



Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you at the end of week three with my usual round up of news and information.

### Poppy Project

All four Aspire schools have been invited to take part in the Kingswood community poppy project. The aim is that each child will make a poppy to be part of the display. The poppies will be made from the bottom part of plastic bottles and paint.

The display will be near the village sign in Kingswood - below is an image as to what the project is aiming to achieve.



Each child will need a plastic bottle (a coke or water style bottle are the best). Please can you keep these at home until October when we will ask the children to bring them in. School will supply the paint and the children will make their poppy in school. They will then be incorporated as part of the display.

Here is a picture of the type of bottle each child will need



We are aiming for the poppies to look like this! We think this is a lovely thing for the children to get involved in, and I look forward to visiting the display once finished, as I am sure you will too.

### Household fund.

Just a reminder regarding the KCC household support fund that I wrote to you about on Friday 9th September. Please find details below.

Household support fund - Fuel Vouchers KCC has a small household support fund to support families who are struggling financially within the cost of living crisis.

Families can be nominated to receive a £150 voucher to support payments for energy bills.

Families will need to meet the following criteria

- are aged 16 or over
- are a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bexley, or Bromley)
- are in receipt of means-tested benefits or household income is less than £16,200 per annum before tax
- haven't previously accessed this round of Household Support funding.

The following information will also be needed:

- National Insurance number
- Energy providers name
  - How the person pays for their energy (pre-payment meter, Direct Debit or if off grid and using oil)
- Benefits received

If you feel you are eligible and your family would benefit from a voucher, please contact your school office. Applications have to be received by KCC no later than 30/9/22.

## KCC SEND OFSTED inspection

KCC are being inspected on the quality of their provision for children with SEND. Here is some information from the KCC website  
Ofsted and the CQC will conduct a 3 day re-visit to Kent from Tuesday 27 to Thursday 29 September.

### **What the re-visit entails**

The purpose of the re-visit is for inspectors to assess whether the local area (Kent County Council and the local NHS) has made enough progress in addressing the areas of significant weakness detailed in the Written Statement of Action following the [inspection in 2019](#). They will not be able to follow up or comment on individual cases or investigate new areas of concern.

Inspectors will want to find out our understanding of the impact of the pandemic on children and young people, and the SEND system, what we have learned and how we have adapted our services and support as a result.

They will also want to see how we have involved children and young people and their families in co-producing decisions about how best to support them.

Together with the local NHS, we must provide Ofsted and the CQC with:

- evidence of improvements relating to each area of significant weakness detailed by the written statement of action
- information about tribunals and local government ombudsman judgements.

During their visit, inspectors will be working closely with Kent PACT to gain an understanding of the experiences of parents and carers in relation to what is set out in the [Written Statement of Action](#).

## **Parent/ carer survey**

They are also seeking the views of parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) via an online survey.

The link for the survey is here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KentCountyCouncilRevistLASEND/>

If you are a parent or carer with a child with SEND please do take this opportunity to express your views.

Wishing you all pleasant family weekends,

You can contact me during office hours at [exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk) if needed

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling

Executive Headteacher

Aspire Federation