



Friday 19th March 2021

Dear parents,

I am writing with my usual Friday update, with news and information from this week and dates and information for the future. It has been lovely to see all the children in red today, supporting comic relief. I heard on the radio that the TV programme tonight will be shorter and socially distanced but hopefully just as funny, Lenny Henry is usually a great entertainer.

Active learning

Thank you to the parents who have taken the time to email in response to the uniform letter, particularly to those who have asked questions or made suggestions. Several parents have asked about active learning, so I will write with more detail on the approach to learning before the end of term. To give you a taster, one of the main resources we use is Teach Active - <https://www.teachactive.org/> This is a way of combining the teaching of maths and English with the government recommendation that all children in primary schools should be having at least 60 minutes a day of physical activity.

Teach Active is an award-winning online resource tool, providing teachers with over 2000 lesson and homework plans with which to deliver the Primary Maths and English curriculum through physical activity.

Written by teachers for teachers, Teach Active contributes to the government's recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day and has been proven to improve attitudes and attainment in Maths and English, whilst also improving children's health and wellbeing.

Teach Active works in partnership with Youth Sport Trust, is endorsed by AfPE and has been recognised by Parliament for its outstanding contribution to education.

Easter Holidays - Supermarket vouchers

We received a letter from KCC yesterday informing us that supermarket vouchers will be issued to all those families whose children are in receipt of free school meals. These are the free school meals that are linked to income and not the meals that all children in years R,1 and 2.

Qualifying parents will receive a voucher per child per week. These will be issued before the end of term.

ASPIRE wrap around care

We have had a few requests from existing and prospective parents for wrap around care, so the heads of school and I have been looking at the feasibility of providing childcare before and after school. This would be in addition to our normal after school clubs, when these are allowed to re-start, and would provide childcare between 8am and school, and after school until 6pm. The first stage is to see if a) we can staff the provision and then b) to see if the need is there amongst our existing parents. Before the end of term, I will be writing to parents, and attaching a link to a google form for parents to complete. This wrap around care would be chargeable at competitive childcare rates. Which school it is based at and all details will be decided on depending on uptake.

Fair share food donations

This week Ulcombe has benefited from the fair share donations, unfortunately there was only this week, as it is dependent on what the supermarkets have left over at the end of the day. Next week the donations on Monday and Tuesday will be going to Kingswood, and any families at Kingswood are welcome to collect anything they can make use of.

Remote education survey

Thank you to all those parents who submitted responses to the remote education survey - this has now closed, I will send some information out regarding the results of this feedback in the next few weeks. As ever it has identified some clear strengths and some areas of improvement to work on.

Computing curriculum

Now that we have the chrome books in school we have rewritten and revamped the computing curriculum and children will have a lesson in computing skills once a week after Easter. The skills taught will include internet safety, coding, use of software such as scratch, use of film, and animation.

The sun is currently shining, so I hope you all enjoy your family weekends. I can be contacted during working hours at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Kind regards,
Emma Hickling

Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE federation