



Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a good week.

I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information. I can be contacted at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk between 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday for queries and questions. Also Lauren my PA can be contacted at lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk. Any requests for meetings or appointments can be made through Lauren - thank you.

Secondary Transition Project-

At Aspire we are very aware that transition from primary to secondary school can be a daunting prospect for many children. For this reason, our schools will be taking part in the Maidstone Transition Programme in order to make that move from year 6 to 7 just that little bit easier.

The programme will start this term and will run throughout the rest of the year with the majority of the work taking place in terms 5 and 6. By the end of July 2024, we hope your child will feel more prepared to move on, having had the opportunity to learn about and practise some of the many skills/tasks expected at secondary school, such as personal organisation, meeting uniform expectations, changing rooms for lessons, writing at speed, reading a timetable and managing homework etc.

In addition to the activities at school, we will also be sending tips and activities home for you to complete with your children, which will further help them to prepare for year 7 and support you to feel more confident about sending them to secondary school.

Thank you to Naomi Coleman for organising this, more documents and information will be shared with you throughout the terms.

Holiday Club Information-

Chelsea FC Foundation have three, 1-day soccer schools running during the February half term.

These clubs are running in various locations across Kent. Visit the website below for more information and how to book if you are interested-

<https://chelseafcfoundation.com/soccerschools/index.htm>

Additional Financial Support-

Kent County Council is currently working with Citizens Advice North and West Kent to support residents on low incomes who are taking positive steps to address their debts.

Residents could be eligible for additional support towards their household energy bill and receive up to £500 (subject to eligibility criteria).

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this scheme, residents must at a minimum meet the following qualifying criteria:

- Be aged 16 or over.
- Be a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bromley, and Bexley)
- Be responsible for paying the household energy bill (one award per household). If a partner is awarded an energy card, but is not the main energy account holder, they can still use the card against the household energy costs.
- Be accessing support through the 'Kent Money Advice Hub'.

Other eligibility criteria will apply and be assessed through the debt advice process.

Funding is limited so please encourage residents that meet the above criteria to contact the Kent Money Advice Hub by clicking on the link below:

[Kent Money Advice Hub](#)

Thursday 1st February 2024-Time to Talk Day.

Time to Talk Day is run by Mind and Rethink Mental Illnesses in England. The day is all about creating supportive communities by having conversations with family, friends or colleagues about Mental Health.

The aim of this day is for everyone to feel comfortable talking about Mental Health and to reduce the stigma around this.

So note this day to highlight that it's good to talk, it's not a secret if you need to talk and talking about our worries or thoughts with our trusted adults is healthy.

Please see the attached link where you can download a host of materials to help start Mental Health conversations-

<https://timetotalkday.co.uk/download-a-pack/#74-58-activities>

National Storytelling Week-

Saturday 27th January- Sunday 4th February 2024 is National Storytelling week.

Please share lots of stories to your child/ren this week. I am sure there will be lots of exciting and different stories told at school next week.

There are lots of resources and events that may be of interest-

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/national-storytelling-week/#:~:text=In%202024%2C%20National%20Storytelling%20Week,27%20January%20to%204%20February.>

Young Voices-

Following on from the visit to the O2 last week, I thought you may like to see a few pictures of those that attended.



Leeds and Broomfield



Kingswood



Platts Heath



Ulcombe

NSPCC Number Day – Friday 2nd February

On Friday 2 February we will be supporting the NSPCC Number Day by celebrating maths throughout our learning on this day.



We are inviting the children to come into school dressed as their TT Rockstars avatar or any Rockstar in exchange for a £2 voluntary donation. For the younger children who use Numbots, they can dress up in a colour to represent one of the Numbots. Remember, black bin bags make extremely good costumes!

If you'd like to learn more about how to support your child with their times tables, please visit <https://www.trockstars.com/parents/> for tips and advice.

For more information on this event, please visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/charity-fundraising/schools-fundraising-ideas/number-day>

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher