



Friday 16th June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The main item in my letter this week is a change to the school hours for three of our Aspire schools from September 2023, in response to a DFE expectation that children are in school for 32.5 hours a week. I have explained this in detail below. I wrote about this proposed change in my letter a few weeks ago.

Change in School Start Time from September 2023

Leeds and Broomfield currently welcome children into class from 8.30, with formal school starting at 8.45am

Kingswood, Platts Heath and Ulcombe currently open their gates at 8.45 with formal school starting at 8.55/9am.

In order for us to meet the 32.5 hours of expected schooling (this can include lunch and break) children need to be starting school at 8.45am

The hours between 8.45am and 3.15pm is 6.5 per day - totaling 32.5 hours

Therefore there will be NO CHANGE to arrangements for families who attend Leeds and Broomfield C of E primary school - the red door will still open at 8.30am.

For Kingswood, Platts Heath and Ulcombe from September the gates will be opened at 8.30am with all children expected to have arrived at school by 8.40, for the register - lessons will begin at 8.45am.

Children will be marked late if they arrive after 8.45am, with an unauthorised absence for the morning if they arrive after 9.15am

As a result of this change - there will be no changes to the duration of lunch time or break time as we feel these breaks are important for the children.

There are also NO CHANGES to breakfast club which is offered at Kingswood and Leeds and Broomfield - children in Kingswood will just transfer to class slightly earlier.

Staff and governors did consider other options such as extending the day, but felt that bringing the schools in line with one another was best and also extending the part of the day when children are freshest and learn best (the morning) was preferable.

If you have concerns about bringing your child/ren into school ten minutes earlier - please do contact your child's head of school.

TIK TOK

We have been alerted to some trends on Tik Tok that are very concerning and have involved primary school children in other schools. There is one particular one that is very concerning - children are encouraged to hold their breath until they pass out. This has been discussed in primary school playgrounds with some children trying it. Although this hasn't happened within the Aspire schools we will talk very generally about online safety and Tik Tok to our year 3-6 pupils to ensure they know what to do if they see or hear something that is worrying. We will also remind them that children under the age of 13 should not have Tik Tok accounts. Please do contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns regarding their social media use. Thank you.

Internet Safety

There is much information online for parents to support them keeping their children safe online.

This video has been recommended as a good summary for parents.

<https://safetynet.skipseducational.org/train-the-trainer/>

You may want to particularly think about this issue with the long summer break coming up and children potentially spending more time on tablets, computers or gaming consoles. Wishing you all a very pleasant family weekend full of sunshine, paddling pools and BBQS!

I can be contacted if needed at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher