



Ulcombe C of E, Leeds and  
Broomfield C of E, Kingswood and  
Platts Heath Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher:

Emma Hickling

Friday 11th September 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing to you at the end of our first full week of term, hoping you have all had a good week. This week I am writing to you with an update of the process when children have symptoms, some staffing news and a general catch up.

### ASPIRE this week

All four schools have had busy weeks, with the children engaged in the recovery curriculum, in their classrooms now that they have adapted to and embraced our new normal. The children have been having maths and English lessons but just in shorter bursts to build up their stamina after lockdown. We are also enjoying teaching concepts through more active methods. We are making the most of the last of the summery weather and teaching maths outside where we can.

### Becoming a Google federation

Over the summer I started to explore ways of increasing the technology we have in schools and have made the decision along with the heads of school to become Google schools. I am currently working with Google, having secured some funding from the DFE to set up our G suite for education. Eventually this will allow us access to the full range of google programs including google classroom, chrome, meet, docs, slides, sheets and of course Gmail. We will be in time updating the hardware in school with chromebooks and using software to convert existing laptops. The benefits to becoming google schools are huge to both staff and pupils, we will save money on software allowing us to invest more in replacing hardware, servers will be a thing of the past as all is cloud based etc..... I will keep you posted over the coming months, I am on a real learning curve too !

### If your child is unwell

At the moment, my biggest aim is to keep pupils and staff safe within the ASPIRE schools, and so we are following all government advice to the letter, and I am spending lots of time reading all the updates!

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 a positive test result is received it is most likely that the whole bubble - staff and children would then have to isolate at home for 14 days.

We are very aware that children get coughs and temperatures with colds, and that they get colds in the winter. However at present we cannot be too careful and so ask that if your child has a cough or a temperature you keep them at home and book an appointment at a test centre. The results should come through within 24-48 hours and assuming it is negative they can return to school straight away.

I have been informed of some schools in other areas of Kent with positive cases so I am sure you will join me in helping to keep our bubbles secure.

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

Miss Killick, Ash class teacher at Platts Heath has had her ankle operated on now and is recovering at home. Mrs Burbridge will be covering her absence until Christmas. Mrs Burbridge isn't available next week, however, and so Mrs Harrison will be covering her just for next week, along with Mrs Goodfellow who works for ASPIRE and the children know. Apologies that this is another change but Mrs Burbridge is working well with the class and so I was keen to retain her for Miss Killick's absence.

Staff like the children are all part of bubbles so all meetings are taking place via zoom - we are finding these more efficient at present, but it is very strange not being able to move around the schools as we would normally do.

Mrs Cavanagh who has worked with us as a PE specialist is joining us again next week to offer some after school/ lunchtime activities to the children.

#### No visitors to schools

Thank you for observing our one way systems and drop off and pick up points this week. In line with current guidance we are not welcoming any visitors into our buildings unless they are essential. People that can visit are contractors for essential works, specialist teachers who work with our SEN children, part time staff and cleaners.

This does mean that the children may not be able to engage with clubs that we have offered before, or worship is not led by the ministry team. However we are making safety of all paramount and ask that you respect these decisions - thank you.

#### Changing government advice

You will be aware that from Monday people cannot meet up indoors or outdoors in a group of more than 6 people. This is after a rise in cases of Covid 19 over recent weeks. This does not apply to schools but we are following all appropriate advice issued by the DFE. As through lock down I will write regularly to parents to keep you abreast of the ever changing situation and how that is affecting us in school.

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**