



Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you with festive cheer on the last day of term, to share with you some information, and my warmest wishes for a happy Christmas.

### January 2022

Term starts on Tuesday 4th January. At the moment there are many stories in the media questioning whether schools will be open, at present the government line is that they will be and we have not received any directives to move to remote education. However I have asked staff to take home all that they would need to deliver lessons from home should that be the case.

For those parents who have enquired, remote teaching will be as per our policy, which is three live lessons a day - English and Maths in the morning and another subject in the afternoon. All remote teaching will take place via Google classroom.

### New Federation staff

Two new members of federation staff will be joining us in January, Mrs Liddicoat who is our Active learning leader and will be working in each Aspire school for a day, delivering intervention to groups of children. She will also be running clubs and leading PE across the federation.

Mr Picot will also be joining the federation as caretaker and IT support. He will be spending a day a week in each school to ensure all health and safety checks are carried out, as well as carrying out general maintenance work. On a Friday he will be providing IT support to the federation, a service we have always had to outsource previously.

We have also appointed a number of teaching assistants across the federation, where we have been able to gain funding to support specific pupils. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them all to Team Aspire.

### Covid Restrictions

At present we have no guidance about what restrictions should be in place in Term 3 when the children return in January, in terms of mask wearing or bubbles for example. As soon as I have any guidance from the DFE I will be in contact. If you do not hear from me, please assume we

will start next term with the same protocols in place as this one as it will mean I have no further information. I can be contacted via email at [exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk), but please bear in mind I will be spending time with my family and may not be able to reply immediately.

### Vouchers and hampers

Parents of children that receive benefits related, free school meals should have now received three vouchers, a supermarket voucher worth £15 for each week of the school holidays, per child, a voucher for a family bus pass and an activity voucher. Please contact the school office if you have not received these.

Some families have also received Christmas hampers and presents. These were organised by Mrs Allum and the governors with the help of Mrs Steer. Thank you.

### Thankyou

As it is the end of term, I would like to say thank you to parents and carers for their support this term. I would particularly like to thank the Kingswood parents for their support during the time when classes had to be closed for your support of both me and the remote education. Thank you to parents who contact me with ideas and suggestions or take the time to email to pass on their thanks.

Thank you to the children for their hard work and resilience in a world that remains different for them. Thank you for appreciating all that the staff try to do for you, and thank you for being cheery and optimistic.

Lastly and definitely not least, thank you to the staff for their hard work, resilience and dedication which with the loss of Miss Killick together with the ongoing covid situation, has been one of the toughest terms of my career. Thank you for your support and comradery.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher  
Aspire Federation