



Friday 23rd January 2026

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 [exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:exehead@aspire-kent.org.uk) between 8am - 5pm Monday to Friday for queries and questions. Also Lauren (Aspire Administrator) can be contacted for any requests for meetings or appointments - thank you - [lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk](mailto:lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk).

### **Bricks at the Museum Event-**

The RAF Manston History Museum is a museum located in Manston, Kent dedicated to preserving and educating the public on the history of Manston as an RAF base.

They are holding an annual 'Bricks at the Museum' event **over the February half term between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> February between 10am-4pm**. The museum will be full of Lego and other brick companies, with existing sets and peoples' own original creations. There are also holding a raffle this year, with the prize being a Star Wars Lego set valued at around £300.



Please see poster attached and tickets can be pre-ordered using the QR code.

### **Parent online courses-**

New Education Support Courses are FULLY FUNDED (Free) to attend and specifically designed for parents and carers who are looking for a springboard into working in a school. Each course only takes 6 weeks to complete, with online sessions run ONLY in school hours and term times, to fit in around family life.

The next course starts on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. Places are limited and will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.

To learn more or book visit- <https://www.studysmartuk.online/>

## **Young Voices-**

Well done to everybody who attended Young Voices on Monday. It was a fantastic event and the children had a great time.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped with the event and a special thank you to Mrs Foad for ensuring this could take place. A video of the day is available to purchase here: <https://www.youngvoices.shop/>

To help us with planning for future young voices events, we welcome feedback from anyone who has either been before or is considering going in the future. <https://forms.gle/7Pm8SYiJVJhJt79AA> Thank you.

## **Ideas for FREE days out in Winter months-**

### **Maidstone Museum-**

At Maidstone Museum you can find over 600,000 artefacts with collections dedicated to dinosaurs, Japanese artwork and ancient Egyptians, housing Kent's only human mummy, 2,700-year-old Ta-Kesh - a particular favourite among children and adults alike. Maidstone Museum also regularly features temporary, high-quality and eclectic touring exhibitions and collections which ensures there is always something new and exciting to discover at the museum.

### **Cobtree Manor Park-**

This is a prime example of the serene parkland Maidstone has to offer. Steeped in history, Cobtree is best known locally as the site of old Maidstone Zoo, which housed a private collection of Sir Garrad's exotic animals. In the late 50's rising costs and ill-health forced Sir Gerrad to close his doors and most of the animals were transported to other Zoo's. Now, remnants of its past can still be spotted, with a cattle shelter, sheep wash and Elephant House still remaining. The park also features a large zoo-themed play area and sculpture trail, a little homage to it's past.

### **Buttercup's Goat Sanctuary-**

The sanctuary care for between 130 and 150 resident goats at any one time, rescued from abandonment, neglect or simply needing a new home, they are given warm, dry stalls and plenty of safe space for grazing and exercise. Sociable and inquisitive, a trip to see these cheeky characters makes for an afternoon with a difference! Once you've spent time making friends with these local residents, why not grab a cup of tea and slice of cake from the onsite café, helping to support this fabulous cause.

Entry is based on donations of your choice to support the Sanctuary, Grab your wellies and have a great day!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling  
Executive Headteacher

