



Friday 25th February 2022

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to term 4! I am writing at the end of the first week with some news, information and the usual reminders.

Covid-19 vaccinations for clinically-vulnerable five to 11-year-olds.

The NHS in Kent and Medway is now offering the Covid-19 vaccine to eligible children aged five to 11-years-old who:

- are at higher risk from coronavirus due to **underlying health conditions** or
- share living accommodation, on most days, with someone who has a **weakened immune system**

You can find more information about this here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1046821/COVID-19-guide-for-parents-of-children-at-risk-aged-5-11_years.pdf

If they have an eligible child, parents will be invited to bring them to have the vaccine by their GP practice, a local vaccination service linked to their GP practice, or the NHS School-Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS).

Parents can either book an appointment directly with their GP, or use this link to book in with any provider: <https://lvs.healthit.org.uk/patheks>. Eligibility will be checked at the venue.

Safeguarding/child protection

This week we have reviewed along with an officer from KCC our provision to ensure the children within the Aspire schools are kept safe. We are meeting all necessary requirements, but were given some suggestions of how we could make our practice even better, all of which have been actioned. You will have received a child friendly version of the child protection policy along with some information for parents and visitors. We are also reviewing our policies around the use of the internet and some additional information will be added to the school websites.

Invicta academy - after school learning for year 5 and 6

In previous letters I have written to you about opportunities for pupils in years 5 and 6 to take part in after school live lessons both last term, as we were part of the pilot and over half term. This week I have received confirmation that we have been invited to take part in the scheme that will run from next week until the end of the academic year. I have yet to receive any additional information, but will send out as soon as I do. I know the year 5 and 6 children who took part last term found the sessions valuable so I would encourage your child to take part if possible.

Digital Kent's Hardware Access Scheme

I have been informed of a scheme in which we as schools can apply for devices for children to use at home, if they do not have access to a laptop, computer or tablet at home. If you feel this may apply to your child, please let your school office or head of school know and I will make the relevant applications. This is aimed at low income families who are not able to purchase a suitable device. Please provide the school with a parent email address so I can keep in touch regarding the application - thank you

Attendance

Please see some information attached from Mrs Masters, our Aspire lead for attendance. Like all schools we need to now improve our attendance following the end of covid restrictions. We work with KCC to issue letters and other actions such as penalty notices to improve pupil attendance. The letters are sent by the school on behalf of Kent attendance service. Please contact your child's head of school if you wish to discuss your child's attendance.

Trip to Horton Kirby

Next week Oak class, Badgers class, Tawny Owl class and Elder class are all going on a trip to Horton Kirby to take part in river study activities. This is linked to the class topics. The children will need to have returned the permission slip, the voluntary contribution and will need on the day of their trip to bring a packed lunch. The children should be dressed in their active uniform, and will need to bring wellies with them as well as a coat. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.

Wishing you all pleasant family weekends,

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation

