



Learning and the Curriculum – first steps back to school

There will naturally be concern about the education children have missed while on lockdown and away from school. Summer born children may be more affected by the gap in their learning. Changes for children have been imposed not chosen. Teachers have worked hard, rising to the challenge with innovative ways of working. But home schooling will vary from home to home. Children will have missed their friends and the joy of learning together.

Headteachers have a huge responsibility in managing risks through protective measures and to plan a return that's right for *their* school, *their* children and parents.

The teachers' priority will be to help children adapt to new routines, ease anxieties and prepare for transition. The pace of learning and return to key subjects will be gradual.

Teachers can value learning that has gone on during lockdown - school lessons, online activities, BBC Bitesize, playing games, spring walks or PE with Joe Wicks.

Rebuild the school ethos and love of learning

1. Welcome children warmly. Gather them in small 'bubbles' or groups as planned – new named seat places, signs and classroom layout.
2. Demonstrate respect for social distancing without fear
3. Establish new routines and rules: practise them to reassure
4. Structure each activity with time limits, referring to visual timetables
5. Start the day with circle time when children can share worries: invite discussion, speaking and listening to each other with kindness
6. Revisit earlier learning and favourite topics: do more art, craft, music, role play and drama. Work outside.
7. Encourage imagination to flourish with stories and pictures
8. Develop oral language skills through use of rich and varied language: these skills underpin literacy. Extend range and depth of vocabulary.
9. Encourage children to read widely and often
10. Explore number patterns and skills through ICT interactive games

For older children, new research and enquiry skills may have grown in weeks of self-directed study. Show them how to be thoughtful readers, to understand and interpret a range of information from different sources. Keep expectations high.

Times-tables and spellings tend to be easily forgotten. Practice with low-stakes quizzes can come in time. Return to the curriculum by dipping into earlier stages, consolidating what is known before moving onto new topics.