

Excellence - Respect – Enjoyment

The Prime Minister has set out his road map and we do not want to be left out! We all want our children to be back at school, happy, settled and catching up but how do we achieve this after so many months of disrupted learning? Here is our Southwood road map to guide the way.

Step 1: All children back to school!

Aim: To rebuild the class communities so that all children feel safe and confident to be back with their teachers and friends.

Re-building social confidence and connection will be key

Don't worry if ... your child is a bit worried about coming back, lost some confidence or seems to have forgotten everything! Stay confident yourself, tell them that how they feel is normal and that it will be ok.

Step 4: Keep on learning

Instead of talking about 'catching up' we will focus on what the children need to learn now. Teachers will put together interventions to help children where they haven't quite grasped something - yet. There will be regular reviews to check in on progress to make sure everyone is able to continue their learning journey.

Don't worry if ... your child needs extra support. The most important thing is that your child does not feel 'overwhelmed' and becomes adverse to learning. Make sure you praise the effort that they make and remind them that it is OK to find things a challenge.

Step 2: Continue to focus on positive mental health, wellbeing and social skills.

Start to build back resilience, concentration and the skills and attitudes needed to be good learners.

Don't worry if ... your child is tired at the end of the day or week. This has been a long journey and the demands of school will be different to home. Keep the positivity going by asking them to give 3 good things about being back at school with all their class.

Step 5: Ready to move up

By the end of the year we all want our children to feel confident and ready to move up into their next school year. Teachers will work hard to make sure that the learning 'non negotiables' are covered and that their next teachers know and understand the strengths and next steps for your child.

Don't worry if ... your child does not seem 'ready' to move up. Our children have missed so many school opportunities this last year but they are all in the same boat - it is our job to adjust and adapt to this and we will.

Step 3: Know the gaps!

By this stage your child's teacher will have a good idea of where any gaps in learning are and what the next steps are for your child. We will do a virtual meeting with you to talk about how your child is doing and any support needed.

Don't worry if ... your child seems to be going back over previous learning. This will be important. Even if your child is more able, they will need to revise some core concepts so that they are truly ready to move on.

And finally - will our children get over this?

I believe that they will. There will be effects in the short and maybe medium term but how they come out of this in the long run will be down to us as parents and schools as educators. Previous generations had their own traumas and went on to thrive. I believe that our children will be the same.

What about next year? Don't worry we are already working with the Junior schools to make sure our Year 2s have the transition that they deserve and are ready for the next stage in their education.