



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

**Executive Headteacher**  
**Emma Hickling**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents

I am writing to you on the last day of what has to be the strangest Christmas term ever. However, the children have at least enjoyed wearing Christmas jumpers, a Christmas dinner and a virtual panto. They seem to be full of excitement and talk of presents and Santa, and so many of them are looking forward to seeing family they haven't seen for months. Please read on for the latest news and my heartfelt thanks, to you, the children and my amazing ASPIRE team.

#### Dates

School finishes for the term today, tomorrow is an INSET day and so no pupils are required to be in school. Staff also will not be in school as we have completed our Google training over the last eight weeks and so have the day in lieu. The first day of Term 3 is Monday 4th January 2021.

#### Staff News

Mrs LeMar is reducing her days to part time as she is also taking up a SENCO position in Medway. From January Mrs Coleman will be the SENCO at Leeds and Broomfield and Ulcombe and Mrs LeMar at Kingswood and Platts Heath. Thank you both for your hard work and best of luck to Mrs LeMar as she embarks on the next step in her career.

Miss Killick, Year R/1 teacher at Platts Heath is recovering well following the operation on her ankle back in September and we hope to see her mid to late January. Mrs Burbidge will be continuing to teach Ash class

#### Make someone smile at Christmas

On Tuesday evening Mrs Masters, Mrs Steer, Mrs Sanchez and I met to sort the donations of presents we had received. Once again I was blown away by your generosity, so thank you. We are able to provide all families who have been hard hit by the pandemic with gifts for all members of the family. Thanks also to Mrs Brunton of Kingswood and Kingswood Church for their generous donation of four hampers, these also went to families we knew they would really help.

#### Miss Hickling on call .....

Just a reminder that I will therefore be on call until the evening of the 23rd December and will be picking up emails at my new email address [exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk).

My work mobile hasn't arrived yet, I am hoping to have it by tomorrow. So please do email if you need to contact me and I will call you. If I am able I will email/text with the number as soon as I have it.

Please do get in touch if your child tests positive as this will mean that the rest of their bubble needs to isolate. As we are breaking up today you only need to inform me until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December as the other children and staff will be affected. The staff have been asked to do the same thing, so that families can be kept informed. Please do keep an eye on your emails/texts until the 23<sup>rd</sup> as this is how messages will be delivered. Thank you

### Rapid Covid Testing for schools

Yesterday we received an email from the DFE to inform us that from January schools will be asked to test all pupils and staff weekly for Covid. As children can have Covid and have no symptoms it is important that this happens so the right people isolate and hopefully we can stop the virus spreading any further. At the moment we only have basic details, the weekly testing will be started in secondary schools and then we come to primary schools a few weeks later. Each school is to use the rapid test kits to test all pupils and staff weekly. I will be working on a plan for the ASPIRE schools over the Christmas break, once I have completed the training tomorrow. Each school needs to establish a room or area for testing and staff need to be used to administer tests and process paperwork. With my letter of the first week back in January I will send out the ASPIRE plan.

### Remote Education

In the same email from the DFE, we have been provided with a template to provide parents information, via the website information about our approach to remote education. You have already been sent our policy and guidance but I will be completing the template over Christmas and this will be posted on the four ASPIRE websites in January. I will also attach it to my first Friday letter of next term, along with the rapid testing information.

### Reminder - Change of Emails

As you will see from my email address above our emails are changing as a result of our transfer to Google. From January the school offices can be contacted on the below emails

Kingswood [office@kingswoodkentsch.co.uk](mailto:office@kingswoodkentsch.co.uk)  
Leeds and Broomfield [office@leedsandbroomfieldkentsch.co.uk](mailto:office@leedsandbroomfieldkentsch.co.uk)  
Platts Heath [office@plattsheathkentsch.co.uk](mailto:office@plattsheathkentsch.co.uk)  
Ulcombe [office@ulcombekentsch.co.uk](mailto:office@ulcombekentsch.co.uk)

### My reflections and words of thanks

These last two terms have been tough for everyone, and I am in awe of how we have all pulled together to keep the ASPIRE schools going. The whole staff team at all four schools have worked so hard to make learning enjoyable for the children, to keep the school clean, to lead the schools, to serve the lunches and to make sure front offices run smoothly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all. Words never seem enough, but they are important and it is the messages from parents and members of the community showing their support that have kept us going.

The ASPIRE governors led by Mrs Allum have been hugely supportive and have made sure policies and practices have kept staff and pupils as safe as possible. On behalf of the staff I would like to say thank you.

Thank you to the children, for coming into school to learn and play, for taking everything in their stride and making us smile. You are what I and the staff team come to work for.

Thank you to the parents for the all the ways you have shown your support, by following the plans, by donating at harvest and Christmas and for the words of encouragement. Thank you

Thank you for your ongoing support. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

If you have any questions or queries I can be contacted via email at: [exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk)

Kind regards,

**Emma Hickling**  
**Executive Headteacher**  
**ASPIRE Federation**