



ST EGWIN'S C.E.
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Y6, 7 and 8 Family update Wednesday 25th of June

New Curriculum launch: FAQs

Good afternoon, families.

I'd like to announce our new **remote and in-school** learning from this Monday (29th).

Since schools were told to close for lockdown on the 20th March, we have welcomed Key workers' children into school most days and at the same time provided online remote learning through the ShowMyHomework platform and the school website. We have been impressed with the large number of pupils who have coped really well with all the difficulties that remote learning can present. However, we needed to look at our model and ensure that it is doing the best for the children.

There has been a huge amount of learning material posted each week - and on a daily basis for some groups in some subjects - more than enough for the most willing learner. We have allowed children to choose from this menu of activities. I'm pleased to say they have mostly done this very maturely. We know that some children are struggling to engage and some families have reached a point where the children are simply fed up with the lockdown situation.

We hope that a launch of a new curriculum will go some way to improving things, especially for the families and pupils who are struggling. Here are some FAQs about the new CovidCurriculum:

1. *How will it work, given that children are in and out of school?* We will provide a single 'diet' of learning for all year groups in and out of school. They will do the work wherever they are.
2. *What will happen in September?* We have created a model of learning that helps us get through into the Autumn term if social distancing arrangements stop us from returning all pupils at once. The Government and St. Egwin's staff and governors want school to reopen; however, we are planning on the basis that we are possibly still going to be only partially open in September. This curriculum model will cope with that eventuality.
3. *My child struggles to understand the tasks sometimes. Can you help?* We will deliver the work in a way that is incredibly easy for the children to understand. Ideally, they should be able to access it all really easily or with only a little bit of help from you.
4. *How much work will they have to do?* We expect children to do at least 2 to 2 ½ really good, hard work and learning every day. This is our goal for the highest number of children. There will be 2 parts to the learning: **Compulsory** learning (the 'main course' as I call it) for 2 to 2 ½ hours each 'school day'. This had to be done. We will be checking up on children and chasing them up if they don't do it! Then a second set of **optional** resources (from the 'pudding' menu) that children can choose to do either because they have an interest in them or they think they need to do it.
5. *What if the work is too difficult?* It won't be. They'll sometimes have choices. For example, Easy, Medium, Challenging: they will be encouraged to choose the one that suits them. We trust them to do this in school really well. They'll be confident to choose at home, too.
6. *How will they access the work?* On Monday morning, Mr. Plane will send all the children in all years a ShowMyHomework message with the tasks. These will also be posted on the school pupil-intranet (found at the bottom of the front page of the website). There will be a PowerPoint and pdf documents. All the links to videos etc. are included. Videos will be hosted on a YouTube account.

7. *My child uses a phone/tablet to access work and the files are too large sometimes. How can you help?* Using the pdf documents makes access to the work easier for some users. Pdfs can also 'read aloud'. A very handy option.
8. *When do they do the work?* The **compulsory** work will arrive each morning and has to be done that day. The Tuesday work will be sent out on the Tuesday morning, etc. The optional work for the week all arrives on the Monday and can be done as and when the children want any day in that week. We suggest doing the work in the morning. A good morning routine will really help.
9. *What does my Y6 child do when they get home from being in school in their 'bubble'?* They will have done their **compulsory** and, perhaps, some **optional** work. They can have a break if you think it is best or do some more **optional** work for fun.
10. *Do they use the books that have been posted out?* Yes. We'll want to see these in September.
11. *Can the teacher explain the tasks?* The work will be introduced to the children with a video/audio message where we think it will help.
12. *Is it all reading and writing?* The work has plenty of English and Maths in it but other subjects, too. It is themed: The environment is our starter. We have made sure there is a great variety of 'diet' in this menu of work – something for everyone.
13. *Can the children work with friends?* We will be sharing the video call guidance with you next week. We hope children will video call on the Teams platform to share their work and collaborate with peers.
14. *Will new work be set?* We believe that consolidating skills rather than learning new content is more appropriate. Children should be working on things like planning written work, being creative, asking questions, solving problems. We can do this without trying to teach new things that are bound to cause many pupils to struggle. Any missed content can be caught-up in September.
15. *What if I don't have electronic equipment to receive/submit the work?* Contact the school on 01386 446924 or admin@st-egwins.worcs.sch.uk so we can help to resolve this issue.
16. *What if I Can't get on to show my homework?* Access the work on the Pupil Intranet via the school website (scroll down to bottom) www.st-egwins.worcs.sch.uk or Contact the school via phone/email to passwords@st-egwins.worcs.sch.uk to get your login details.
17. *What if I forget my book in September or lose it?* If lost – you may replace with a book of your own and continue to work: please contact school to inform us. It's really important that you keep the book safe: without it, you won't have access to various completion and good work rewards.
18. *Do we have to upload the work?* If you have the facility to do so, yes. There is the option on Show My Homework to do this – pupils were sent a questionnaire and submission task recently to show them how to do this. Or the member of staff setting the work (especially 'Optional' tasks) might instruct email attachment submission.
19. *What feedback will I get?* Some tasks you will be able to self-assess (check/mark yourself) right away. Other work you will submit and receive feedback from a teacher. Also, feedback could be given when the next task for that subject is set – therefore you need to keep your book/work safe so that you will be able to check through and improve it.

The curriculum that we have prepared for your children is fantastic! I am so proud of the work that Mr. Plane, Mr. Wood and the team have prepared. It will make a difference.

Reminder: this week (from 22/6) AAA BB,

then (from 29/6) AA BBB, then (from 6/7) AAA BB, then (from 13/7) AA BB x (TED on the 17th July).

This takes us to the summer holidays – hard to believe that we are nearly there.

Nick Pullan