

## Home Learning and Staying Connected



Well done to all of you who have been working at home, we have had a great response on Google Classroom and have now resolved most of the issues you were having. In between the more formal learning activities we have been trying to offer some light-hearted fun such as the head's 'challenge of the week' and a family quiz. We hope you have enjoyed these.

The most popular way of connecting with parents is through Facebook and Twitter. If you have not already, please like our [Facebook page](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

**Times Tables Achievements** – Well done to all of those children who are continuing to practise their times tables whilst at home. Keep practising as we have a tournament coming up on 25<sup>th</sup> January with all Aspire schools competing. We made it to 7<sup>th</sup> place last time, let's aim to get further up the leader board this time!

Rock Hero Status		Most Active Classes
Henry S Oscar W Charlotte S Kenny C Alfie B Neo J Riley M Marley R Kai C	Layton P Jacob L Abi B Johan P Haydn D Alfie H Finley O Lily L	1 <sup>st</sup> – Hawthorn 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Holly 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Rowan 

### Contacting the school office

We are experiencing a high level of calls and emails to the office and are doing our very best to get back to you as soon as we can. We thank you all for your patience at this time and also for the positive feedback and support that we have received. Please remember that we are unable to respond to questions and queries via social media.

### Free School Meals Update

Aspire are currently processing Wonde vouchers to cover the period up to end of w/c 11th January as the government's Edenred voucher scheme runs from w/c 18th January. We ask you to please bear with us a little longer as this takes time to process. We will be in touch with you ASAP. Thank you for your enduring patience and support. It is much appreciated. 🙏

If your financial circumstances have changed you may be entitled to Free School Meals. Please follow the link below and complete the [online form](#). If you are unable to apply online, please call the Free School Meals team on 01872 323298.



In the meantime, our wonderful community have pulled together and we have had several donations of food and money given to us by members of the local community. Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity. Our friends at ASDA have also generously donated a number of food items. All of the food donated and purchased is being distributed to families in our school community. It is at times like this when we get to feel the true spirit of a community and what it means to be part of one.

## Online Safeguarding through Lockdown

As the majority of our children are now at home accessing their learning online, can I please take this opportunity to remind you of a few key pointers aimed at keeping your child safe.

1. **Do not give out username/password details to anyone.** If you are having issues logging in to any of our systems, please contact the school to help you resolve this. These log in details give your child direct access to online systems, including Google Classrooms, so it is essential we know that those logging on are who they say they are.
2. **Online Supervision.** With many of you having the difficult task of working from home and supervising your child's learning at the same time, it is inevitable that there are periods of time where children may be working unsupervised. For this reason, it is important to have parental controls set up to ensure that any online activity is age appropriate.
3. **Communicating Online.** The school systems we have in place ensure that the only communication children can have is directly with their class teacher. All communication to a child will come through Google Classroom. If a child receives a message through any other application, this will not have come from school.
4. **Parental Communication.** All communication to parents will come through the usual channels of email, text or telephone call.
5. **Time spent online.** Each day, the work set will be made up of a mixture of online and offline activities. It is not good for children to spend hours sat in front of a screen, so consider setting up a timetable to ensure plenty of offline activities, along with time during the day when no work is undertaken and children get some daily exercise and fresh air.
6. **Communication between friends.** As children are seeing each other less, online communication with each other is likely to increase. Please discuss with your children about appropriate online behaviours and monitor any online activity. Look carefully at the apps they are using, as many are aimed at older children. For example, both Tic-Toc and Snapchat are aimed at children aged 13+.

## Keyworkers

We strongly advise that parents/carers DO NOT use a critical worker place if there is another adult at home, even if you are entitled to. The national lockdown is intended to minimise community transmission. It will not do this if parents send their children to school just because they can.

Critical worker provision is ONLY for parents who have NO OTHER CHILDCARE OPTION. Using this provision if another option is available will mean that someone who is in need may be struggling to provide care for their child. It also means it will take longer for us to come out of lockdown, as transmission will be higher than it needs to be.

Parents are asked to consider others and ONLY use their local school service if it is imperative to do so.

**"Do you need to report a POSITIVE COVID-19 test?"**

In the first instance, please contact your school office by phone. If the school is closed, complete the form at the link below to report a positive test.

[www.aspireacademytrust.org/coronavirus](http://www.aspireacademytrust.org/coronavirus)

**Thank you for your support and stay safe everyone**