

The Recovery Curriculum

As we plan for the wider opening of school in September, we are planning our curriculum after many pupils have been learning at home since March. Every child in our school has had a different experience during this time and as a school we are prioritising what they will need on their return to school.

We are calling our curriculum a recovery curriculum (a term coined by Professor Barry Carpenter) and it acknowledges that there have been big losses to many in our school community during the ongoing pandemic and that these losses of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom can contribute to our pupils feeling more anxious.

Wellbeing is at the forefront of our recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. The focus for school in the autumn will be upon ensuring that children are ready to learn and as such social and emotional learning will be prioritised over academic learning. This is because we know that children who are highly anxious cannot learn. We also know that in order to succeed, we need to work in partnership with families and carers; to build on the aspects that have worked well.

Class staff have been planning how they can ensure the return to school is as smooth as possible for all pupils in the new term by focusing on:

- Belonging – sharing school/class values, celebrating successes and happy learning times, taking on class responsibilities
- Predictability in the structure of the day – building clear routines so that children know what is happening
- Organisation – ensuring a safe and ordered environment
- Regulation – work on understanding and talking about emotions, physical exercise, sensory processing
- Individualising the learning - some may very quickly settle back into school with little additional support but others may be very anxious and struggle to reengage with school and may need more targeted interventions
- Building and re-establishing relationships – it is a long time since anyone has been in a class group and some groups have changed.

If you have any questions about what the recovery curriculum entails, please do get in touch with:

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The following is a link to a think piece and podcast if you are interested in finding out more about the recovery curriculum.

<https://www.evidenceforlearning.net/recoverycurriculum/>

