



Friday 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a good last week of term.

I hope you all had a good last week of term. I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information.

Please note that during the Half Term, I will not be monitoring my emails on a daily basis, but will endeavour to respond to anything urgent.

I can be contacted at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk. 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.

Scanning QR Codes -

Cyber criminals are increasingly exploiting QR technology to direct people to malicious websites designed to steal people's personal and financial information.

QR codes have become a convenient part of everyday life but they also carry hidden risks. A recent Sky News investigation revealed that organised crime groups are using QR code stickers across UK streets, including near schools, to promote illegal online cannabis delivery services. These links lead to slick websites offering next-day delivery, with transactions handled through banks and cryptocurrency. The products are often unregulated and potentially dangerous.

Criminals are also using fake QR codes to trick people into giving away personal or financial information. Some replace legitimate

To stay safe, only scan QR codes from trusted sources, avoid using third-party scanning apps, and double-check links before following them. Suspicious QR code activity should be reported to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/qr-codes>

Kent test (11 +)-

Should you wish to register your child for the Kent Test (the 11+), which will take place in September you will need to complete the online form.

Registration opens **2nd June**- parents/carers can apply online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>. **Registration closes 1 July 2025**

You will need to register your child online to sit the test in September if you wish to apply for them to attend a Grammar School.

The Kent test will take place in school on **Thursday 11th September 2025**. If you register your child for the test, they must be in school on this date to take the test. **Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about your child's suitability for the test.**

Equine Sessions-

The Next Steps Forward, based in both Charing Heath and Deal are offering various Therapeutic services.

Alongside established Equine Therapy sessions for schools, they now have expanded options available for families seeking support outside of school hours.

These sessions offer young people the chance to regulate, connect, and grow in supportive outdoor spaces with trauma-informed facilitators.

Please see leaflet attached for more information or visit- <https://www.thenextstepsforward.com/>

Free School Meals-

For those families who are entitled to free school meals, please do look out for your supermarket voucher for £10 per child for the Half-Term week.

Half Term Activities-

Please visit <https://www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on/events-calendar/half-term> for lots of inspiration and ideas for activities for all during the half term, should you wish to look for further ideas. This also includes various discounts available for days out for all the family.

Wishing you all a lovely Half-term. This year has whizzed by and I can't believe we are already entering the last term of the Academic Year. **I look forward to welcoming all back on Monday 2nd June.**

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher