

Friday 1st April 2022

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you with snow falling in April! The British weather is always a source of conversation when it is sunny enough to sit in the garden one week and snowing the next! Thank you for all your support this term. I have included the latest guidance on Covid today along with the usual round up of news and information.

Covid Guidance from Friday 1st April

The DFE have sent an email with their updated guidance, as testing for covid will as of today the 1st April. Free tests will only be available for NHS staff and eligible patients.

The advice is now as follows:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days

Single lateral flow tests will be available from chemists for a about £2 should you want to purchase them.

At Aspire I am advising the following - while we still have tests - please follow the above - staff with a positive test to isolate for 5 days, but can then return assuming they don't have a temperature. Any child with a positive test can return after 3 days. Once we have no tests - then the only advice is to stay off school if you have a temperature.

If you are unsure or have any questions please contact me at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Swimming Awards

Thank you to Mrs Steer, Ms Liddicoat and Mrs Cannell, for teaching swimming this term, and to Mr Jackson for driving the minibus.

During their lessons the children are working towards the school swimming and water safety awards. These are awarded in partnership with Swim England. Here is some information about the awards:

Awards

- Our School Swimming and Water Safety Charter Awards have been designed with pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in mind. Using the Awards in your school swimming programme will:
- Ensure all pupils have access to the most essential swimming and water safety skills, whatever their ability.
- Provide reward and recognition to every pupil who participates in school swimming lessons.
- Keep all pupils motivated to continue with their school swimming lessons and meet the national curriculum requirements for swimming and water safety.
- More information is available at <https://www.swimming.org/schools/awards-school-swimming-charter/>

Each child has a passport which is kept by Mrs Steer who will sign off the awards as they complete them. At the end of the term the children will be presented with certificates to take home for the awards they have achieved. These awards are for schools and so will be different to those badges gained in private swimming lessons. Once the children have completed their passport they will be presented with a pin badge.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

The curriculum within our schools is very important both to ensure that the children are being taught all subjects to a high standard, ensuring that they have gained the knowledge and skills they need to progress to secondary school and to ensure that our schools are judged by OFSTED to be at least good.

The curriculum determines what has to be covered in each of the subjects and all subjects from Art to French to Maths are of equal importance.

Now that we can take the children on trips and experiences, we will be linking these to our topics and subjects and planning appropriately.

Next term

Term 5 starts on Tuesday 19th April, the day after Easter Monday. There are no INSET days at the beginning of term.

Wishing you all a lovely family school holidays and a very Happy Easter. Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation

