



ST EGWIN'S C.E.
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Family update Group A Tuesday 16th of June

Good afternoon, families.

Thank you for the support you have given us for our decision to keep Y6 in for the rest of the year, but not to bring KS3 back. You know we understand the needs of our families. You know it wasn't an easy decision.

We've had real fun in school this morning with the first part of a spelling test. The 44-word spelling is a handful but the children in each 'bubble' did amazingly well. So few errors! I have averaged out the time and will compare when the other half of the year group try it later in the week.

Reminder: this week is AA BBB then, next week (from 22/6) AAA BB,

then (from 29/6) AA BBB, then (from 6/7) AAA BB, then (from 13/7) AA BBB.

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

There is a lot of talk in the media about the concerns around the 'gap' widening. I thought I'd clarify what people mean by this gap and reflect on our concerns. When people talk about about the gap in learning, they mean between the 'haves and the have-nots'. Nationally, and quite disgracefully, on average children from families in receipt of free school meals do much less well at school. At the Middle School age, this difference (on average) is about 13 months – with children from less well-off families falling behind. At GCSE, the gap is awful. Most observers would be amazed at the difference.

We demonstrate that the gaps between our 'have and have-nots' are much smaller and, in some sets of data, not even significant. The hard work of the children, the families' commitment to education and the excellent team at our school – all contribute to us bucking this national trend. We have seen that a recent report shows 20% or more of young people are doing no work. This gap will only increase if action is not taken to close it. We are reviewing the Covidcurriculum (as we are now calling it) and believe what we will have in place will support all learners.

Another reminder: we have had 70% of the Y6s in so far. If parents/carers are interested in sending their children in the future, they will have to email the school on admin@st-egwins.worcs.sch.uk to request a place. The same goes for Key Worker families and those families who are beginning to really worry about their child's progress and attitude. We

have a plan that will allow us to expand provision but we will need notice from families so we can respond safely. We will expect proof (employer's letter) of Key Worker status and will have to be strict in applying the criteria.

Nick Pullan