



Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have all had a good week and are looking forward to the weekend- I know I am! We are already at the end of the second week of term, so I am writing with my usual round up of information and news.

SEN Advice line

An Advice Line was opened in September 2022 to parents and professionals who want advice from an SLT, a Physiotherapist or an Occupational Therapist about any child not currently known to the Kent Children's Therapies service. Our clinicians are able to provide you with advice, sign-posting to further information, or we may recommend a referral for a fuller assessment.

The Advice Line is open on 0300 123 7004, Monday to Friday, between the following hours:

Speech and Language Therapy – 10.00-12.30 and 13.30-15.30

Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy – 9.30-12.00 OR 14.00-16.30

Primary School Places for September 2023

Just a reminder that applications for places for Year R in September 2023, close on Monday 16th January

Friday 4 November 2022 Online application process opens. Go to www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions to register and apply.

Monday 16 January 2023 Online application process closes for the main round. Any amendments after this date must be emailed to kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk

Please remember to apply for a place if you already have a child at one of the Aspire schools, places are not automatic and we would hate for you to miss out!

Energy Vouchers

The scheme where teachers and school professionals can refer families for an energy voucher has opened again.

Funded by the UK government, the Household Support Fund scheme supports vulnerable Kent households in need of help with significantly rising living costs. As one element of support, we have set up a scheme for professionals to refer people into.

The scheme is now live and available for applications to be made.

You can apply up until 31 March 2023, or until the budget is spent.

If successful, support will be provided in the form of the following:

- £100 Post Office cash-out voucher to be used to pay for energy costs within the household. We are also able to consider providing vouchers to off-grid customers.

Applications can only be made by schools. If you think you may fit the below criteria, please contact your school office who will be able to assist you.

Applicants must

- be aged 16 or over
- be a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bromley, and Bexley)
- be in receipt of means tested benefits, or household income is less than £30,000 per annum before tax
- not have savings above £250
- not be receiving free school meals support for any child within their household (they will be receiving a payment via their children's school)

Individuals that have received the following support payments below are **not** eligible for support through the Professional Referral Fuel Voucher Scheme:

- £650 Cost of Living Payment (paid in two instalments)
- £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment
- £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment Winter Fuel Payment 2022/23

Winter Illnesses update

UKHSA advice remains clear that children can continue to attend as normal unless they are unwell and have a high temperature. There is no requirement to be absent from school on a precautionary basis. School staff should continue to maintain their high expectations for face-to-face attendance.

Young voices

This trip is happening on Tuesday 24th January. Please see the latest letter for information. If you have any queries, please contact the school office

Wishing you all happy family weekends,

I can be contacted as always at exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling

Executive Headteacher

Aspire Federation