



Monday 23rd March 2021

Dear parents,

I am writing to you today as I have received some information from the DFE that states that in the future if pupils have to self isolate due to positive covid cases in school, and parents have to miss work to care for them, they may be eligible for a discretionary £500 payment.

I will provide the information in this letter so that if we have to close any bubbles across ASPIRE you will have the information to hand. The below provides you with the information you will need.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result

- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

That their child or young person:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

In the event of any of the ASPIRE schools having to close a bubble, your child will be issued with a letter which has been provided by the DFE, you will need this letter to provide proof of self isolation.

Once an application for a payment has been received, the local authority will be in touch with your setting to verify the details of the child provided on the application. This will include a check of the child's name, age, address and days of self-isolation. This check is to minimise the event of fraudulent claims. It may be conducted before or after a payment is made, depending on the arrangements the individual local authority has chosen to put in place.

Once I have more information on who you would have to contact at KCC I will include this in my Friday update letters. I hope the above information is useful

Thank you. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do contact me at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk, during working hours.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive headteacher

ASPIRE federation