

5 Ways to have positive conversations with your child about returning to 'face-to-face' school

Currently, the media is utilising phrases such as 'lost learning', 'gaps' and 'catch up' in relation to the impact of the pandemic on children's education.

Here we unpick the issues surrounding this and give some ideas on how you can talk about returning to school with your child.



1

No 'lost' learning!

Any talk of 'lost learning' will only serve to heighten anxieties that your child may already have about their education. Your child may have temporarily 'forgotten' how to do something, and will indeed not have learned how to do something yet; lessons are there to retrieve that knowledge from students' memory, and to build on it with new learning.

2

No 'lost' time!

Reassure your child that we have planned our curriculum to ensure that students have the opportunity to revisit the learning they need to, and to strengthen their knowledge moving forward. Also, it's important we acknowledge the new skills they developed as a result of remote learning: self-regulation, independence, resilience and empathy to name a few!

3

No 'catch-up'!

The phrase 'catch-up' should be avoided as it looks at past learning rather than future learning. Lessons will continue to be about moving forward from what students currently know and building on that. There will be government funded programmes to strengthen learning if needed, but the most important thing is always where learning will go next in the classroom.

4

Be active in the classroom!

Emphasise how positive it is that your child will be able to have face-to-face teaching. They will be able to ask questions and listen and respond to their peers' ideas. Engaging in talking about what they know and do not know will be important for developing their understanding.

5

How was your day?

Secondary school age children don't tend to enjoy answering this question in detail, but it is important we still invite them to share their experiences. Try these instead: what did you learn today that you didn't know yesterday? What do you think you'll be learning about tomorrow?