



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

Executive Headteacher:

Emma Hickling

Friday 9th October 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing with my usual Friday update, at the end of another busy week. My working week seems to be mainly punctuated with zoom meetings and playground duties, but we all do seem to have adjusted to this new normal. Whether our normal will be changing the future is yet to be seen, with media discussions about more restrictions and a possible second lockdown. I shall use this letter to keep you updated with any changes within the ASPIRE federation.

Google Schools

Teachers now have their logins and will begin training after school on Tuesday learning how to use G suite and Google Classroom. We are hoping this will be an excellent tool both for future remote teaching and for things like setting of homework. I have also placed a large order of chrome books - 140 for pupils to use across the schools as well as one for every teacher and member of the senior staff team. All pupils have been allocated accounts and as soon as the chrome books arrive we will be up and running! Google also makes smart boards called jam boards and we have purchased one which will be used at Ulcombe. If this is a success we hope to replace some of the other boards in classrooms.

World Mental Health Day

Thank you to all children and staff that have worn something yellow today to show our awareness of mental health. At Platts Heath I have seen hair bands, t-shirts, hoodies, high vis waistcoats and even yellow nail varnish ! We have shared information with the children today as to why they have been asked to wear something yellow. Thank you for your support.

Hardship Grant

As per the letter from Mrs Coleman one of our ASPIRE SENCOs, we have been making some applications to the Kent community fund for hardship grants for families who are struggling due to the impact of Covid. Unfortunately we have been informed today that the fund is now spent and any recent applications will not be successful. Mrs Coleman will be in touch with any families that are awarded any of the funds. Thank you to Mrs Coleman for her hard work on this.

Harvest Festival

Just a reminder to send your child in with any donations on or before Friday 16th October. The husband of one of the ASPIRE team was able to source the duvets and pillows needed, so we no longer require those. We are still welcoming, all donations of fruit and vegetables, dried, tinned, jars or packets of food. These will be distributed to families within the ASPIRE community who need the support the most. Thank you to those families who have already donated - we are very grateful.

Parent evenings

This term we will be holding parents evening via phone call, as we are not permitted to have visitors in the building. These will be held in the last week of term - the week beginning Monday 19th October 2020. Each class will be invited to make an appointment on a different evening during that week and phone calls will be made from the school phone. There will be a time limit of 10 minutes to each phone call just as there is when we are able to offer face to face appointments. The aim of this parents evening is to talk about how your child has settled back into school and some feedback regarding their learning including anything that can be done to support your child at home. Please contact your child's school office via phone or email if you have not received any information or been able to sign up for an appointment.

11 plus - PESE tests

The 11 plus tests will be taking place in each of the ASPIRE schools on Thursday 15th October. These will generally be supervised by the head of school or the class teacher. We wish all those who are sitting the test the very best of luck and remind them that as long as they try their hardest we are already proud of them. The day may look different for the rest of the children on Thursday too as we will have to remain quiet whilst the tests are taking place and play times etc may have to be timed slightly differently. This will all be explained to the children next week, and all play times etc will still take place just with slightly different timings. This year there will be no visiting invigilators due to Covid bubbles and so the children will have a familiar face with them in the test.

As ever I can be contacted by email at ehickling@aspirekent.org.uk with queries and questions. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE Federation