



Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week.

I am writing with my usual weekly letter of news and information. I can be contacted at exechead@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.

EYFS Statutory Baseline Assessment-

If your child is in Reception they will participate in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a progress measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their children to progress between reception and year 6.

This is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school. The main purpose is to create a starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils. It is not about judging or labelling your child or putting them under any pressure. Your child cannot 'pass' or 'fail' the assessment.

Please do not feel that this is a judgement or something your child should worry about.

Maidstone Family Hub Courses-

Please find attached multiple leaflets detailing various courses located at various venues around Maidstone. These courses vary from Understanding Autism, Communication in Early Year, Managing Children's Behaviour and many many more.

These also vary from being online and in person, so please do have a look to see if any of these are of interest.

Oral Health-

Lenham Dental (4 High Street, ME17 2QD) are offering all schools in the local area free NHS dental check-ups for children under the age of 18 during the upcoming half term break in October 2025 (from 18th October).

To book an appointment call - 01622 858204.

Further to this, 'ToothPASTE' is a resource that offers advice and support for families of young autistic children to care for their teeth. This offers ideas of how to encourage the cleaning of teeth for those that find this difficult.

To find out more, go to the parents of children with special needs tab on our webpage and click on the toothPASTE link- www.kentcht.nhs.uk/happyteeth.

Parent SEND Information Day-

This Information Day will take place on **16th October 10am-4pm** at Kent Showground Detling (ME14 3JF). This is an opportunity for parents to get help and advice, learn ways to support your child and talk to people from schools, health and charities.

To book, use QR code-



Magnet Safety-

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) warns that more than 300 children a year are rushed to A&E after swallowing magnets and one in ten needs life-saving surgery.

When strong magnets stick together inside the body, they can rip through a child's gut, cutting off blood supply and causing life-threatening injuries. Even toddlers have needed hours of emergency surgery, and some children are left with lasting internal damage.

Magnets don't just come in toys – they're also found in jewellery kits, fridge magnets, puzzles, dartboards, fidget toys and desk gadgets. Worryingly, some magnets sold online are 17 times stronger than the UK

The advice for parents is :

- Buy only from trusted brands and retailers.
- Be cautious with cheap copies and online marketplaces.
- Keep magnets and products containing them out of children's reach.

11+ Support-

Maidstone Grammar School has partnered with Atom Learning to provide free learning and 11+ preparation support to all primary school children (both boys and girls) who are eligible for Pupil Premium.

Eligible students will receive access to Atom Home for free (normally £575.90 a year).

This support is open to all KS2 students, not just those considering selective schools for secondary.

Atom Learning provides Key Stage 2 learning and 11+ preparation for ages 7-11. This is an online learning platform helping to build children's confidence with KS2 learning objectives and, where relevant, familiarises them with 11+ exam questions and practice tests. Through their account, children can access questions, resources, video tutorials and mock tests.

Parents/carers need to complete the form on this page:

<https://atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/maidstone-grammar>

or contact -pupilpremium@atomlearning.com

Wishing you all a lovely and restful weekend.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher