



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

Executive Headteacher
Emma Hickling

Friday 4th December 2020

Dear parents

I am writing to you having not arrived at school long ago (10am!), despite only living in Ashford and leaving the house in plenty of time! Our country really doesn't cope well in the snow..... however, as Mrs Sanchez said in her email this week, we are the first country to have a viable Covid vaccine, so that brings some sunshine.

Ulcombe

We have welcomed the pupils back to Ulcombe today, having completed their self-isolation. Google classroom was used successfully with children accessing remote learning set by their teachers.

Supermarket vouchers

Thank you to all those families who have children who are entitled to free school meals for submitting the required information to school offices. All four ASPIRE schools have submitted their information, so I hope those vouchers will be with you soon.

Christmas Presents and continuing support for families in ASPIRE

Thank you to all the parents that have already donated a present to our 'Make someone smile at Christmas' appeal. Just as a reminder we are encouraging families where possible to buy an extra present or donate an unwanted gift. We would ask for the present to be wrapped and labelled with the age and gender of the child it would be suitable for. We are also accepting presents for adults. These presents will all go directly to families within ASPIRE who have been hit hard by the pandemic.

In order to ensure we are supporting our families in the longer term, I have applied to Fair Share who are a charity who work with supermarkets to donate unused food. My hope is that we can establish a regular hamper type service for those families who need this support. I will keep you all informed as to where I get to with this.

Tests and OFSTED - 2021

The government made various announcements yesterday about exams and inspections for 2021. I have summarised the news below:

- No graded OFSTED inspections until the summer term (OFSTED are still completing monitoring visits either virtually or in person)
- Year 2 pupils - Key stage 1 tests for SATS are cancelled - pupils are to be teacher assessed, these assessments will be submitted as their end of key stage level.
- Year 6 pupils - Key stage 2 - the timetable can be extended until 26th May and the Grammar Punctuation and Spelling test will not be taken, reading and maths tests remain
- Year 1 Phonics screening check - the timetable to be extended to 25th June, but the check will go ahead.
- Year 4 - Time tables check - this remains voluntary for schools, so our pupils will probably have a go to help us plan for 2022.

The link is below in case you want to read further and also has information on GCSES and A levels if you have older children in years 11 or 13.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summertime-exams>

Donation made to Platts Heath

A generous £100 donation to Platts Heath Primary School, has been received, in memory of Nanny Doll, a much loved Great Grandmother to Mia and Freddie Forster. The PTA have decided to use this money to fund the virtual pantomime and some Christmas treats for the children.

If any of the other three PTAs have news or events they would like me to mention please email me on exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Emails

As you will see from my email 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

Leeds and Broomfield

office@leedsandbroomfieldkentsch.co.uk

Platts Heath

office@plattsheathkentsch.co.uk

Ulcombe

office@ulcombekentsch.co.uk

Blog

For those of you who are interested - I have recently posted two short entries on my blog under - November lockdown 2: www.theexehead.wordpress.com

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Wishing you all restful family weekends.

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

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE Federation