

Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Parents

I am writing to you on a rainy Friday on the day of our race for life. This week's weather has been very mixed - fingers crossed for a sunny weekend. In my letter this week I will be providing some information about events, reminders and general information.

Radio 2 - Bee competition

On my drive to and from work, I always listen to radio 2. Recently they have been discussing their work to promote the protection of bees, what we can do in our gardens to attract them and how they are important to our ecosystem. They are also running a competition, the details of which are below if your children would like to enter.

The Big Bee Challenge is Radio 2's brand new competition for kids, in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society.



It's a fun and creative way to learn more about bees and other insects that help provide much of the food we eat, and are essential for a healthy environment.

- If you are between the ages of 6 and 12, we want you to draw a bright, buzzy garden that will attract bees and other pollinating insects.
- Grab pens, pencils, crayons and paint and get creative, we want you to let your imagination run wild!
- Our team will turn the winning design into a real life garden at an NHS Trust site used by children and young people with mental health needs.
- Think about the plants that bees love. Remember bees also get thirsty and they need a safe place to rest and lay their eggs. And don't forget a place where you could sit to enjoy your glorious garden!
- Then write 3-5 sentences telling us more about your drawing and why you want to help the bees.
- Your entries need to reach us by **6pm on Monday 5 July.**

Prizes

The lucky winner will be invited to open the garden at an outside broadcast of **The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show** on Friday 20 August 2021! You will meet loads of guests, receive a professional illustration of your garden design and go home with a box of goodies to help turn your own outside space into a wonderland for bees.

Each shortlisted finalist will also receive an array of bee themed goodies.

More details on how to enter are on the BBC Radio 2 website –

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2qk4dDdJJdsVFmcLhZ7RwmW/how-to-enter>



Kent Test (11 +) registration

Just before half term I wrote to year 5 parents to give information about registering your child to sit the Kent Test (11 +). This is a reminder to make sure you register before the 1st July 2021.

You need to register your child via this website link:

<https://kent.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Parents/default.aspx>

You will need to create an account before registering your child.

The 1st of July is next Thursday.

Parent evenings

Parent evenings at each of the aspire schools is the week of Monday 5th July. If you would like an appointment to discuss your child's progress there will be forms available to sign up for appointments next week. If you are unsure how to register please ask the member of staff on the gate when you drop off your child. Appointments are available via video call (Google meet) or via phone call. Please make sure you select which option you prefer when signing up for appointments.

Thank a teacher day - 23rd June

I wrote to all staff earlier in the week to thank them for their hard work over the last 18 months. The pandemic has been hard for us all and I wanted to let the staff know how much I appreciate them. Below is an excerpt from my email to staff.

Dear all

Tomorrow is thank a teacher day - 23rd June 2021. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of team Aspire. The last 18 months have been hard work for all of us both professionally and personally and I couldn't have asked for a better team. You have all worked your socks off to make sure the children had the best educational experience they could have both in school and remotely.

At times the pace of work has felt relentless but you have continued with a smile on your faces to put the children first and for that I am very grateful.

I am very proud of what we represent and what we have achieved and that is down to every single one of you playing your part, turning up and doing your job. So from me to you - Thank you I am very grateful to be leading a team such as aspire and although I am looking forward to the summer I also look forward to what we may achieve next year.

As the end of term nears I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for the support they have given your children in the last academic year.

Forest schools trip

With the changing weather conditions at present, please make sure your child has a waterproof jacket with them, a sun hat and water to ensure they have everything they need to enjoy the trip. You will have received a letter from your child's school providing more details. Leeds and Broomfield are in the woods today, hopefully managing to stay dry and enjoying the learning opportunities.

Wishing you all pleasant family weekends,

Kind regards

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher
Aspire Federation