



Wednesday 7th July 2021

Dear parents,

Yesterday some new guidance for schools was published which will be in place for SEPTEMBER. I have detailed the changes below. All current risk assessments and procedures are in place until the end of term. This includes bubbles, staggered drop off and pick ups, temperature testing, use of face masks and self isolation.

Procedures from September

Risk Assessment

Schools are required to produce an up to date risk assessment and I shall work on this over the next few days and send it out to you. In summary it will contain the measures and reduction to measures in this handbook. I will also produce an outbreak contingency plan.

Bubbles

Bubbles will no longer need to be in place in September and we can operate as a school as we did prior to March 2020. This means that assemblies/ worships can take place, we don't need to stagger, drop off or pick up and children can mix at break and lunch time.

Pick up and drop off

Drop off time for all children at Kingswood, Platts Heath and Ulcombe is between 8:45 and 8:55

Drop off for all children at Leeds and Broomfield is between 8:35 and 8:45

Pick up time for all children in all schools is 3.15pm

### Wrap around care at Leeds and Kingswood

These will be in place in September and children can be dropped off from 7.30am, and can be picked up at 4/5/6pm depending on the pricing structure you have opted for. Please see the previous letters for details

### Isolation and contact tracing

From August children under the age of 18 do not need to self isolate unless they themselves test positive via PCR test. This means if a child in a class tests positive the only person required to self isolate is them, unless the adults in the class are identified by track and trace as close contacts. No other children need to isolate themselves.

The following from the DFE guidance explains this.

Tracing close contacts and isolation- Settings will only need to do contact tracing up to Step 4. From Step 4, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

### Face Coverings

From September face coverings will not be required to be worn in school by staff, visitors or parents.

Face coverings also no longer need to be worn on public transport or the schools own transport - i.e. the minibus.

## Stepping measures up or down

In the case of an outbreak in any one of the aspire schools or high local cases we may be asked to step measures up - this will include the temporary introduction of bubbles and wearing of face masks. This will be detailed in the forthcoming outbreak contingency plan.

## Control Measures

We WILL BE continuing with the following in September.

- 1) Regular hand washing - on entry to school, before and after breaks and at the end of the day. This can be with soap and water or use of hand sanitiser
- 2) Use of the catch it, bin it, kill it approach for all runny noses, coughs and sneezes. Each class room will have a supply of tissues and a separate bin for these to be deposited in.
- 3) If a pupil attends school who has tested positive or displays symptoms, they should be isolated and sent home, supervised by a member of staff who is wearing PPE and social distancing.
- 4) Schools will be cleaned daily with a disinfectant with particular attention paid to surfaces such as table tops.
- 5) Windows will be kept open in all classrooms, offices and other areas of the school such as halls and libraries- please ensure that your child has warm layers.

Temperature checking is NO longer recommended by Public Health England as a reliable way to recognise symptoms so we will not be continuing with this from September.

### Staff Lateral flow testing

Staff will continue to use lateral flow tests until the end of this term. They are not required to test over the summer but will start again at the end of August to ensure they are all safe to return to school.

### Remote Education

For any pupil is who is required from September to self isolate as they have tested positive or someone in their household has. We will continue to provide remote education via google classroom. All new pupils will be issued with google logins in September.

### Educational Visits and Trips

These can all now happen as normal, as there are no bubbles, there are no restrictions around clubs or trips. Please look out for a timetable from your child's school in September.

Our wrap around care at Leeds and Kingswood can take place with no bubble restrictions

I hope you have found the information in this letter useful, just to remind you all current routines and measures stay in place until the end of term. The ones detailed in this letter are from September.

If you have any questions I can be reached at [exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk)

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling ]  
Executive Headteacher  
Aspire Federation

