



Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you at the end of a very busy week, with my usual round up of news and information. I hope you have all had successful happy weeks.

### Homework policy

I have written to you this week regarding the new Aspire Homework Policy and the menu of homework tasks from which pupils will need to choose. Following a parent's query, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that homework is to be completed during term time, with homework books handed into the class teacher in the last week of term. Homework menus will be sent out to all those pupils who haven't already received them week beginning Monday 27th September. Please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher if you have any questions regarding homework.

### International Teaching Assistants Day - Thursday 16th September

Yesterday was the International Day of the Teaching Assistant; the most important second adult in the classroom, the adult who is there to support and care for our pupils. I took the opportunity to thank all of our fantastic Aspire teaching assistants and sent them the following message:

Dear Aspire Teaching Assistant Team,

Just a quick note to thank you for all your hard work as teaching assistants within the Aspire team.

We are very lucky to have such a talented team of TAs who give over and above their job description to make a difference to our pupils.

On National Teaching Assistant Day 2021, please take this email as my personal thank you to you all for making a difference.

Your role is a hugely varied one but each little job you do from a plaster on a knee to supporting a child in maths, or helping resolve a disagreement at playtime all enable the children to learn and progress.

On behalf of the teachers, the parents and the children - thank you

<https://nationalteachingassistantsday.co.uk/get-involved/>

### Bishop Rose

Mrs Masters, Mrs Steer and I were honoured that Bishop Rose chose to visit both Leeds and Broomfield and Ulcombe yesterday, as the newly appointed Bishop of Canterbury and Dover. In both schools she had a tour, met the staff and children and led a worship service. She told the story of her life and was encouraging the children to believe in themselves and chase their dreams, no matter what their circumstances and starting point. She is an inspiring woman and it was a fantastic experience for the children to have a Bishop visit their schools.

### Parent Council

Thank you to those parents from Ulcombe and Kingswood who have completed the form and put themselves forward for the parent council. At the moment we have no representation from Leeds and Broomfield or Platts Heath, so I would like to encourage you to nominate yourself if you are able, to ensure every class is represented on the council. The parent council is a great way to get your voices heard and work with the school leaders to continue to improve our Aspire Federation. If you are interested, please complete the form before Monday 27th September. Thank you.

### Vacancies within Aspire

We have a number of vacancies at the moment within the Aspire schools for teaching assistant, cleaners, midday meal supervisors, and staff for our wrap around care at Kingswood. All positions will be advertised on Kent Teach - <https://www.kent-teach.com/> Please contact the relevant Head of School, or school office if you have any questions about any of the vacancies.

Wishing you pleasant family weekends,

As ever, I can be contacted at [exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk) with any questions.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher  
Aspire Federation