



Friday 12th December 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 (Aspire Administrator) can be contacted for any requests for meetings or appointments - thank you - lriby@aspire-kent.org.uk.

Christmas Club-

Stone's In The Community Christmas Schools Out Holiday Camps is available in 3 different Maidstone venues.

The Christmas Holiday Camps are offered first to children who are entitled to free school meals, and they can attend these camps free of charge!

They are also now open to children who do not receive free school meals, for a small fee of £5 per day.

Please visit to book a space-

<https://stonesinthecommunity.org/programme/schools-out-holiday-club/>

Poetry Competition-

Kent Life magazine's Mother's Day poetry competition has now launched.

They are inviting Kent school children to send a poem celebrating their mum – or the person who is like a mother to them.

Suggested entry titles include: Why I love my mum; Why you are so important to me; and Why I'm thankful for you this Mother's Day. Each entry must include the young poet's first name, age

and school and should be sent as a word doc or PDF to kentlife@newsquest.co.uk by January 19, 2026.

Free Potty Training Guide-

The free Potty Training Guide has been developed by the early years sector and offers clear, research-based guidance around when and how to potty train. Evidence shows that the best time to stop using nappies for bowel and bladder health is between 18-30 months, and the Guide will support schools and early years settings in working with parents to help children achieve this.

To read in full visit- <https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/>

Winter Mini Reading Challenge-

The Winter Mini Challenge has returned for 2025, encouraging children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays.

Running from 1 December 2025 to 20 February 2026, taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children read at least three books of their choice between 1 December and 20 February and add them to their online profile and review them on the Reading Agency's [website](#). Reaching their reading goal will unlock online badges and a certificate for them to download, print off and keep when they have finished.

Free School Meals-

For those families entitled to benefit related Free School meals, please look out for your holiday food voucher within your inboxes.

Local Christmas Events-

Maidstone Christmas Market: On Jubilee Square, offering handmade gifts, food, and traditional decorations. **This will be held this Saturday 13th December.**

Rochester Christmas Market: Kent's largest festive market with over 120 stalls, a funfair, and live entertainment. This is open every Friday-Sunday from 28th November.

River Market Christmas Eve Special-

This year producers from the Farmers' Market will be at The River Market, Maidstone Market Hall, Lockmeadow, ME16 8LW on Wednesday 24th December.

This includes a wide variety of fresh, local food producers, seasonal festive favourites, a selection of craft and gift stalls and also a special live performance from the Maidstone Rock Choir.

Wishing you a lovely weekend as we approach the last week of Term 2. **Please be reminded that the last day of School is Friday 19th December.**

Kind regards,

Emma Hickling
Executive Headteacher