

Friday 10th June 2022

Dear parents

I am writing to you at the end of the first week of term 6! It is hard to believe that we are reaching the end of another school year. Please find below the usual round up of news and information.

Platts Heath Primary School OFSTED

On behalf of all at Platts Heath, I am thrilled to share with you that following the inspection in April, the school is now judged to be good in all areas. It was a very successful inspection with discussions in the feedback about how close we were in some areas to outstanding. The school has been on a really positive journey since it was last inspected in May 2018, the pupils, staff, parents and governors have all worked very hard and are rightly thrilled with this result. Please find below some of the highlights of the report:

‘This small village school, with its warm and caring ethos, sits at the heart of the community. Everyone is welcome and feels like they belong. Pupils love the time they spend at Platts Heath. They hurry through the gate each morning with smiling faces. Pupils feel safe because of the positive relationships they form with the supportive staff.’

‘Leaders have created a broad and rich curriculum that ignites pupils’ curiosity about the world around them. Across subjects, leaders have identified the essential knowledge, skills and key vocabulary they want pupils to know and remember well. They have thought carefully about how to organise the curriculum so that it meets the needs of pupils from different age groups who are in the same class. ‘

‘Leaders have created a positive culture where pupils thrive. Pupils, including children in early years, are polite and well-mannered. Classrooms are hives of activity. Pupils concentrate well, show positive attitudes to their learning and relish challenge. They are proud of their achievements. Staff morale is high.’

This now means that all four schools in ASPIRE are judged to be good. Well done to all in Team Aspire 2022!

Kingswood are due their OFSTED this term and Leeds and Broomfield are due their SIAMs inspection (an inspection of Church Schools) also this term. So we continue to work hard to prepare for these.

Leeds and Broomfield Nurture provision

Also this week I am very pleased to share that Leeds and Broomfield had their assessment, having completed all the training and set up an effective nurture provision, which provides support to those pupils who are vulnerable or have additional needs. The nurture provision at



Leeds and Broomfield is now accredited which is a fantastic achievement and really highlights how effective the provision is. A huge well done to Mrs Steer, Mrs Coleman and Ms Nimmo and all the staff, pupils and parents at Leeds and Broomfield.

Kingswood, Platts Heath and Ulcombe are at an earlier stage of the same training and will be looking to complete their accreditation at some point in the next academic year. The team from Leeds and Broomfield will be able to support this.

Phonics screening

Pupils in year 1 have this week completed their phonics screening check, where they are asked to read a list of real and alien words to check their understanding of phonics. The children need to score at least 32/40 to pass the check. If they score less than 32, they will carry on with phonics in year 2 and have a chance to resit the check. Well done to all pupils in year 1 and 2 that completed the check this week.

MTC - year 4

Over the last two weeks year 4 pupils will be sitting the MTC- Multiplication Tables Check, a new test introduced by the government to check children's recall of times tables. This year's year 4 will be the first year group to take the test and as such there is no pass mark this year. It will be interesting to see how the children get on - they have been practicing in class and it is all about speed and accuracy in remembering those times tables facts!

Forest schools

Year 6 are currently on their first school day today, let's hope the weather stays dry! Year 5 are the next year group to attend on the 8th July 2022.

Kingswood have had a forest school area developed within their grounds which we are all excited to use in the coming months. Staff will attend a training session in September. Ulcombe are having an outdoor classroom built within their grounds, so we will have two fantastic resources to use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk
Wishing you all lovely family weekends,

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation