



ST EGWIN'S C.E.  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Family update Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July

Good afternoon, families.

With only two weeks to go until the end of the school year, I thought it was a good time to update you on recent government guidance and the school's plans.

This week, schools were advised to close (to children) over the summer break as they would normally do. We will be following this advice. Staff and some children need the break. The senior team and many staff have worked tirelessly since the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. The intensity of rapid change and uncertainty has taken its toll on general society. All people, in all walks of life have felt the Covid-effect – it's been hard. As staff in school, we've been one of the lucky ones – we've kept our jobs and have been busy working to help distract us from the current situation. However, working as front-line staff has its challenges. We have not had to ask for volunteers – all staff fit to work have been in – but we know we have exposed ourselves to greater risk of infection and that is not easy on any of us. Those working from home have put in so much work too, to make sure we have continued to provide learning for all. The break is needed.

A reason for needing the break is that yesterday we received the guidance from the government for this September and a full opening of schools. This summer will be vital in preparing for that.

I'm pleased to say that the guidance we have been given is mostly very practicable – we fully expect the school to be able to provide a really positive, high-quality education that is safe for all. The chance of infection will not suddenly disappear totally at the end of August, but I am confident we can reduce the risks really effectively. We look forward to getting all staff and pupils back and returning the normal life we so need. We have always had really strong attendance here and that is because families value our education – we don't use the threat of fines to do this. We will continue to offer our broad and balanced curriculum – we know that it is this that is the engine room of our success. Your children will have forgotten things and missed key learning but we will focus on the important things: reading, spelling, writing skills, maths, creativity, imagination, problem-solving, team-work, physical development, maturing emotionally, socialisation, being decent human beings. This list could go on and they are all as important as each other, depending on your stance. We will step up to the challenges that we will be facing.

I will announce our plans and processes in the next few days as we develop them. I will keep you all in-the-loop and allow you to ask questions and suggest solutions to some of the problems we will face.

Enjoy the weekend!

Nick Pullan