



Friday 23rd June 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to you at the end of another hot and sunny week, I hope you have all had a chance to enjoy the sunshine. I am writing with the usual round up of information and news.

Year 5 and 6 Cricket

A team from Leeds and Broomfield, Kingswood and Platts Heath went to a cricket tournament this week. This event was organised by The Ashford school games and our teams taken by Ms Liddicoat. All the children had a great time, and played and behaved very well. Platts Heath came 9/14 in the competition - our highest ranked team. Well done to them and all children who took part! It is great to be able to take part in competitive sports again, we plan to involve the children in many more opportunities next year.

Summer reading challenge

**The Summer Reading Challenge is back!** Children aged 4-11 are invited to join the Summer Reading Challenge in Kent Libraries this summer. The Summer Reading Challenge 2022 will start on 9th July & will continue to run throughout the summer, finishing on 10th September.

The Summer Reading Challenge is aimed at keeping children reading throughout the summer while away from school, as well as supporting parents and carers with children already at home. And it's completely free!

'**Gadgeteers**' is the theme for 2022 – in partnership with the Science Museum Group , this Summer Reading Challenge will inspire children and their families to get inspired about reading, imagination and to explore amazing science around them everyday. Children will join the Gadgeteers characters as they work together to create awesome inventions and solve problems by working together. As children read library books, they will collect special rewards along the way and there's a certificate and medal for everyone who completes the challenge.

As in previous years, children can choose to join and participate in the Summer Reading Challenge by visiting their nearest library or they can take part by visiting the [Summer Reading Challenge website](#). Once completed, children (whether library members or not) can visit the library for their medal and certificate.

The Summer Reading Challenge has been shown to help encourage children to continue their reading over the summer, which helps keep up their literacy skills during the long summer holiday, and we would love your help in supporting as many children to take part as possible.

Please see the attached poster for more details.

Free bus pass for year 6 children and older siblings

### **Free bus travel for young people this summer holiday**

Our local bus operators have again kindly agreed to support children, young people and families this summer holiday with free bus travel. Pupils in years 6 to 13 will be able to travel free on buses within Kent, from 23<sup>rd</sup> July until 31<sup>st</sup> August inclusive, using a bus pass we will provide for distribution via schools. Families will be able to access a family bus pass, and I will provide more information on this separately.

We had proposed to move predominantly to a digital bus pass, but survey work with families and young people indicates the significant majority would prefer a physical bus pass. Therefore, we are making available both physical and electronic passes which pupils can use.

We are conscious that Year 11 and 13 pupils will be finishing with you in the next few days. The printing company will send each secondary school sufficient printed passes to cover these two year groups. These will be sent in the post in the next couple of days. Of course, if a pupil simply wishes to have the digital pass, any leftover physical passes can be held and added to the second delivery to your school which will provide passes for the remaining year groups. These are expected to be with you within two weeks.

The digital pass is a simple pdf which can be found and downloaded at this link:  
[https://www.kelsi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/136945/Reconnect-Young-Persons-Bus-Pass.pdf](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/136945/Reconnect-Young-Persons-Bus-Pass.pdf)

If you have any further queries, please email us at [reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk](mailto:reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk) or call a member of the Programme Team on 03000 423423.

Vouchers for the summer holidays

Those families who have children who receive benefits related free school meals will receive two vouchers for the summer holidays. The first is the usual supermarket vouchers - £15 per week per child. In addition to this you will also receive a family activities voucher which entitled the children to 16 hours a week of activities for 4 weeks. A leaflet is attached with more details.

Hot weather

Just a reminder that the hot weather is set to continue, please ensure that your children have plenty of water, have had suncream put on and if possible have a hat. These are especially important if your child is taking part in a sporting activity or sports day.

## Parents Evenings

Parents evenings will be held before the end of term, if your child is in year R, 1 2, 4 or 6 their results and outcomes will be discussed for the following:

End of foundation stage/ Early years

Phonics screening

Multiplication tables check

Years 2 SATS

Years 6 SATS

Please ask your school office for details of the parents' evenings for your child.

Please do contact me if you have any queries at [exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk) during office hours.

Wishing you all lovely sunshine filled family weekends.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher  
Aspire Federation