



Friday 9th July 2021

Dear parents,

Today I am writing on the penultimate Friday of the school year! I am sure you are all ready for a break with your families. Please ensure that you have read my letter of earlier in the week which explains the easing of covid restrictions and how that will affect our schools in September. In today's letter I am going to write about a soft start on Monday following the football on Sunday, the curriculum, and a new timetable.

Monday 12th July 2021

As England are playing in the Euro 2020 final on Sunday night, we have decided to allow children to arrive up until 10am on Monday to allow them a later morning if they were up late watching. England reaching the final is a momentous occasion and it's not something we would want the children to miss, therefore children can arrive any time between their normal staggered drop off time up until 10am without being marked as late. Working parents, we also appreciate you may not have the luxury of being able to drop off your child later so staff will all be in school at normal time to receive your child. A soft start will be offered with learning activities but not lessons until 10am and then a return to normal timetables. Please make sure your child has their temperature checked at drop off on Monday before you leave. Thank you.

Contingency plan for a Covid 19 Outbreak

The DFE requires schools from September 2021 to have a covid 19 outbreak contingency plan. As mentioned in my letter earlier this week this is a plan as to how aspire would react in the case of an outbreak of positive cases in any of its schools. Please find attached to this letter two documents which form our plan. In simple terms, schools will have very few restrictions in September but if we have several positive cases within a 14-day period we will need to reintroduce bubbles, face coverings and restrictions to visitors. If you have any questions regarding my letter or the plans attached please contact me at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk.

Curriculum 2021-22

The subject leaders have been working hard on developing the curriculum for aspire over the last few months, following their monitoring which has continued despite the pandemic. In line with OFSTED expectations we are moving away from topic-based learning to planned lessons in history and geography. We have also been working with the children on sticky learning moments, as the key to the curriculum is the pupils committing what they have been learning to

their long-term memory. A sticky learning moment is where previous learning is revisited to ensure the children have retained it. The curriculum for 2021 -22 will be posted on each school's website over the coming weeks, so please be sure to check so you can discuss with your child/ren what they will/have been learning.

Timetable 2021-22

From September 2021 children in Key stage 2 (years 3-6) will be working from a two-week rolling timetable. Where year 2 pupils are in a class with year 3, they will also be working from a two-week timetable. The reason for this is the need to fit in the required hours of all the individual subjects.

Subject	Required weekly teaching time
Maths	5 hours - 1 hour a day
Reading/ Phonics	2.5 hours - 30 mins a day
English	5 hours - 1 hour a day
Grammar, punctuation, and spelling	2.5 hours - 30 minutes a day
Science	One hour a week
RE	One - 1.5 hours a week depending if school if a church school or not
PE	2 hours a week
History/ geography - these can be taught in rotation	1 hour a week
Art/ Design Technology - these can be taught in rotation	1 hour a week
Music	0.5-1 hour a week
Computing	1 hour a week
Modern Foreign languages (year 3 upwards)	45 minutes a week
PSHCE/ RSE	0.5 hours a week

Using the above allocations teachers will be designing a two week timetable so that pupils can benefit from learning each subject in meaningful chunks - i.e. an afternoon or art once a fortnight which gives time for children to really work with materials etc. rather than a squeezed shorter lesson once a week. Maths, reading, phonics, and English will continue to be taught every day. This timetable affects the afternoon teaching of foundation subjects only.

Children in key stage 1 (years R, 1 and 2) will be taught using a weekly timetable, as the requirements for subjects are different. Year 2 in Leeds, Platts Heath and Ulcombe will use the 2-week timetable as they are in class with year 3.

Timetables will be sent home/published on the school's website in September.

For those parents who are choosing to purchase the traditional uniform as well as the active uniform you will need to ensure you know when your child has PE in each week of the timetable as it is a requirement that they wear their active uniform on PE days.

Pupils are able to wear active uniform all day every day from September 2021.

I do realise I have given you a lot of information to digest this week so please do not hesitate to contact me via email if you have any questions. I can be reached at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk, during working hours. Thank you.

Wishing you all very pleasant family weekends and a win for England on Sunday.

IT'S COMING HOME!

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation