



Friday 6th January 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year! I do hope you all enjoyed family Christmas and New Year celebrations. Welcome to the new term, which seems to have started at the same fast pace we finished on! I am writing to you with some information and news.

Flu/ Strep/Covid - latest advice

Please find below the latest advice we have received from the Health security agency. The blue underlined statements contain links to government websites.

Latest advice

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.

Eligible children include:

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.

Young voices

This is taking place on Tuesday 24th January 2023 and involves children from Key Stage 2 from all four Aspire schools. The event is taking place at the O2 and involves many schools from across the South East. Mrs. Foad has organised this event, all details have been sent out. If you have any queries please contact your school office or talk to your child's head of school. Thank you in advance to Mrs. Foad for her hard work.

Clubs

You should receive a new club form or menu from your school for this term, so that you and your child can select which clubs you would like them to attend. Please contact your school office or class teacher if you haven't received one.

Homework

Pupils in Years 1-6 will be receiving their homework menus in the next week or so. A reminder that we encourage children to select up to three tasks from this menu to complete to enhance their wider curriculum. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you don't receive one by week three of the term.

Wishing you all enjoyable family weekends. I can be contacted at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk with any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling

Executive Headteacher

Aspire Federation