



Friday 22nd April 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your children's first week back has gone smoothly. For many of the staff team it has been very busy as we have had OFSTED visit Platts Heath.

### **OFSTED at Platts Heath**

Ofsted visited Platts Heath on Tuesday 20th April and Wednesday 21st April. It was a two day Section 5 inspection as the school was judged to be 'requires improvement' at its previous inspection. The report is due to be published in thirty working days. I will of course share the outcome and report as soon as I have it.

Thank you to the staff team who were involved for all their hard work, to the governors for their support and the parents and pupils at Platts Heath for their enthusiasm and support of the school.

### **Reconnect Offers**

The following information is offered from KCC Reconnect, the organisation who offers the school holiday activities.

#### **Kent's Big Writing Challenge** **Primary and Secondary Offer**

We want children and young people to tell us about their local heroes, of all shapes and sizes, in entries of up to 500 words. Entries can be co-written with another child or young person, or individual, with a maximum of 3 writers for every entry. Stories can be about real local heroes or can be fictional. There are three different age categories: key stage 1, key stage 2, and key stages 3 and 4. The deadline for entries is 31st May 2022.

There will be district winners for each category and three overall category winners.

Winners will be presented with awards at a ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral on 30th August 2022, where all will receive a framed certificate and a commemorative book with all the winning entries. In addition to this, the three overall winners will receive a specially designed glass trophy and KCC will be funding a trip for the individuals' classes. Nick Butterworth, nationally renowned author of the Percy the Park Keeper children's books, will also be attending the awards ceremony.

This may be something that your child will be entered into through their school, but if they

would like to take part outside of this, you can submit on their behalf. This is a great opportunity to expand learning in English and Literacy.

### Kent Children's University Family Membership – 50% Discount

12 months' Kent Children's University family membership – 50% discount until the beginning of September 2022!

Children's University used to be solely a school-based programme but has been opened to families where a child's school is not involved or if the child is electively home educated. With funding from Reconnect, KCU is offering a discounted enrolment fee of £12.50 for the year.

Children and families use Children's University Online to search for fun and enjoyable learning activities that take place outside normal school time. Activities range from trips to tourist destinations, music lessons, sessions in sports clubs, learning a language, and much more. Families can also access a range of free or low-cost materials to complete at home. The list of learning activities is growing so the opportunities are endless.

### Home Study Support

#### Primary and Secondary Offer

Do you think your child would benefit from additional study support from home? Invicta National Academy is running a Home Study Support offer, which provides access to support from a qualified teacher virtually from home. The offer accessible to all pupils in Years 5 and 6 (upper KS2 offer) and all KS4 pupils. Since its launch on 28<sup>th</sup> February, over 1,000 pupils have registered, with a high attendance across the sessions. Feedback so far has been very positive.

Home Study Support gives virtual access to a qualified teacher two evenings a week for Upper KS2 and KS4 pupils. The sessions next term will start again week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> April:

- Upper KS2 Maths 5-6pm Tuesday and Thursday
- Upper KS2 English 6-7pm Tuesday and Thursday
  - KS4 Maths 5-6pm Tuesday and Thursday
  - KS4 Science 6-7pm Tuesday
  - KS4 English 6-7pm Thursday

### What's On Guide

Reconnect has funded a range of local activities and events for children and young people. Organisations are regularly uploading information about their activities to our What's On Guide.

### **Swimming - Year 4 - Kingswood and Platts Heath**

This week, Year 4 children from Platts Heath and Kingswood have started swimming lessons with Mrs Steer and Miss Liddicoat. Some Year 3 children who still have progress to make have also been invited back this term. Please make sure if your child is attending that they have a swimming kit on a Thursday.

Wishing you and your families pleasant weekends.

I can be contacted at [exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk) during office hours if needed.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling

Executive Headteacher

Aspire Federation