



School Newsletter

Aspire School

Individual for all, Aspirational for everyone

Term 1

October 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful first term back in school and it has been great to see how well pupils have settled into their new classes, especially those that are new to the school.

There have been many highlights to the term, but some that have really stood out are: Seeing the children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 Pathway 1 getting to use their new outdoor learning environments; the whole school pumpkin picking event that was arranged by Nathan; and the progress that has been made in developing OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning).

Towards the end of this term we have also had a full two-day Safeguarding Review in school, with Graham Chisnell, Ofsted Inspector. This has been a really positive experience for the school and confirmed that Aspire is a safe environment for your children and that the children feel safe in school.

I hope you enjoy your well-deserved break. As always, please contact the school if you have any queries or suggestions.

Kindest regards

Neil

Update from the Lead DSL

What a fantastic Term 1 we have had together! It has been so nice to see the children back after summer, ready to learn and ready to enjoy using our new outdoor equipment with their friends around the school.

As we approach the autumn break, I'm sure many of us are thinking about getting outside and enjoying the last of the good weather before winter starts. If you are looking for things to do with your children this half term, take a look at this page <https://tinyurl.com/SEND-activities-in-Kent> and you just might find something fun to do together.

My question to you this term is: How do you know what your child is accessing online?

Can you talk confidently about how you check what your children are using phones, tablets or gaming systems for or are you not quite sure what they are up to or who they are speaking to? If it is the latter, it is very easy to feel grateful when your child is engaged in something and they seem happy and occupied, especially when you are not very tech-savvy yourself.

If you need some help, the NSPCC have a guide which can help <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>. You can also speak with your child's teacher and they can help you with specific devices to make them safe.

Lastly, remember to take care of your mental health if you are feeling a bit frazzled. Talk to your family and friends or reach out for support, there is lots out there. We are happy to signpost you to an appropriate service or you can take a look here: <https://www.porchlight.org.uk/information-support/list-of-support-services>

Stay Safe
Tracy

Attendance Matters Term 1

Whole school attendance this year is **92.0%**

Newton Class have won Aubrey our new school attendance mascot for the **highest class attendance** this term with **97.6%**. **Well done Newton Class!**



Applegate were second this term with **97.3%**, amazing.

Massey were third this term with **96.1%** brilliant.

A big **THANK YOU** to all our Aspire families that have supported their children in attending school as much as possible this term and ensured that all **Non-urgent** appointments have been made outside of the school day to ensure Aspire attendance remains as high as possible in accordance with the local authority, DFE and Ofsted.

Below shows the attendance data for Aspire for this Term 1;

Total Number of day's absence this term; **467.5 school days**

Number of pupils with 100% attendance this term; 56 Amazing!

Number of pupils with attendance below 100% but above 96%: 32 Well done!

Number of pupils with attendance below 96% but above Aspire expected minimum 85%: 73

Keep up the brilliant work!

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming all the children back to Aspire school on Monday 4th November

PTA Update

We are excited to start another year of fundraising as the PTA this year. As always, any new volunteered are welcomed and appreciated. We would like to thank all the entrants for the bake off and all the attendees of the coffee morning. We are looking forward to term 2, with plans for Elfridges and Christmas cards in the works.

Shannon
PTA Lead

Please see reverse for Term 2 Events



Term 2 Events

Monday 4th November

Term 2 Begins

Monday 4th November – Friday 8th November

Poppies being sold from the School Office

Wednesday 6th November

Flu Immunisations in School

(Year R to 6)

Wednesday 13th November

The Real Life Autism Q&A Session

(more information to follow from Claire, FLO)

Friday 15th November

Children in Need Day

(Wear Spots to School for a suggestion donation of £1 to Children in Need)

Tuesday 3rd December

Year 6 (Applegate and Park) Film Project to Parents

Thursday 5th December

Secondary Phase Transfer Information Meeting

for Year 5 Parents

Wednesday 11th December

Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day

Thursday 17th and Wednesday 18th December

Elfridges (PTFA Christmas Shop)

(more information to follow from the PTFA)

Friday 20th December

Last Day of Term 2