



Friday 10th September 2021

Dear parents,

I am writing to you at the end of the first week of the new school year. I think the sun has been shining more this week than for the whole of the summer break ! I hope this week has been a happy one for you and your families. In this week's letter I am going to share some news, reminders and pass on some information.

Family Liaison officer

Mrs Toni Arnold has left the Aspire Federation, following a period of illness, and her father's ill-health. Toni has supported many families and children in the ASPIRE schools, who I am sure will miss her. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in the future.

Natasha's Law

This week schools have received information about Natasha's law which, following the sad death of a teenager following her consumption of a shop bought sandwich, requires from October 2021 all pre packed food to have very clear allergen information. This will be helpful for those families who have to manage allergies. More information can be found at <https://natashas-law.com/about/>

Our school dinners are prepared at Ulcombe and at Kingswood; please contact the school if your child has an allergy and would like to have school dinners. Our catering company should be able to provide suitable meals.

Parent Council

This year I will be setting up a Parent Council who will meet termly to discuss any decisions in school that we would like parent input to and there will be a chance for parents to bring suggestions forward to be discussed. I will chair the council and the Heads of School will be invited to attend. The Parent Council will consist of one elected representative from each class of each of the Aspire schools. The meetings will take place during school hours and will rotate around the schools. If this is something you would be interested in, please look out for the letter and nomination form next week. I am aiming to schedule the first meeting for later this term. If

you have any queries regarding the Parent Council please email me at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Uniform

Thank you for your patience regarding the delayed deliveries of uniforms from Brigade, it has been lovely to see all the children in their new uniform. Just a few reminders about school uniform expectations:

- No jewellery should be worn apart from small stud earrings and a watch, earrings must be removed for PE
- Trainers worn as part of the active uniform should be black
- All children need to come in active uniform on PE days
- Long hair should be tied back for school

Bishop Rose Visits Ulcombe

Mrs Masters informed me this morning that Bishop Rose, the bishop of Canterbury and Dover is visiting Ulcombe next week. The Bishop chose Ulcombe as the one school she will visit in the area. She will be blessing the school's nurture garden and leading the children and staff in worship. The staff and children are rightly thrilled that they have been chosen and I know they will do Aspire proud.

Homework policy

On Monday I will be discussing a new approach to homework with the staff, and then producing a new policy. I am aiming to have a consistent approach to homework across Aspire which allows the children some choice in the tasks they complete on top of the basic skills we ask them to reinforce at home. I will be writing to you next week about the new homework expectations so we can start the year as we mean to go on.

Wishing you and your family relaxing weekends. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk during working hours.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation