



Friday 5th February 2021

Dear parents,

I am writing to you with only a week left of term, with no idea of when schools will open and lockdown will ease, especially with the new strain of the virus. We have been hearing from parents that this lockdown is harder and I think we would all agree, we are a month away from the first anniversary of a year full of lockdowns ! The staff would all prefer to be back at school too, doing their jobs the normal way, however we all need to keep on keeping on, until it is safe for us to go back. At the moment we have no news about when that is likely to be.

Specific postcode Covid testing

I wrote to you mid week when I was given some information about people being tested at home if they live in ME15 postcodes. This has now extended to some ME16 and ME17 4 postcodes. Please see the link below.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/targeted-testing>

If you live in one of the listed postcodes, you will need to stay at home and wait for a government official/ services officer to visit you to carry out the testing. Results will be received with 24 hours and assuming it is negative you can then continue with your normal everyday lives. The idea of this targeted testing is to find and isolate cases of the new strain, hopefully stopping its spread.

Fair share - Tesco donations of food

We have had two donations of food from Tescos this week - bread on Monday and a mixed box on Tuesday. All food was out to good use, Thank you if you managed to travel to pick up some things that you can use. We will continue to collect the donations when available and will text parents to inform them.

Supermarket vouchers

If you have been receiving supermarket vouchers as your child/ren would normally have a free school meal, you will receive a voucher at the end of next week to cover half term. It is £15 per child per week, please contact your child's school office if you don't receive one.

Half term hampers

The heads of school and I will be putting some food hampers together for our families within ASPIRE who have been most hard hit by Covid. We would welcome donations of dry goods - ie cereals, pasta, rice, jars. Tins and packets. Please any donations be brought to Kingswood by midday on Wednesday 10th February - thank you.

Weekly testing of staff for Covid 19

The staff who are in school - team B and a back up team Team C have all tested twice this week using the rapid lateral tests. All tests have been negative and Team B have been able to attend school. Some staff have also taken part in the postcode specific testing - all these tests have been negative too.

Numbers of children attending school

Our bubbles are almost full at Kingswood, using the cap of 20 that I have applied to keep everyone safe. Thank you to those parents who contacted me after my letter last week. The only bubble that now has places is the year R/1 bubble. We may have some part time places where children are sharing spaces in order to gain the most from the bubble.

If you need a place for your child at Kingswood as you are a key/ critical worker or your family has an attached social worker or your child has an EHCP please contact me at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk and I will try my best to assist you.

Half term and INSET day - reminder

The week beginning Monday 15th February is half term and all ASPIRE schools will be closed to all pupils.. After half term we have an INSET day on Monday 22nd February so the schools will also be closed on that day. Kingswood will open again on Tuesday 23rd February. Remote education will also begin again on Tuesday 23rd February for term 4.

Wishing you all restful family weekends,

Kind regards

Emma Hickling
Executive headteacher
ASPIRE federation