

Friday 17th March 2022

Dear parents/carers

We have reached the end of another week, and spring seems to be arriving. I have seen daffodils and definite signs of sunnier skies. I hope you have all had good weeks, thanks for supporting us whilst we have dealt with yet more Covid cases and the isolation periods that brings for staff and children. I am writing with the usual selection of news and information.

Covid - what do I do if my child tests positive?

We have had a few questions about isolation periods following a positive test. We have received advice directly from the DFE (Department for Education- government) The information below was sent out in my letter in February.

Self-isolation

From Thursday 24th February there is no legal requirement for any person who tests positive for Covid to self-isolate. HOWEVER it is still advised, by the DFE and public health.

*From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be **advised** to stay at home and avoid contact with other people **for at least 5 full days**, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days*

If your child develops any symptoms of Covid please use a lateral flow test, if it is positive please do keep them at home for 5 days. They can return to school if they test negative on days 5 and 6. They can return to school on day 6 or when you have had two negative tests 24 hours apart. I would advise you to have some lateral flow tests at home or order some while they remain free in case anyone in the household develops symptoms.

This is currently our policy across Aspire. It is similar to the policy we have regarding keeping children at home following sickness for 2 days - 48 hours.

At present it is a balancing act, we want to offer the children the opportunities that we are able to, trips, visits and sporting activities, however we do need to think of those who are vulnerable or who have vulnerable family members. Therefore our policy is to follow the advice as detailed above.

When this changes I will of course be in touch.

Holiday activities

For families whose children receive free school meals which are linked to family income (and not because they are in years R,1 and 2) , you will be receiving a holiday activity voucher before the end of this term, which entitles your child to attend an activity within the Easter Holidays.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in Kent provides healthy, nutritious food and exciting, enriching activities for children and young people during the school holidays. Families of children aged 4 to 16 years, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, can access these opportunities in the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays for free.



The HAF Programme aims to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Kent, encouraging them to engage in interactive and fun activities and provide them with access to nutritious food. This programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) to provide support for eligible families in Kent to access these holiday activities for free.

This week we have received the following information from one activity provider.

Kent Superstars - A Letter for Parents of Children

Dear Parent/Guardian

As a result of Government funding, we can confirm that we once again have free spaces to children who are eligible for Free School Meals and would like to participate in our Superstars Holiday Club throughout the **Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.**

Dates:

Easter – 4 days

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th April

Summer – 4 days, for 4 weeks

Week 1: Monday 1st – Thursday 4th August

Week 2: Monday 8th – Thursday 11th August

Week 3: Monday 15th – Thursday 18th August

Week 4: Monday 22nd – Thursday 25th August

Christmas – 4 days

Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd December

The HAF programme will provide 4 hours of activity per day, a free hot meal and nutritional snacks for children who are eligible for free school meals. **This is entirely free of charge.**

To book Superstars Holiday Club, use the voucher code and booking link you will have received from your school. Once you have registered your interest with us, one of our team will be in touch to take a few more details from you and confirm your booking.

Allocation will be on a first come, first served basis as spaces are limited!

Locations:

Sheppey Leisure Complex, Sheerness

8:30 - 13:00 / 12:00 - 16:30

Maidstone Leisure Centre, Maidstone

8:30 - 13:00 / 12:00 - 16:30

Hermitage Park Community Centre, Maidstone

8:30 - 13:00 / 12:00 - 16:30



Tenterden Leisure Centre, Tenterden

8:30 - 13:00 / 12:00 - 16:30

Meopham Tennis and Fitness Centre, Meopham

8:00 - 13:00 / 12:00 - 17:00 (*afternoon arrival between 11:45-12:00*)

Swallows Leisure Centre, Sittingbourne 8:30 - 13:00 / 12:00 - 16:30

Supermarket Vouchers

If your child does receive benefit related free school meals, you will also receive before the end of term a supermarket voucher for £15 per week of the school holidays. This means you will receive £30 per child to cover their lunches over the holidays. Please contact your school office if you haven't received your voucher by the end of March. Also if you feel your child may be eligible for free school meals, please do contact your school office.

Sports Competitions

Ms Liddicoat, our active learning and PE lead for Aspire has signed up our schools to take part in the school games, which is part of Sports England. The first event is the year 1/2 multi schools competition next week. Each school is sending a team of 6 children to compete against other schools.

There will be lots more events for children in each age group, some of which we will enter as Aspire and some as the four individual schools. This will depend on the event, and the number of children needed. More information will follow as events are announced.

Police Open day - Year 6

We have booked places for year 6 across Aspire to attend the Kent Police open day on Monday 4th July. We received a letter inviting our year 6 pupils to attend.

We are aware that some children may be attending transition events this week but we would like to offer it to those pupils who aren't. This is the only date to which we have been invited.

Wishing you all enjoyable sunshine filled weekends.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation