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Dear Parent,

Over the past few weeks you will have heard news about how schools will be focusing on helping their children 'catch up' after the disruption to their education.

First of all, due to everyone's hard work, we have no doubt that on Monday, the children will settle in well and be able to pick up from where they left off.

However, it is vital that we identify any key areas of maths and English that the children might not have embedded over the course of the past few months.

Although this letter is titled 'catch-up' it is probably best not to think of it in this way. The children have covered much of what we would have done in school anyway - this is more about *embedding* the skills and knowledge that they will have already covered. As you will know more than ever from your experiences with home schooling, just because they've learned something does not necessarily mean that it has stuck!

For each child it will be different; some will have less areas to work on, others will have more. Therefore, each child will need something a bit different, in terms of approach, frequency and subject area.

So, to that end, in the first week back, we will carry out some gentle assessments in maths, reading and writing. This will look a bit different for each year group and for each subject. This will help us identify the following areas to focus on:

- Whole school areas of learning
- Small group areas of learning
- Individual child areas of learning

We will then be able to map out our approach to how we provide the input needed to bridge any gaps.

By far the most powerful way that we will tackle the first two points is through our main, daily lessons. We will reorder our topics, use 'recovery curriculum' materials and spend more time focusing on the skills we consider to be the most vital.

In addition to this, we will be able to group children by need, i.e. there could be, say, 3 children in Y5 who need more work on fractions. Therefore, they may spend a few sessions on this topic working in a small group with an adult - in addition to normal lessons.

We know that we will be able to address most things as described above. It may be that in a very few cases, children would benefit from a period of more individual support.

Please note, that if your child was already receiving some form of extra support from an adult in school - this will still carry on - it may just be that it is organised in a slightly different way.

The final thing that we will do over the coming weeks is to set your child some individual targets to work on over the next couple of months. We will share these with you in your parent interview - a date is to be set for this.

As we have said all along, the most important thing is your child's happiness. Some will find the transition back into school easier than others, but be assured that we will support them through the transition. Although we have to waste no time in getting up to speed academically, we have deliberately planned some exciting activities in the first couple of weeks to help them settle back in. We will also do lots of extra PSHE (personal, social and health education) activities to support their well-being and to ensure a positive transition.

I have no doubt that within days and weeks they will be back in the swing of things and the school will return to that lovely, busy, fun environment that we know and love.

We're looking forward to seeing you all next week and fingers crossed for uninterrupted and sunny spring and summer terms!

Best Wishes

Mr D Cook  
Headteacher