



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

Executive Headteacher:

Emma Hickling

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing to you with my weekly update, something I started over lockdown and hope to continue throughout the year. This week I will be updating you on how we are observing government guidance within school, staff news and a media feature as well as some useful information.

Safety measures in school

You will have now experienced the new normal in the ASPIRE schools, and we thank you for your support and cooperation. All four schools have a one way system and are encouraging hand sanitising on your way into and out of the site. Thank you for respecting the need to keep the bubbles of children and adults intact and not entering the buildings. If you do need to contact us we are available between 8.30-4pm on the phone and emails will be replied to at our earliest opportunity. Please see below for each school's contact details.

School	Telephone	Email
Kingswood	01622 842674	office@kingswood.kent.sch.uk
Leeds and Broomfield	01622 861398	office@leeds-broomfield.kent.sch.uk
Platts Heath	01622 850316	office@platts-heath.kent.sch.uk
Ulcombe	01622 842903	office@ulcombe.kent.sch.uk

Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to provide us with some feedback on the new routines and procedures, most comments have been positive with a couple of helpful suggestions. We do appreciate you taking the time to contact us.

PPE and Covid testing kits

We have been issued by the government a few Covid 19 tests and some PPE. The PPE is to be used if a child or adult becomes ill during the school day and is displaying one or more of the coronavirus symptoms. The poorly person will be immediately taken into a separate area and accompanied by a member of staff in PPE. In the case of a child their parents will be contacted and asked to collect the child immediately. When you arrive at school to collect your child you will be given advice about covid testing as the child will be unable to return to school until a negative result has been received or after a 14 day quarantine.

Government advice - The text below is taken directly from a letter received by schools yesterday.

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:
 - a high temperature
 - a new, continuous cough
 - the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or
- they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

If there is a confirmed case within a bubble it is likely that the whole bubble will have to stay at home for 10-14 days to prevent the spread throughout the school. In the case of a positive result, the school would take advice from public health and communicate with parents as soon as possible.

Pupils with cold symptoms

Due to heightened anxiety at present, and the need to be very vigilant, we are asking any pupil with cold symptoms such as a runny nose, sneezing or a sore throat to stay at home for 24- 48 hours, until they are feeling better. If they develop any of the symptoms listed above then they must be tested and the result be negative before returning to school - thank you. Pupils with sickness or an upset stomach are required to stay at home for 48 hours following the last period of sickness as per usual school policy. Thank you.

Curriculum

As you will remember from my previous letters we have planned a recovery curriculum for the first four weeks of this term. Yesterday and today have been used to settle both children and staff back into school routines with lots of opportunities for discussion. From Monday the children will be taking part in English and Maths lessons, short sessions at first building up to the usual hour, these sessions will be used to assess any gaps that children may have so that when the timetable returns to normal we can pitch learning at the right level. The staff were very busy during INSET days attending workshops on various aspects of the curriculum and are very much looking forward to being in their classrooms with the children.

Year 6 - 11 plus

All year 6 parents should have received a letter this week explaining that the 11plus has been delayed this year, due to lockdown. Here is the official statement from Kent

The test will now take place on 15 October for pupils who attend a Kent school and 17 October for all other students. Kent parents will also be offered two additional preferences on their child's Secondary school application this year, an increase from four to six, to account for the later release of Kent Test results.

Staff News

ASPIRE has welcomed several new members of staff, who your children will be getting to know within their bubbles. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them and we are also pleased to have Mrs Butterfield back at Leeds and Broomfield following the birth of her daughter.

Miss Killick, teacher at Platts Heath has unfortunately broken her ankle and it requires surgery so she will need to remain at home for a while - we wish her a speedy recovery.

I am pleased to share with you some opportunities within the ASPIRE federation. We are looking to appoint two sports coaches who will be funded by the sports premium grant and will be teaching sports both during school time and after school as well as supporting children through active interventions. If you know anyone who may be interested please look out for the adverts on www.kent-teach.com.

The New Normal

My main priority at present is the safety of all staff and pupils within the ASPIRE schools, we are therefore keeping our bubbles as intact as possible. This does mean I won't be visiting all schools for the next few weeks and will be based at Platts Heath. I will be keeping in touch with the heads of school via Zoom and email. Assuming there is not a spike in cases within Maidstone or any infection within schools senior staff will begin to visit schools within ASPIRE from October to carry out monitoring and other vital work. These staff will stay appropriately socially distanced at all times. I can be contacted at any time via email - ehickling@aspirekent.org.uk.

Media article

At the beginning of the week I was asked to comment on the return to school and how ASPIRE have adapted routines and practices to ensure safety. My comments on behalf of our schools have been included in an article in the Kent Messenger yesterday. The link to the online article is below, should you be interested in reading it.

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/maidstone/news/schools-say-they-are-fully-prepared-for-the-new-term-233180/>

I hope you have found this letter useful, I shall be continuing them throughout this term, sharing the latest information and advice and news from our schools.

Wishing you a good weekend,

Kind regards

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE Federation