



Friday 9th September 2022

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you on the first Friday of the school year, following some very sad news that has shocked the nation. You will have seen on the news last night that our Queen passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family. All Aspire schools will be marking this with an assembly today and explaining to the children in a simple way about the loss of our Queen whilst also welcoming King Charles to the throne. We as leaders have already received emails from the DFE and the diocese about the actions we should be taking over the next few days. We shall be following advice and will keep you informed, schools will remain open as usual.

Family learning courses

Kent adult education offers family learning courses, such as family first aid, yoga, and various arts and crafts. I attended some of these some years ago now when my daughter was young and they were enjoyable. Please find attached to this letter the booklet detailing all the courses and a booking form.

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.

Church services

We have been informed that church services in the Len Valley Benefice have been rearranged to 10:30 this Sunday and will be commemorative services following the sad news we received as a nation yesterday regarding the Queen.

Swimming

Swimming lessons will start again next week for Platts Heath and Kingswood year 3 pupils and will take place on a Thursday at Sutton Valence School. A letter will be sent out shortly with details. Please ensure the permission slips are returned so that your child can attend. Costs are kept as low as possible as we have free use of the pool and just need to cover travel costs. Childrens' achievements will be celebrated later in the year with a swimming gala.

I can be contacted via email at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk during working hours.

Wishing you all pleasant family weekends,
Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation