

# VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

## Unlock Extra Support for Your School Up to £250 Funding Available!

Do you have Previously Looked After Children (adopted), children in formal kinship care, or those supported by social services in your school?

**Could your school benefit from extra resources for these children?**

The VSK Advisory Team are offering schools an exciting opportunity to access up to £250 in funding (allocated on a first-come, first-served basis) to purchase resources that will make a real difference for young people and staff.

Imagine what this could mean for your school:

- Beautiful books and resources for your library or classrooms—or even for families to use at home.

Practical tools to create calming, supportive spaces, such as:

- Sensory boxes and related items
- Board games to build social skills and wellbeing
- Equipment for nurture or wellbeing rooms

## Need inspiration?

Explore our recommended lists of books and resources on topics like emotions, attachment, identity, diversity, and loss:

[Useful information for Parents and Carers | Virtual School Kent](#) - Recommended Books and [School and Classroom Resources](#)

If you have a bigger idea or project, we'd love to hear about it—additional funding may be available!

**Contact us today at:**  
[vskadvisoryteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:vskadvisoryteam@kent.gov.uk) to  
secure your funding and start making an impact!

4 December 2025



## Opening Doors Webinars for Foster Carers and Supporters: Insight into higher education for care-experienced learners. Session Three

This FREE webinar goes through practical guidance for researching and applying for university. We share more about the options young people have and the decisions they will be making in order to empower foster carers to support their young people when making decisions about their futures

## [Microsoft Virtual Events](#) [Powered by Teams](#)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Click the links to find out more information on courses available currently

### **ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR TRAINING OFFERED FREE TO PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

[The Diana Award](#) is offered FREE to schools across the UK. It equips students and staff with the tools needed to tackle bullying behaviour head on, transforming schools' approaches to anti-bullying and creating a safer, kinder school community.

### **Interventions for improving behaviour and classroom engagement The Theory and Practice of Nurture Groups nurtureuk**

**Course details:** 3 x online training sessions ( 9am -4pm) and 1 reflective assignment

**Dates:** 14th & 15th Jan, 25th Feb 26

**Upon completion:** The training is SCQF accredited and includes an assignment (13 points at level 8)

**Available Spaces:** 10

### **Supporting New Arrivals Who Are New to English (Online Course) - The Bell Foundation**

**Course details:** Consisting of 3 modules of online learning over a 4-5weeks period and 2 live webinars

**Dates:** 13th January through to 14th February

**Available Spaces:** 10

**Booking form - Please complete 1 form per training request:**

### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM - TRAINING SESSIONS – Fill out form**

Please contact [Michelle.Olden@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.Olden@kent.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

**Avoid disappointment - Book early!**

This guide and toolkit was initially developed by the Virtual School Kent and the Kent Educational Psychology Service. Its aim is to support schools in their understanding of the importance of promoting relational approaches to create a sense of connection, school belonging and with trauma informed practices supporting all vulnerable children, particularly those who may struggle to attend school.

## **Relational Approaches to support School Belonging and Attendance:**

A Guide and Toolkit

Kent County Council  
April 2025



[Click here](#)

**We'd love to hear from you!**



How have VSK supported you or your team recently? Please take a moment to let us know by clicking the link below:

[Feedback Form: Share how VSK supported you](#)



## Woodpecker Court

Woodpecker Court | Wigmore Lane | Eythorne | Kent | CT15 4BF

Tel: 01304 830958

Email: [office@woodpeckercourt.com](mailto:office@woodpeckercourt.com)

Registered Company: 9629678 registered in England and Wales



**Woodpecker Court**

*"Where learning meets the outdoors"*

## Woodpecker Court invites you to an **Open Afternoon**

On Tuesday 27th January 2026 - 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Last entry at 4.30pm

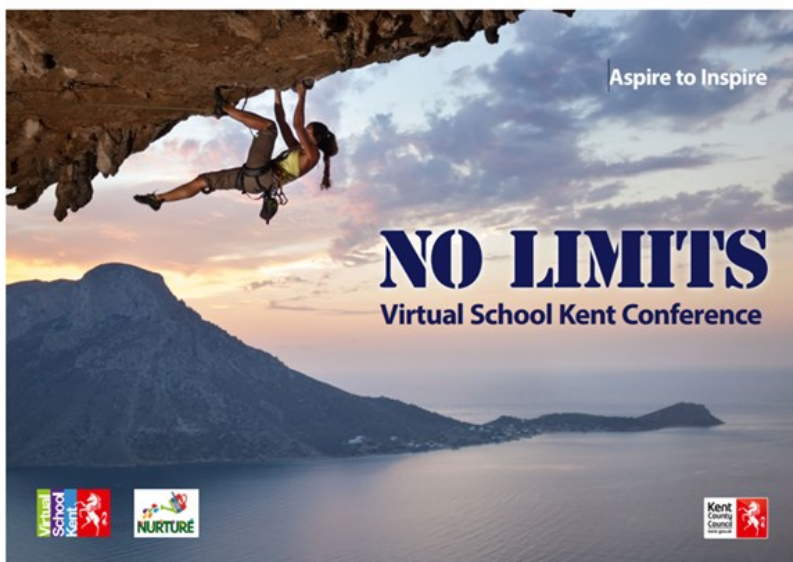
We would like to extend an invitation to schools, year 11, 12 and 13 students and parents to come and see what Woodpecker Court has to offer for young people post 16 with an EHCP.

There will be demonstrations by staff members throughout our beautiful 15 acre site of various courses and activities available to students here.

Please take a look at the video on the attached link by way of an introduction

**Relationships, Respect, Resilience**

**Routine**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> October  
2026  
10am til 2pm

DETLING SHOWGROUND

GUEST SPEAKER: ALFIE WATTS –  
Winner of Race Across the World

This event is for Designated  
Teachers, Senior Leadership  
Teams and the young people they  
support



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

09.12.25	South Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary
21.01.26	Designated Teacher Update 15:45 online
22.01.26	Designated Teacher Update 8am & 12pm online
11.03.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 venue TBC (likely to be Gravesend based)
12.03.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Update 1pm @ TBC
24.03.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary
24.04.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
12.05.26	Designated Teacher Update 12:30 & 15:45 online
13.05.26	Designated Teacher Update 8:00 online
30.06.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
01.07.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ TBC
02.07.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:00 @ TBC
07.07.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary



# Who To Contact



**North Kent Assistant Head:** Jo Hayes - [northvsk@kent.gov.uk](mailto:northvsk@kent.gov.uk)

**West Kent Assistant Head:** Jen Kemp - [westvsk@kent.gov.uk](mailto:westvsk@kent.gov.uk)

**South Kent Assistant Head:** Carole Bailey - [southvsk@kent.gov.uk](mailto:southvsk@kent.gov.uk)

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**Post 16 Assistant Head:** Catherine Thompson - [16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk)

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**Out of County Team Lead:** Amanda Ormond - [virtualsschoolkentocc@kent.gov.uk](mailto:virtualsschoolkentocc@kent.gov.uk)



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<http://kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk>