



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

Executive Headteacher:

Emma Hickling

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing to you at the end of another busy week, with some updates, advice and information. This week sees the end of our recovery curriculum and the next step in the return to 'normal' school for the staff and children

ASPIRE News

ASPIRE is Covid safe - we have had a phone call from the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) at one of the schools and we had to answer a series of questions about risk assessments, routines and procedures. We are one of a sample of schools to receive a phone call. The purpose of the phone call was to ensure we have understood the DFE guidance and are applying it in our schools. The conclusion was that we had and as far as possible we are doing all we can to remain Covid safe.

Brian May records a message - Brian May of Queen has this week recorded and sent a message to Zak a pupil at Kingswood. Zak has been very poorly and has spent a lot of time in hospital recently. He is a huge fan of Brian May, and was this week thrilled to receive a personal message from the guitarist!

Year 6 Pupils

Thank you to all parents who attended the secondary transfer Zoom meeting last night. I hope you found it useful.

Main information

To apply for a secondary school place for your child please visit:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-2>

You can apply between now and the 2nd November, although we would encourage you to apply before half term if possible, so that the ASPIRE office staff can ensure all applications are complete.

Each pupil has 6 choices this year as you will not know the outcome of the 11 plus test before choosing schools

The 11 plus test will be taken in schools on Thursday 15th October.

I have sent out the slides from last night's meeting. If you have any queries please contact me at ehickling@aspirekent.org.uk

Google Project

The ASPIRE schools are now set up to use Google G suite. The next step is for the staff to receive training and for us to purchase chrome books for both the staff and children to use in school.

We were lucky enough to receive a grant from the DFE for £4,000 which has enabled us to set up G suite. There are no ongoing costs to Google G suite once we have purchased the chrome books.

The lap tops we have in school can be converted to chrome books using a piece of software and we will be working to do this over the next few weeks.

Curriculum

Our four week recovery curriculum has come to an end today, and Monday brings the return to the teaching of the standard curriculum in each of the ASPIRE classrooms. The children have enjoyed their book study and the active approach to maths over the last few weeks.

Our subject leaders have been busy writing their action plans and will be returning to working across the federation in a couple of weeks. They will of course wear PPE where necessary and always social distance. It is important however that we continue to monitor and improve the curriculum across the four schools.

Coronavirus Update

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have heeded my advice from last week and have worn a face covering when dropping and collecting their children.

I continue to receive daily emails from the DFE with guidance, and so I regularly update practices for staff, pupils and parents. I will always include any change to procedure in these weekly letters.

Thank you to our PTAs

The PTAs across ASPIRE remain very active and despite the current restrictions continue to raise money and support our schools - thank you. I am always very grateful to the efforts of parents in putting on fun activities for the children that also enable us to purchase resources

Opportunities within ASPIRE

There are a number of opportunities that you or someone you may know may be interested in within the ASPIRE federation

Active leaders

We are looking for two people to fill active leader positions within the federation. The active leader will be responsible for sports activities before school at lunch time and after school, as

well working with small groups leading interventions which link activity with maths and English. These positions are advertised on www.kent-teach.com . They would suit someone with a qualification and experience in sports science or sports coaching. More information can be obtained from Mrs Steer, head of school at Leeds and Broomfield - FSteer@aspirekent.org.uk

One to one tutor/ small group teacher - catch up funding

We will be shortly receiving some catch up funding from the DFE. This money is to be used to help pupils plug gaps in their learning that occurred during lockdown. ASPIRE have decided to combine all monies and appoint a teacher for four days a week, to work a day a week in each of the ASPIRE schools with individual pupils and small groups. This position will also be advertised on www.kent-teach.com. If you would like more details please contact me on ehickling@aspirekent.org.uk.

Governors

Our governing body is currently looking for new members. ASPIRE has one governing body which supports and challenges the senior leaders in school to lead the federation. Being a governor is a voluntary position and involves both meetings in the evenings and visits to school (all of which are virtual at present). Please contact Sam Branchett at Platts Heath if you are interested for more information and an application form - office@platts-heath.kent.sch.uk.

If you have any questions or queries I can be contacted via email at ehickling@aspirekent.org.uk

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE Federation