



Friday 21st July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with my final letter of this academic year. Thank you for all the support you have shown to the Aspire staff over the year. They have worked very hard to ensure your children are taught the curriculum as well providing them opportunities to take part in other events. Thank you to the children who have embraced the learning opportunities and brought joy to our days.

Please find below some information and news.

Music From Things

In September a company - Music From Things will be providing staff with some training to enhance our music curriculum. This company is putting on some workshops in Maidstone over the summer. These are free workshops and are based in The Mall.

The project have provided the below information

The dates for the workshops I am doing at the Echo Hub, located in a shop unit next to Muffin break in the Mall shopping centre Maidstone are:

11th August 11am
19th August 11am
23rd August 2pm

I have also just had 2 days of workshops confirmed at the Lockmeadow complex on the 29th and 30th of August 10am to 12 noon and 1pm to 3pm each day. Lockmeadow will be promoting them and doing the place bookings.

Bus Passes

If your child receives benefits related free school meals, you should have received a supermarket voucher, an activity voucher and a bus pass. Please contact your school office if you haven't received them.

KCC provided us with the below information

We have seen fake Reconnect Young Person's bus passes being presented to bus drivers, and circulating on social media. These are not valid and will not be accepted by drivers. We do not want to see any young person stranded or distressed by attempting to use a fake pass and this being rejected, so we would be grateful if you see or hear

young people sharing/discussing a Reconnect Young Person's bus pass that you advise them that these are not valid.

Holiday Activity Vouchers

If you have received a holiday activity voucher (related to benefits and free school meals) Greenfields have sent the following information

The SCT are running our **FREE** Schools Out Activity Clubs for children from 5 to 12 years old at Greenfields (Shepway) and South Borough (Tovil) both in Maidstone

These Events are now live on the HAF Evoucher/Wonde booking system for both clubs on the following dates:

Monday 24 July 2023 – Thursday 27 July 2023
Monday 31 July 2023 – Thursday 3 August 2023
Monday 7 August 2023 – Thursday 10 August 2023
Monday 14 August 2023 – Thursday 17 August 2023

Your eligible pupils and parents can access our programme by looking for either or both on the Evouchers/Wonde website:

SCT @ South Borough, Tovil
SCT @ Greenfields, Shepway

The website you need is <https://www.theeducationpeople.org/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-kent-haf/welcome-information-for-families/>

Year 6 Bus travel for September

Arriva have sent us the following information

Student Travel 2023-24

Do you or your child travel to University, College or School by bus? If so, we've got the perfect solution!

Arriva Student and Child Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education and, is a cost effective and flexible way of paying for travel costs.

Unlimited travel - You'll get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, at any time, across all routes in your chosen area.

No restrictions - The Saver tickets will cover your travel to and from University, School or College, evenings, weekends and throughout the holidays too at any time of the day.

Flexible payments - Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

Sign up in advance - Either set your direct debit to start at a future date for when you need the ticket or, you can start your ticket now to get used to the local bus routes.

Plan your journey – Please use our ‘Plan a journey’ tool on our website to work out which bus you require or, download our app on the Apple Store or Google Play: www.arrivabus.co.uk

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk *Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL route

Information from the Education Psychologist Service

KENT EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to parents and carers to support children’s wellbeing and learning.

Topics or areas that you may wish to discuss might include:

If you would like to make use of this service please send a message to the email address above including the following information:

- your name;
- phone number;
- a convenient time to call (morning or afternoon)
- your child’s education phase e.g. early years, primary school, secondary school;
- a brief description of what you wish to discuss.

We will do our best to respond within 10 working days but this may be subject to availability.

kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk

- Social and emotional issues
- Concerns about learning
- Family relationships
- Concerns about behaviour
- Daily routines including sleep

Reminders for September

The children's first day back at school is Tuesday 5th September

Gates open at all schools at 8.30am

Lessons start at 8.45am

Uniform can be ordered via <https://www.brigade.uk.com/>

You will need to order Uniform by Saturday 22nd July if you would like it to be delivered by September to your home address.

Wishing you all a lovely summer, may it be filled with sunshine, family time, and relaxation.

I will be working some of the summer holidays and can be contacted at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk but may not reply straight away so please bear with me. I am looking forward to spending time with my own family.

Kind regards

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation