



Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing again at the end of a very long and busy week, with the usual reminders, news and information. Firstly, a huge well done to Leeds and Broomfield for their very positive OFSTED report.

### OFSTED at Leeds and Broomfield

We have this week received the OFSTED report for Leeds and Broomfield from the inspection last term. I wrote to all parents of the school to celebrate the fact that the report states that 'the school remains good'

Here is an excerpt from my letter to parents at Leeds and Broomfield.

The inspection recognised the many strengths of the school, and in particular the hard work of Mrs Steer and the staff over the last 18 months.

'Leaders have created a nurturing environment that helps all children flourish.'

The children were praised for their hard work and behaviour.

'Pupils in this small village school are happy and confident learners'

'Pupils behave very well in lessons and around school'

Our leaders from across Aspire who lead subjects and have developed the curriculum are also praised for their hard work and support of staff.

'The curriculum that pupils learn is carefully planned. Leaders have used expertise from across the Federation to provide guidance to teachers. Teachers value the support they have received and know what pupils need to learn and in what order.'

Mrs Coleman and the staff are recognised for the support they provide for children with SEND. This is rightly recognised as a strength of the school.

'Leaders and staff make sure that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive the support they need. There are strong partnerships with parents of pupils with SEND, school staff and other professionals. Training helps staff to provide the right support to

pupils with SEND. Staff give careful thought to the needs of pupils with SEND and how to help them learn. As a result, they learn and achieve well alongside their peers.'

Monday 15th November 2021

Just a reminder that Platts Heath Primary School will be closed on Monday to all staff and pupils, due to the funeral of Miss Killick. The funeral is taking place at Vinters Park crematorium in Maidstone at 11 am, and all are invited to the Chiltern Hundreds pub.

Thank you to Platts Heath parents for their support for the staff on Monday. The vast majority of staff will be attending from Platts Heath together with colleagues from across Aspire.

### Staff Changes at Platts Heath

#### Ash Class.

Following the death of Miss Killick, Mrs Burbidge has been covering as supply as she knows the school and the children. Just before half term I advertised and held interviews to fill the role of Ash class teacher. I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed Mrs Burbidge who will now take over the role on a permanent basis. Mrs Burbidge is a very experienced Early Years teacher and will be an asset to the Platts Heath team.

#### Elder Class

Mrs Unsworth Brown will be leaving Platts Heath at the end of this term. Mrs UB will be staying with Aspire and has been appointed as a cover teacher.

Again, I have advertised and appointed a new teacher for Elder class from January 2022. Mr Waters who is known to Aspire, as he has previously been the Head of School at Kingswood, will be Elder class teacher from January 2022. Mr Waters will also be taking over the responsibility of the leadership of creative arts for Aspire.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mrs Burbidge and Mr Waters as part of the team, and wishing Mrs UB well in the next stage of her career, as well as thanking her for all her hard work at Platts Heath.

#### DFE pilot project

Just a reminder that you need to inform your child/ren's school office if you do not have Wi-Fi at home and would like to take advantage of Aspire's involvement in the pilot project with the DFE, the details of which are below. Please contact the school office before the end of the day, if you are interested in being part of the project.

**The pilot:** The Department for Education (DfE) is running a small-scale pilot project in partnership with BT to test the feasibility of offering fixed-line home broadband connection to families without broadband internet access.

**Who can get help:** For the pilot phase, DfE will target a small number of schools and families. Pupils in years 1 to 13 that have no broadband internet access are eligible. Households with an existing broadband connection are not eligible.

**The offer to households:** We will provide 12 month pre-paid vouchers for fixed line unlimited broadband. Families will be set up with a BT account. At the end of the free period they can choose to:

- keep the connection - BT will discuss available tariffs directly with families
- do nothing - their account will end automatically after 12 months (families can also cancel for free at any point before the 12 months ends

#### Active learning Teacher

We have appointed a teacher who will deliver parts of our Active Learning curriculum across Aspire. Ms Liddicoat will start in January and will be working across all Aspire schools. She will be working with small groups, individuals or classes of children and will be reinforcing Maths and English activities through physical activity. We are excited to have made this appointment, as this has been our aim for a while. Miss Liddicoat is an experienced teacher, with a specialism in PE. Leaders will be ensuring we measure the impact of active Maths and English on progress as next term progresses.

Thank you to all parents and families for your continued support of the staff at all the Aspire schools, especially at Platts Heath and your celebration of the hard work of those at Leeds and Broomfield.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling, Executive Headteacher, Aspire Federation