



Friday 20th May 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you on a rainy Friday to update you on the latest news and provide information about forthcoming events.

Swimming Gala

Thank you to all parents who came to support and helped with transport - this was the first ever Aspire swimming gala and it was great to see all the children showing off their skills. Thank you to Mrs Steer, Ms Liddicoat and Mrs Cannell, our swimming teachers and all the children for their fabulous swimming. We are lucky to be able to use the facilities at Sutton Valence free of charge and hope this continues for years to come.

Supermarket Vouchers

All children who receive income related free school meals will receive a supermarket voucher for £15 for the half term week. This is to cover the cost of the children's lunches for that week and can be used within the supermarket on food and basics. The vouchers will be issued by your child's school by the end of next week. Please contact your child's school office if your child receives free school meals and you have not received a voucher.

Reconnect

For those families who were issued with leisure centre passes before Easter, along with the supermarket vouchers, there are now dedicated websites to explain what each leisure centre has to offer. I have listed these below.

Swallows Leisure Centre, Swale

<https://www.swaleleisure.com/swallows-leisure-centre/reconnect/>

Sheppey Leisure Complex, Swale

<https://www.swaleleisure.com/sheppey-leisure-complex/reconnect/>

Hermitage Park Community Centre, Maidstone

<https://hermitagepark.org/whats-on>

Maidstone Leisure Centre, Maidstone

<https://www.maidstoneleisure.com/reconnect/>

Tenterden Leisure Centre, Ashford

<https://www.tenterdenleisure.com/reconnect/>

Meopham Leisure Centre, Gravesham

<https://www.meophamleisure.com/reconnect/>

Please see the relevant centre pages for details of their exact offer, as these differ slightly at each site.

Reconnect is a Kent County Council led, community based programme designed to get Kent's children and young people thriving following the pandemic.

Clubs, businesses and organisations have come together to create fabulous opportunities for children and young people. Together they can have fun, catch up on missed learning, engage in sports and activities, trips and experiences, receive mental health support, regain their confidence and gain access to career development opportunities.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/reconnect>

There are discounted activities available for all children (up to 18 years, or 25 if referred), however further discounts are available to children eligible for Free School Meals.

To take part in the Reconnect activities, families need to simply visit the reception at the leisure centre with their electronic 'Reconnect Card/Voucher' that you should have circulated to them. In addition, a child is part of a supported group and is eligible via referral, please ask a representative of this body to make contact directly.

Some activities require booking in advance.

Jubilee celebrations

Please see below for a reminder of the information regarding the Jubilee celebrations which were in my letter last week.

Jubilee Celebrations - Friday 27th May 2022

There have been some queries about this event so I will attempt to answer some of these below.

Platts Heath site will close at 12pm, as children have been invited to attend a picnic at Ulcombe. Kingswood and Leeds and Broomfield Sites will close at 1.15pm after the children have eaten lunch.

Parents have three options

- 1) Pick your child up from school at either 12/ 1.15pm and transport them to the celebrations for the jubilee at Ulcombe, where you can stay with your child and leave together at the end of the afternoon.
- 2) Pick up your child at the allotted time and take them home, if you do not wish them to join the celebrations.
- 3) Request your child be transported to the event by Aspire staff as you are working/ do not have access to transport - you will need to contact your child's school office to arrange this.

We do encourage as many children as possible to attend the celebrations at Ulcombe so that they can enjoy the crafts, games and cake ! The children will also be all joining together to sing a jubilee song.

If you are able to transport other children as well as your own, please do let your school office know as this would really help us out.

Next Week - Monday 23rd May - Wednesday 25th May 2022

Next week Ulcombe, Leeds and Broomfield and Kingswood all have financial compliance visits from Monday to Wednesday. These will involve the heads of school, myself and the office staff. Please be patient if it takes us a little longer to answer queries. Thank you

Wishing you all pleasant family weekends,

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation