

Very Super Kids

Newsletter for Kent Children in Care : Issue 13



Welcome to the Winter Edition of our Newsletter...

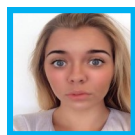
Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018!
We have jam packed this issue with lots of news for you to read so you can see what we got up to in the last part of 2017.



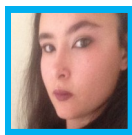
We would also like to introduce our new
**Corporate Director—
Matt Dunkley CBE**

“My role is to make sure that Kent County Council is the best parent we can be for all of the children in our care. In the upcoming months, I will want to meet as many of you as possible to hear whether we are doing the best we can for you. I want you to help me make Kent the best place for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve. “

VSK PARTICIPATION TEAM



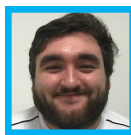
Chelsea



CHLOE



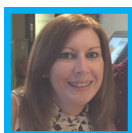
Reece



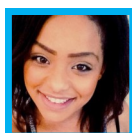
Tom



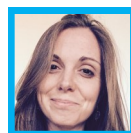
Andrea



Jo



SOPHIA



Sarah

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Email us:

VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk
or send your pictures, news and info to:

Chelsea Goodwin

Virtual School Kent
30 Kings Hill Avenue, West
Malling, Kent, ME19
4AE

Worrall House,



THE SUPER COUNCIL

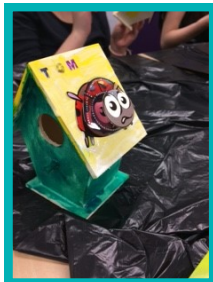
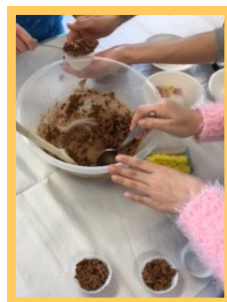
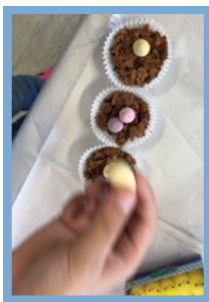
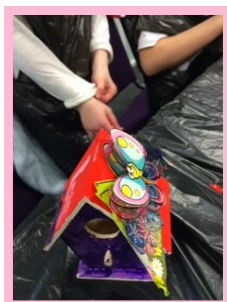
The Super Council is for Children in Care aged 7-11. We meet every school holiday to have FUN and to meet other children in care. Members of the Super Council get to share their experiences of being a Kent Child in Care in a positive way, and also suggest ways to make things better.

We have some fab members of the Super Council, but some will be leaving us soon to move up to the OCYPC. So we are always on the look out for new members and would love it if more of you came along.



WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR:

- Given our views and opinions about the Kent Cares Town website, and how we can update it and make it better.
- Met with Members and senior people in Kent County Council to talk about our education and what extra support we need at school.



FOR FOSTER CARERS

We need your help to encourage young people to join the Super Council. We want them to help shape the services they receive and also help other Children in Care who may be feeling like 'they are the only ones'.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Contact—Sophia Dunstan

Email: Sophia.Dunstan@kent.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 414214

GOOD WORK OF THE SUPER COUNCIL

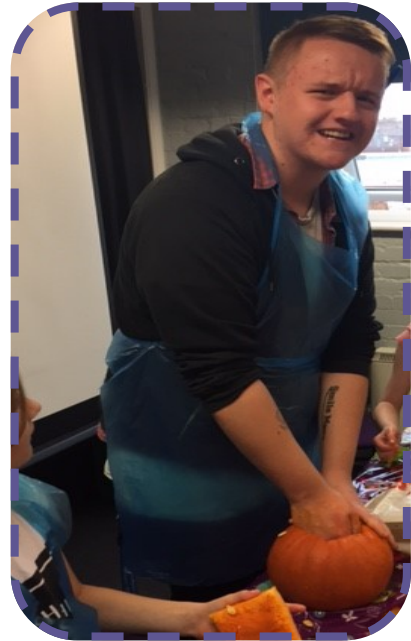
On 24th October, the Super Council met up for one last time before the new year. We said our goodbyes to an old member, who has moved up to the OCYPC Council!



