



Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Dear parents,

I am writing to you in addition to my usual Friday letter this week, as last night I was sent some information that I need to share with you, so that I can encourage those of you who are affected to take appropriate action.

I am sure you will have seen on the news yesterday that a new strain of Covid has been identified which originates from South Africa. There are certain postcodes that this is already affecting. One is a Maidstone postcode - ME15.

Everyone living in this postcode over the age of 16 years is required to have a test so that this new strain of covid can be contained as quickly as possible.

If you live in ME15 and are able to stay at home please do so, as the army, police, Maidstone borough councillors and other emergency service personnel will be going door to door to carry out testing. Key workers who have to attend a workplace are encouraged to ensure they are tested within a week if they cannot stay at home. You are required to book a PCR test at a drive through centre. A lateral rapid test is not sufficient, as these are less accurate. If you are then at home when your address is called upon you will still be required to have a test even if you have had a recent one. Please make sure all residents of your household who are over 16 years old take a test.

A number of ASPIRE staff live in the ME15 area of Maidstone so I emailed them last night to give them the same information. Therefore please bear with us this week as I need to support staff in engaging in this testing process. If any member of staff tests positive who has been in Kingswood this week we will of course inform you straight away.

Thank you, I shall write again on Friday with my usual round up of news and information. As ever I can be contacted at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk should you have a query.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
ASPIRE federation.

