



Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

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

### **The Aspire Choir - Young Voices**

Children and staff from all four schools traveled to the O2 on Tuesday to take part in the Young Voices celebration. Together we formed the Aspire Choir, the children sang their hearts out and represented their schools brilliantly! Thank you to Mrs Foad for her hard work in rehearsing with the children and for organising the event. Thank you also to the other staff for giving up their evening to accompany the children. We hope that all the parents who went to watch the children enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

We received the below message from Young voices and there is a link to a video of the concert that can be watched.

Dear Teachers

A HUGE congratulations to you and your choir for making YV23 concerts so memorable. We think you'll agree it was amazing!

Please let your YV choir families know that they can get the YV Concert Video by heading over to [yv23film.co.uk](http://yv23film.co.uk)

They can stream it the day after their concert and not only watch the concert but also lots of backstage and bonus footage, plus they can watch the first 5 minutes of the video for free to see how amazing it is.

PLEASE NOTE: All concerts will be available to stream for 6 months and downloadable to keep at the end of this period.

We have so much to look forward to

**The YV Team**

**[#YV23 #YVConcerts](#)**

## **Waiting times for pediatrics**

We understand that if you are waiting for a paediatrics assessment for your child, it is very frustrating as the waiting times are so long. At school we have no influence or control over this, but we can share the information we have. Please find below the latest communication we have received.

## **Waiting times for our Community Paediatrics Services**

We wanted to write to you about the waiting times for our Community Paediatric Service, in particular, the autism spectrum disorder assessment and the work we are doing to see children faster.

You may have seen the coverage from the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission [inspection](#) into care provided to children with special education needs (SEND) across the county and we know we all – Kent County Council, NHS Kent and Medway, schools and settings – want to do better for the children and families.

Like the rest of the country, waiting times for some of our services have increased due to the Covid-19 pandemic, increasing referral rates and a shortage of speech and language therapists. In particular, the wait for an autism spectrum disorder assessment is now between **36 to 42 months** for those children who need a joint assessment.

We would like to apologise and the reasons for the long waits are no consolation for the children, their families – or schools, like yourselves who are supporting them.

Our waiting lists were recently reviewed and we wanted to be honest and share this with families and also with your school, so everyone knows what to expect and importantly, how we can work better together to help these children and families.

Thanks for your support.

**KCHFT's Community Paediatrics Team**

## **February Half Term - holiday camp**

We have received some more information about a holiday camp for February half term. Please see below for some information.



Half-term is very nearly here.

While kids love the time off, it can sometimes pose a stressful challenge for busy parents. If only there was a way to keep your child occupied, active, and having fun while you work... 🤔

#### **THE SOLUTION:**

Our Holiday Camps run almost every single day, on every single school break; which includes the upcoming half-term.

Book your child's place on a half-term camp near you today - and make the school break one to remember.

<https://www.premier-education.com/activities/holiday-camps/february-half-term-holiday-camps/>

Wishing you all enjoyable weekends, I can as ever be contacted at [exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exechead@aspire-kent.org.uk) with concerns or queries during normal business hours.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher  
Aspire Federation