to complete. All learning was set using the online platform 'Seesaw'. The children submitted their completed work via the same platform and teachers gave feedback on all pieces of work. Pupils were able to ask teachers questions and clarify learning through via their individual seesaw accounts. This gave pupils the support they needed to access the learning. Additional live support sessions were provided for children who needed additional support. This meant no child was left behind.

The school provided Chromebooks to all pupils who needed one to access remote lessons. As a result, all pupils attended remote learning.

Identifying areas of the curriculum that children missed during lockdown

Due to the high-quality live lessons taught daily to all children, few areas of the curriculum were missed. Teachers completed termly gap and strength analysis for the core subjects to identify key areas where additional support was needed to address gaps in learning and to enable pupils to 'keep up' on their return to school.

Immediate response for all pupils when school reopened after the lockdown

The school purchased the Herts for Learning 'Back on Track' planning which was designed to close gaps and promote accelerate progress and this scheme was fully implemented across the school in both English and Maths.

On return, a base line assessment of all children took place and a gap and strength analysis was completed to assess gaps in learning in English and Maths.

A curriculum catch up tutor was appointed to deliver small group targeted support across the school.

Reading: When children returned to school after the first national lockdown additional phonics lesson were provided to consolidate the application of phonic sounds in reading and writing. At the

beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year, pupils in KS1 were taught daily phonic sessions. Pupils in KS2 are taught weekly spelling lessons as well as daily SPAG sessions within their English lessons. Guided reading is taught twice a week.

Writing: Children had fewer opportunities to write at length during lockdown. Children now plan and complete extended writing every week, as part of the usual English curriculum. Handwriting is taught weekly and practiced daily.

Maths: All units of Number were prioritised to be taught, practised and consolidated by the end of the year, including opportunities to problem solve and reason with number regularly.

PE: Children had fewer opportunities to exercise outside led by a teacher during lockdown. Pupils have now returned to the full PE curriculum.

Music: Children did not have music lessons live taught by the teacher during lockdown. The full music curriculum is now taught weekly by the music teacher in school as usual.

Art: Children did not have art lessons live taught weekly by the teacher during lockdown. The art curriculum is now taught weekly in school as usual.

Science and maths: Children had fewer opportunities to practise the practical elements of science and maths e.g. measuring and investigations during remote education. Children now apply their learning in practical areas of maths and science as part of the usual curriculum.

Computing: Children did not have computing lessons live taught by a teacher during lockdown. The full computing curriculum is now taught as usual.

Design and technology: Children did not have design and technology lessons during lockdown. The design and technology curriculum is now taught as blocked days as usual.

Food technology: Children did not have food technology lessons during lockdown. The food technology curriculum is now taught as blocked days as usual.

What catch-up do we provide for pupils who experienced some 'lost learning'?

Upon returning to school following the lockdown, teachers immediately assessed pupils. A gap and strength analysis was completed for English and Maths. Specific gaps in learning were identified and targeted through targeted support, interventions and quality first teaching. Where pupils are identified as having areas of 'lost learning', the school provided targeted curriculum catch up sessions small groups throughout the academic year 2020-2021.

If you'd like to see the impact of this, please see our page on the Covid Catch-up Premium 2020-21.

This year, the school provides targeted tuition lessons after school for small groups of pupils. This is planned by the class teachers and delivered by support staff who are trained as 'school led tutors'. The focus is key mathematical concepts, Reading comprehension and application of phonics, SPAG and handwriting.