



Friday 8th July 2022

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you on a very warm Friday, at very nearly the end of the academic year! Please find below the usual information and news.

Next week - Heatwave

Next week is predicted to be very hot, with temperatures reaching over 30 degrees. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately, and has a hat, water bottle has been advised that we may shorten playing outside times if it is very hot. Staff have been sent advice from the DFE about how to support children in school during a heatwave which I have summarised below:

Protecting children outdoors

During periods of high temperature, the following steps should be taken:

- children should not take part in vigorous physical activity on very hot days, such as when temperatures are in excess of 30°C
- encourage children playing outdoors to stay in the shade as much as possible
- children should wear loose, light-coloured clothing to help keep cool and sunhats with wide brims to avoid sunburn
- use sunscreen (at least factor 15 with UVA protection) to protect skin if children are playing or taking lessons outdoors for more than 20 minutes
- provide children with plenty of water (such as water from a cold tap) and encourage them to drink more than usual when conditions are hot

Protecting children indoors

During periods of high temperature, the following steps should be taken:

- open windows as early as possible in the morning before children arrive, or preferably overnight to allow stored heat to escape from the building – it is important to check insurance conditions and the need for security if windows are to be left open overnight
- almost close windows when the outdoor air becomes warmer than the air indoors – this should help keep the heat out while allowing adequate ventilation
- use outdoor sun awnings if available, or close indoor blinds or curtains, but do not let them block window ventilation
- keep the use of electric lighting to a minimum

- switch off all electrical equipment, including computers, monitors and printers when not in use – equipment should not be left in ‘standby mode’ as this generates heat
- if possible, use those classrooms or other spaces which are less likely to overheat, and adjust the layout of teaching spaces to avoid direct sunlight on children
- oscillating mechanical fans can be used to increase air movement if temperatures are below 35°C – at temperatures above 35°C fans may not prevent heat-related illness and may worsen dehydration
- if necessary, consider rearranging school start, finish, and play times to avoid teaching during very hot conditions
- encourage children to eat normally and drink plenty of cool water

Year 6 Transition day

All year 6 pupils have been invited to Kingswood primary school for the day on Wednesday 13th July 2022. They can wear their own clothes but these must be suitable for forest school type activities such as trousers or leggings, trainers, or wellies, and a hat. The children will need a packed lunch and a water bottle. The children need to be dropped off at Kingswood in the morning at 9.15 am and can be collected from Kingswood at 2.50pm. Any questions please contact your child’s class teacher.

Parents’ questionnaire

We have been sent the below letter from KCC to share with parents. Here is the link to the survey: <https://kentcc-self.achieveservice.com/service/provide-feedback-on-your-child-s-experiences-of-education>

Children, Young People and Education
Education and SEND department



Dear Parent / Carer

We have asked your child’s school to share this letter to you on our behalf.

Kent County Council have been working together with partners including schools, Parent and Carers Together (PACT) and SEND to improve the quality of educational outcomes and inclusion in KENT. We are keen to understand more about you and your child’s usual experience of the education system in Kent so that we can identify and inform improvements and would be grateful if you have the time to complete this short survey with your views.

[Inclusive Education - Parent and Carer Survey](#)

Your responses will not be shared with your child's school in a way that your child can be identified, if you want to discuss individual issues, please address these with the school directly.

Moving forward, we will write to you termly, updating you on action taken in response to any issues you raise through the survey



On the SEND Information Hub website, we now have a new section called - [School options for your SEND child - Kent County Council](#) This is where you can find all the information you need about finding a: mainstream school, specialist resource provision, special school or independent school in Kent.

We also have a dedicated page to [SEND support in schools - Kent County Council](#) Here you can find out about the support available for your child. We link to the Mainstream Core Standards which outlines the support you can expect for your child in their education setting.

We are considering having a section dedicated to Specific Learning Difficulties with links to relevant resources. Is this something you think would be useful for you and your child, and would you like further information about the different need types to be included on the website? If so, please contact the Local Offer Team using yourvoice2@kent.gov.uk to contribute your ideas.

We wish you a peaceful summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine McInnes".

Christine McInnes
Director of Education

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Walker".

Mark Walker
Director of SEND

Wishing you all lovely family weekends in the sunshine. I can be contacted during office hours at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation