



Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you on Remembrance Day. I visited the poppy display in Kingswood today and felt it was a beautiful tribute to all those who gave their lives at war for us to live in peace. It was lovely that the Aspire children could contribute to it by making a poppy. I would encourage you all to visit the display if possible, it is only a short walk from Kingswood school on Gravelly Bottom road.

Ulcombe and Leeds and Broomfield - Year 6 Cathedral day.

As church schools Leeds and Broomfield and Ulcombe, Year 6 pupils were invited to the annual Canterbury Cathedral schools day. Children from the schools were invited to lead the message part of the service and Daysie (Ulcombe) and Issac and Bertie (Leeds and Broomfield) bravely volunteered. They delivered a very powerful speech about injustice and involved the congregation in their questioning. Mrs Steer, who led the trip, was very proud of the children, along with the rest of the Ulcombe and Leeds staff. We have received some very positive emails in response:

An immense 'thank you' to the children who spoke at the Cathedral Schools Day worship this afternoon. I was really moved by the children's honest and thoughtful accounts of racism, and so impressed by the way in which all of them brilliantly framed their reflections and questions around injustice. It's a joy and privilege to experience how schools are enabling children to lead worship in this way; they were not just great advocates but offered a powerful message to both children and adults.

Please pass on my gratitude to them and to the staff who encouraged them – an inspiring reminder of why we have this amazing vocation to children and young people!

With all good wishes

Quentin Roper

*Director of Education
Canterbury Diocese*

It was lovely to have Leeds and Broomfield and Ulcombe with us for the day! I hope the children and the adults enjoyed themselves.

I just wanted to say thank you again to the children who helped lead our worship today through sharing the talk. They did a fantastic job and what they had written and then shared today was so fitting with the theme. The congregation engaged really well with it and their talk demonstrated how worship can be inclusive of everyone. It made members of our team emotional! Please pass on our thanks again to them.

Look forward to connecting again soon.

Take care,

*Natalie Ralph
Schools officer
Canterbury Diocese*

Maths Courses for families

Please find below some information regarding free maths courses for families

Free* blended Maths courses

Does the thought of maths make you anxious? If so, we can help you.
Come and join us on one of our friendly maths blended courses

*Subject to eligibility criteria

Number Bugs

This course will support you as a family, to develop an interest and extend knowledge of local bugs, participate in indoor and outdoor activities, and encourage empathy with wildlife and habitat.

- Use a simple identification key
- Understand what mini-beasts are and their habitats
- Develop problem solving strategies and explore new ideas
- Work in small groups and explore different ways to be creative
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Bust any fears you have about maths

Number of sessions 2

Gardening with Numbers

Support your children to develop their maths skills, by gaining the knowledge to help them progress, whilst engaging with them through games and activities.

- Make games, puppets and activities designed to develop children's early maths skills
- Develop your understanding of maths and how to support your children's development
- Explore numbers, calculating and shape, space and measure
- Discover ways of making maths fun
- Brush up on your own maths skills
- Make new friends, build confidence and self-esteem
- Explore new ideas and develop problem solving strategies

Number of sessions 5

Love learning about Money

This course will give you the confidence to talk about money with your children, and help you to develop a good understanding of how to manage money now and in the future.

- Encourage your children to think sensibly about money
- Learn how to cope with pester power
- Discover how to make memories without it costing you a fortune
- Get advice on how to save money and how to encourage your children to save
- Budgeting help
- Learn to understand percentages
- Explore games to play with your children to improve 'money' knowledge

Number of sessions 5

Love to Cook - make your money go further

This course will help you to try new ideas and recipes, which can be incorporated into an affordable, healthy and balanced family diet.

- Cook a variety of affordable, healthy foods to share with your family
- Use measures and conversion tables when shopping and preparing food
- Compile ideas for healthy breakfasts, lunches and snacks
- Read and understand Guideline Daily Amounts (GDAs) food labels and tables
- Try new foods and discuss likes and dislikes
- Bust those fears you have about maths

Number of sessions 4

Maths for ESOL

This course aims to support you, if you learnt maths outside of the UK and English is not your first language.

- Understand maths terminology
- Learn about addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Build your confidence
- Improve your maths skills in a fun and enjoyable way

Number of sessions 5

For further details please contact:

multiplykent@kent.gov.uk

Holiday Activity Vouchers

KCC are able to provide activity vouchers for pupils who receive benefit related free school meals. This will entitle each child to an activity within the Christmas holidays. Each school office will issue the vouchers over the next few weeks. Please contact your child's school if you have any queries. Details about the relevant activities will follow as we receive them.

Remembrance Day Services

The annual Remembrance Sunday commemorations in Maidstone will take place on Sunday 13 November.

As in previous years the day will be marked by a parade and a Service of Remembrance, including the two-minute silence at 11.00am at the Memorial in The Broadway, followed by the laying of wreaths.

During the event Maidstone's Mayor, Cllr Derek Mortimer, will be joined by Lt Col Mark Hendry MBE RE, Commanding Officer of 36 Engineer Regiment and the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, to take the salute from the parade.

Wishing you all happy family weekends. I can be contacted at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk if needed during working hours

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling

Executive Headteacher

