



Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a good week and are looking forward to a well earned week off to spend some wonderful family time together. 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.

Creative Writing Competition-

Primary school children have the opportunity to submit their own original short story. Entries for this opened on Tuesday 18th October and the deadline for submission is **Friday 10th November, 8pm.**

This is a competition to encourage children of all abilities to deep dive into their imagination and write their very own special story in 500 words or less.

There are lots of prizes for multiple winners, including 50 finalists having the opportunity to attend the grand final at Buckingham Palace!!

Please use the link below find out more information about this fantastic competition-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/2023/500-words-writing-competition-launches-today>

Please do share any entries with School, we would love to hear them.

Grafty Green Scarecrow Festival-

Platts Heath School are making a scarecrow, (Freddie Mercury), and there will be a collection of their scarecrow artwork on the noticeboard inside the hall, together with activities for children on the day.

Our winning scarecrow and the school's scarecrow will take part in the Maidstone Town Centre scarecrow competition, (they will be displayed in The Fragrance Shop and Body Shop – both in Fremlin Walk respectively).

Please come along to Grafty Green Village hall on **Sunday 22nd October (Grafty Green Village Hall, Church Road, Grafty Green, ME17 2BA)** for our Scarecrow Safari between 10am - 2pm for cake and a natter with friends. You and any little ones you are able to bring along will be very welcome.

BOWLES Residential Trip- Monday 4th December to Wednesday 6th December

There will be an opportunity for all parents of pupils attending this trip to join an online meeting regarding the BOWLES trip.

Myself and all staff joining the children on this trip will be present at the meeting for further information about these days and to answer any questions that you may have.

Please use the link below to join this meeting to be held on **Wednesday 15th November, 6pm.**

meet.google.com/xez-xfwe-ior -

A further reminder will of course be sent out nearer the time.

Colder Weather-

Now that the colder weather is encroaching upon us, can I please remind you that children will need to bring coats into school everyday. Hats and gloves are also recommended for those extra cold days.

Please make sure that all items are labeled with your child's name!

Some half-term ideas-

Please see a list of activities in and around the local area which you may like to check out over the half term break... we've even added some places to visit for free too!

<https://www.visitkent.co.uk/visit-kent-blog/october-half-term-in-kent-2023/>

<https://kent.muddystiletos.co.uk/things-to-do/october-half-term-guide-kids-kent/>

<https://mytunbridgewells.com/half-term-halloween-events-in-kent/>

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g186310-Activities-zft11292-Kent_England.html

<https://www.visitmaidstone.com/whats-on/events-calendar/school-holidays>

<https://flashpackingfamily.com/pumpkin-picking-in-kent/>

The first term over in a whirlwind and what a great start to this Academic Year. Wishing you all a fantastic half term break, we look forward to hearing the stories from the children about what they have been doing over their well-earned break.

Please note that although I am contactable over the half term break, my responses will be intermittent.

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher