



Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I am very glad it's Friday, what a week it has been ! Best wishes to all the children and staff at Kingswood who are currently poorly with covid, I hope you are feeling better soon. I have been trying to manage the situation at Kingswood, whilst running Platts heath and from today trying to provide some teaching input to Birch class! I also had a puncture on my way home on Wednesday, so had to part with huge amounts of money as Kwik fit advised that obviously all my tyres need replacing ! Anyway I am sure like me you are looking forward to the weekend ! Who else has had a week like me ?

Kingswood

A big thank you to all the parents and pupils at Kingswood for their support this week, apologies for the many emails you have received from me. I will continue to communicate with you all as I can make decisions. A few parents have asked about the Nativity. This will not take place next week due to the number of children absent and the lack of rehearsal. I am hopeful that this will take place in the last week but I will email next week, once the teachers and I have discussed it on Monday.

Birch and Oak classes remain closed until Thursday 9th December. Work is being uploaded to google classroom for both classes - please see the class stream for more details. If you are unsure how to access Google classroom, please contact me at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk Maple, Chestnut and Sycamore classes are open at the school but we have asked pupils with siblings who have tested positive for covid to stay at home until their sibling is out of isolation so that we can hopefully stop the spread of cases. I have also agreed to authorise any absence for this week and until next Thursday while cases remain within the school. I am hopeful for some sort of normality from the 9th.

Alteration to the School Academic Year 2021-22 - Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

In acknowledgement of the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the DfE have laid regulations to reduce the minimum number of sessions that schools are required to meet in the academic year 2021/2022, in order to enable everyone to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen on 3 June 2022.

Subsequently, following a consultation, the Cabinet Member for Education has taken the decision to end the Summer term 2022 a day early so that term finishes on Thursday 21 July 2022 instead of Friday 22 July 2022.

Year 5/6 trip to Kingswood centre

You should have received a letter today regarding a day trip to Grosvenor Hall on Monday 20th June. Although we are unable to offer a residential in 2022, for various reasons including centre availability and the still unpredictable nature of covid, we have tried to come up with a suitable alternative. The day will offer the children a chance to do four activities that the centre offers led by the staff there. These will include some sort of high ropes activity, a team building activity, on target and a bushcraft. We have managed to secure some funding for the day and so the cost per pupil has been reduced from £46 to £15. Please ensure you return the £15 and the slip from the letter to the school office by Monday 10th January if you would like your child to take part.

Google classroom or logins

A number of parents have emailed me to ask to reset passwords, and of course I am happy to help. Please email me at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk if your child is learning at home and you are struggling to login. I can also provide class codes and links.

It remains my ultimate responsibility to try and keep all staff and pupils as safe as I can. I do apologise for any disappointment your children may be feeling regarding events that have to be slightly different this Christmas. It is mine and the heads of school's intention to do our utmost to make sure that everyone can enjoy a family Christmas. I do understand that at times perhaps you, if in my shoes, may have made a different decision and I respect that, but I am simply making what I feel is the right call with the information I have.

Thank you to all those who have sent messages of support, or well wishes to some of the staff at Kingswood. Both Mrs Golding and Mrs Sanchez, from Kingswood have been very poorly but are beginning to make a recovery now, so we look forward to seeing them soon.

Wishing you all lovely weekends and a brighter start to next week. To those with covid please take care and we will see you soon.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation