



Friday 14th June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you all had a good week.

I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information. I can be contacted at exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk between 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday for queries and questions. Also Lauren my PA can be contacted at lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk. Any requests for meetings or appointments can be made through Lauren - thank you.

Free Vitamins-

You may not be aware but low income families are able to access free vitamins for pregnant mothers and children under 4.

Please see the attached leaflets with details regarding how to access Healthy Start Vitamins and what the eligibility criteria is for this.

There is also a leaflet attached outlining Kent Food Hubs and how families can also access healthy start food boxes for only £5!

Neurodivergent Parent Group-

The next of these groups will be held at **Maidstone Community Support Centre, ME14 1HH** on **Wednesday 19th June (10.30am-12pm)**. Parents are now able to book for this session- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neurodivergent-parent-support-group-tickets-920876054067?aff=oddtcreator>

The aim of these groups is to provide a space for neurodivergent parents/carers to discuss the difficulties identifying and managing their own needs, the challenges of parenting and to make connections with others.

Household Support Fund Scheme-

The Household Support fund has announced that this will be continued for a further 6 months and will now run until October 2024. You are able to apply for this online or professional referrals can also be made on families behalf.

The scheme offers energy and/or food support and applicants are able to choose between energy, food or a combination of 60/40.

For energy support families can be provided with a £100 (or £40 if combining with food voucher) virtual energy card to be used to pay directly to energy providers. This can also be used if applicants are on a pre-payment meter using a key or card as a voucher will instead be issued for use at your local kiosk. For those opting for food vouchers you will be able to select a choice from a list of retailers.

Eligibility Criteria-

- Applicants must be 16 or over
- Be a Kent resident, permanently living with one of the 12 local authorities covered by KCC (this excludes Medway, Bromley and Bexley)
- Have a household income of less than £40,000 per annum (£3,334 per month) before tax (including any means tested benefits
- NOT have savings above £1000
- NOT be receiving free school meals within the household.

For more information and how to apply visit-

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/adult-social-care/paying-for-care/benefits/household-support-fund>

EMC Academy-

EMC Academy and Miss Liddicoat are offering all Aspire children 50% off their Summer Soccer School during the Summer holidays.

Anyone interested in attending, should message the number on the flyer **(07793 029247)** and state your child's name and 'Aspire' to book.

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher