



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

Executive Headteacher
Emma Hickling

Friday 20th November 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing to you at the end of another long week, the third of the term. We will soon be in December, although I think in many ways Christmas will look and feel very different this year. We will of course be celebrating at school as much as we can.

Christmas

Sadly this year we will not be able to have nativities, carol concerts or Christmas fairs, however we will be celebrating. We have arranged for all the children to watch a panto. This will be streamed into classrooms via an internet link on the 16th or 17th December. The cast contains the usual array of soap stars and promises some audience participation so we are hoping the children will enjoy this Christmas treat. We will also be eating Christmas dinner in our bubbles and wearing Christmas jumpers for a day. More information will follow regarding these events.

Google schools

This week the staff have received training on how to use Google Docs and Slides, including voice typing and being able to insert YouTube videos. I have already found that Google Docs and its sharing facility makes producing a report with other members of staff so much easier! Next week senior staff will be trained on the admin panel of G Suite, this is our data management tool. It has been confirmed this week that our Chrome books will be arriving in January, so we are looking forward to having the hardware to match the technology!

Deep Dives and Monitoring

As you will remember from last week's letter staff are at the moment restricted from moving between ASPIRE schools with the exception of the SENCOs and cover staff who work from more than one base. Senior staff are still carrying out our monitoring of teaching and learning, we have just had to adapt and find a way to make this work virtually, via Zoom, email scans and photos. So far this term a maths review, phonics review and review of the provision for SEND pupils have been carried out. We have also met together as a teaching staff to agree writing levels for the pupils via Zoom and emailed booklets of work. I am proud of the staff and their willingness to continue trying to move the schools forward even in the face of adversity.

Masks and one way systems

Please can I remind all parents to respect the one way systems and follow the procedures in place at their children's school. These systems are in place to ensure that social distancing can be achieved and ultimately to try and keep parents, pupils and staff safe.

Parents are requested to wear face coverings on school sites and maybe asked to wait at the gate if they do not comply. Again the reason for this is the safety of all whilst in the school.

Thank you for your support.

Cold weather

The weather is beginning to turn colder now. A reminder that classrooms have to be ventilated and PE is outside where possible. Playtimes are also outside and children need a warm and waterproof coat every day, as well as layers of clothing to keep warm in the classroom. Hats and gloves can be worn but please make sure these are labelled. For PE pupils are welcome to wear blue or black tracksuit bottoms, together with a white t-shirt and their school jumper.

Wishing you all restful family weekends.

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

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE Federation