

Friday 18th September 2020

Dear parents,

Friday has come round again, so I am writing to you with the latest updates and news. I hope you have all had a good week.

### **ASPIRE this week**

We have now completed two of the four weeks of the recovery curriculum, and the children seem settled and happy. I have been hearing about all sorts of writing happening linked to our whole school text ' Journey' and the enjoyment of children learning maths actively through my window!

Mrs Cavanagh has begun work with some of the children again this week leading multi skills activities both at lunchtime and after school depending on which school your child attends.

The staff had training on Monday after school via zoom regarding keeping the children safe online. All classes will be spoken to by their teachers about keeping safe and information added to each of the school websites. This training was led by Mrs Steer.

### **Becoming a Google Federation**

This is moving quickly, all pupils and staff have set up their own G suite accounts and I have a handover next week. Next there will be staff training, and the purchasing of chrome books! The senior staff and I had to write a report this week, and the google docs allowed us to all edit it at the same time with all changes being saved - very clever!

As you can tell - I am excited about the move to Google and the prospects for its use.

### **If anyone in your household is unwell**

If anyone in your household is showing symptoms of coronavirus then they must self isolate for 10 days and have a test (if possible). The other people in their household must isolate for 14 days.

The latest guidance states that if a child has any symptom of coronavirus, they must stay at home and be tested. If a negative test result is received then the child can return to school.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If your child has a cold but with no temperature and no cough they can attend school as normal. Please follow the usual 48 hour rule when children have stomach bugs or sickness

Thank you for your support.

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Sanchez has been absent this week with an infection, we hope to see her next week once she has recovered.

I am aware that there has been a rumour circulating about a member of staff having tested positive for Covid. This is not true. If this was ever to be the case I would inform parents immediately.

Miss Killick is recovering well at home, but we are unlikely to see her for some weeks. Mrs Burbidge will be returning next week to Platts Heath and will cover the rest of Miss Killick's absence.

### **Attendance Codes**

If your child has to be absent because they are displaying one of more of the coronavirus symptoms, there is a special code we can use in school, so that this absence doesn't affect attendance figures.

We are very aware that it is very hard to get a test at present and so children may well be off for ten days at a time. We will in this instance apply the code so that both the school and the pupil's attendance records remain positive.

### **Changing Government Advice**

There is much speculation at the moment in the media about the possibility of a second lockdown. At present this is all just speculation, if anything is confirmed I will write to you about how this affects us at school. For the moment we will continue as we have been, keeping our bubbles closed and sticking to our routines.

If you have any questions or queries I can be contacted via email at [ehickling@aspirekent.org.uk](mailto:ehickling@aspirekent.org.uk)

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Kind regards,

**Emma Hickling**  
**Executive Headteacher**  
**ASPIRE Federation**