



Ulcombe C of E, Leeds and
Broomfield C of E, Kingswood and
Platts Heath Primary Schools
Executive Headteacher
Emma Hickling

Friday 27th November 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing to you in the wake of the government's latest announcements. At the end of the national lockdown on Wednesday, Kent and Medway will be transferring to Tier 3, which has very similar restrictions to the current lockdown, so little will change within school. I shall detail any changes below.

Ulcombe

Unfortunately, this week we have had one positive Covid case in a pupil at Ulcombe. As a result, a bubble containing two classes (Owlets and Barn Owls) containing years R-4 has closed. The staff and pupils are self-isolating at home. Tawny Owls class (years 4/5/6) remains open. Google Classroom is being used to provide remote learning for the children having to self-isolate.

Tier 3

Tier 3 remains very similar to lockdown with no socially meeting indoors or outdoors with anyone you do not live with. All bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants will remain closed but can operate as takeaways, click and collect, drive-through or delivery. All indoor entertainment venues will remain closed, as well as accommodation such as hotels and B&Bs. You should avoid travelling to any other part of the UK unless necessary.

In school we need, therefore, to continue to be vigilant and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the following:

- Please drop and pick your child up at the designated times so we can achieve social distancing.
- Please wear a face covering in school.
- Please follow the one way systems in school.
- Please do not enter the building at any time.

Supermarket Vouchers

KCC have provided us with information this week of a supermarket voucher scheme for the Christmas holidays for those parents with children who benefit from free school meals. As before, these vouchers are for parents who qualify for free school meals as they are receiving the correct benefits or are on a low income. The vouchers are not available to all children in years R/1/2 who receive universal free school meals.

Those parents who qualify for the vouchers will receive an email from their child's school. We will be asking you to provide some information so that we can apply for your vouchers. Vouchers are available for Tesco and Asda. You must let your child's school know which one you would like to receive by 10.00 am, Monday 30th November 2020. Thank you

You should receive your voucher next week after we have submitted the information to KCC and it will come from the email address

free.school.meals.kent.county.council@notifications.service.gov.uk

Below is some information from KCC about the scheme.

Kent County Council Winter Free School Meals 2020

FAQs for Parents/Carers of pupils who receive Free School Meals

1 Why is my child's school asking for my information?

You are being asked for information to make sure you can get the help that Kent County Council (KCC) has put in place for families who have children in Kent schools who already receive Free School Meals based on their family income.

2 What help is available for my child?

To help over the school holiday at Christmas, KCC is supplying a supermarket voucher to the value of £15 per week, for a maximum of two weeks, for every eligible child that receives free school meals in Kent schools based on their family income. The voucher is for food and other essential items only.

3 Can I choose which supermarket voucher to get?

The vouchers available are from Tesco or Asda only. Asda vouchers can be used online or instore. Tesco vouchers can only be used instore including at Tesco Metro and Tesco Express. Please make sure you tell us which one you would prefer.

4. How will I receive the voucher?

A voucher code will be sent to you by email from

free.school.meals.kent.county.council@notifications.service.gov.uk

Please note this address cannot accept incoming emails. Some accounts may send the email to your junk folder, so do check this folder for your voucher. If purchasing in store, you should take the code with you to pay for your groceries. Tesco vouchers also have a challenge code, so you should make sure you have this with you too. If purchasing online, you will need to enter the Asda code by clicking on the "Add Gift Card" button in the Order Summary section of the checkout.

5. Can I use the vouchers online?

Asda vouchers can be used online or instore. Tesco vouchers can only be used instore including at Tesco Metro and Tesco Express. The vouchers are for food and other essential items.

6. Can I exchange the vouchers for cash

No. The vouchers cannot be exchanged for cash.

7. When will I receive my vouchers?

Vouchers will be sent out in the week beginning Monday 30 November from

free.school.meals.kent.county.council@notifications.service.gov.uk . Please note this address

cannot accept incoming emails. Some email accounts may send the email to your junk folder, so do check this folder for your voucher. Not all vouchers will be sent on the first day. If your children are at more than one school, it is likely you will receive your vouchers on different days. It will take a number of days for everybody to receive all of their vouchers. If you have not received your vouchers by Wednesday 9 December, please do contact your school in the first instance.

Make someone smile at Christmas!

Following the success of our harvest appeal, the heads of school and I are keen to keep supporting the families within ASPIRE to have a happy family Christmas. Thanks to your generosity many families were very grateful for the hampers that we were able to put together and deliver last month. As KCC are offering a voucher scheme for Christmas we would like to offer gifts to those families who are really struggling this year within ASPIRE.

Therefore, what we are asking parents if they are able to, is to buy an extra present whilst doing their Christmas shopping that we can then gift to a family who will struggle to buy presents this year. The gift can be anything you are willing to donate but preferably should be new or an unwanted unused gift. Some suggestions would be a selection box, a book, some colouring pens and a colouring book, bubbles, a small toy etc.

If you are able to provide a present for one of our families please wrap it and label it with boy or girl and one of the following age groups:

- Baby 0-2 years
- 3- 5 years
- 6- 8 years
- 9-11 years
- 12-14 years
- Older teen

We are also accepting gifts for adults as we would like to offer some of our parents and staff who have been hit hard financially by the pandemic a small gift so they have something to open. Suggestions for new or unwanted gifts would be toiletry sets, boxes of biscuits or chocolates, candles etc. Any Gifts for adults should be labelled as adult female or adult male.

In order for us to distribute the gifts we will need to receive them at school by Friday 11th December. Please give the gift to your child to bring into school and leave in the school office.

Thank you in advance to anyone who feels they are able to support the families within ASPIRE. Thank you also to those parents who have made suggestions as to other ways we can provide support, we are grateful, and continue to work hard to support everyone within ASPIRE.

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