Did you know

Reece (pictured) is an expert pumpkin carver?!

Is that on your CV
Reece?!



In this meeting, we had a fun session as it was Halloween. We got to carve pumpkins which was messy but very fun! At the end of the session, we had sweets to share and we put a LED candle in the pumpkin and watched them glow in the dark!

We also spoke about why some children don't come along to the Super Council. We thought that some may not know enough about the council or be nervous about coming.

We decided to make a Scrapbook about the Super Council that we could show to other children who may be thinking about joining.

We hope to see some of you at our next meeting.



STAFF UPDATE



We have 3 new members in the team! Please welcome Sarah, Andrea and Tom to the team. Andrea and Sarah are Participation Support Officers and Tom is an apprentice. Andrea will be working with Sophia and Chloe. Sarah and Tom will be working with Chelsea and Reece. We hope they enjoy working with the team. They wanted to introduce themselves...so without further ado!

MEET TOM...



Hi, I'm Tom Byrne, I'm 20 years old. I'm a care leaver and have just started at VSK as an apprentice. My interests range from gaming to history. I can't wait to meet and support everyone.

MEET ANDREA...



Hi, my name is Andrea Wood, and I am one of the new Participation Support Officers. My hobbies are roller skating and mountain biking. I love cats and have a massive black cat at home that looks like a panther. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all soon!

MEET SARAH...



Hi, my name is Sarah Newman and I have just started in VSK as a Participation Support Officer. Before this, I was a primary school teacher which was lots of fun! I love reading and going to the cinema or spending time with my friends. I also enjoy walking and playing badminton or tennis. I am looking forward to my new job and excited to get started. I look forward to meeting everyone!





Have you received your copy of the Kent Pledge cards?



The Kent Pledge is 6 promises that Kent County Council make to you as a child in the care of Kent. They are:

- To give you a sense of belonging
- Make sure you have an adult who is always there for you
- Make sure you have a good education
- Help you make good memories for the future
- Help you get ready for being an adult
- To support your interests and needs

We have made the 6 promises into a set of cards that are given to you by your Social Worker. They have been designed with the help of young people in care and are clear and easy to understand.

If you don't have a pack, just ask your Social Worker.

MOMO: A Mind of my Own

You said that you wanted a more up to date way to contact people like your Social Worker, and also a way to tell us about things that are happening in your life.

We think we have found a way you can do this. The MOMO App will help you say what you want, when you want to say it. Your carer and Social Worker can help you use it if you want them to. There are 2 versions of MOMO, one is for younger users and is called MOMO Express.

MOMO
MIND OF MY OWN
presents
MOMO Express

mindofmyown.org.uk

VSK ACTIVITY DAYS



Over the October holiday, we held 2 art activity days to link in with our Autumn Art Competition. One was held in West Malling and the other in Canterbury.

We had a total of 65 young people attend the days. The young people had the chance to make an entry for the competition, create their own name piece and to decorate a small trinket box. Both days went very well, and everyone had fun even if we did get a bit sticky and messy!! It was a fun way to finish off the year! Here is some of the art work:



WRITERS SECTION

This section is for you to send us anything you would like to share with other young people. This can include artwork, poems, achievements or anything you would like to ask the participation team!



A Recipe for a Foster Carer

1. A cupful of kindness mixed with joy.
2. A dash of love flavoured with care.
3. A scoop of fun coloured with laughter.
4. A bowl of humour and common sense.
5. A squidgy sponge of a new start.

Stir it all up to get a family.

Written by Danny: aged 9



Your Achievements

We are very proud to hear that **Keegan** and his school had the amazing opportunity to perform at Disneyland Paris. After auditioning against 50 other schools, he and 10 of his class were chosen to perform. He has also had the chance to join in with the parade!

**Keegan: You are
a Star!**



If you have something you would like to share with us or to have the chance to show your work in the newsletter, please contact Chelsea:

Email: **VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk**

or send your pictures, news and info to:
**Chelsea Goodwin – Virtual School
Kent, Kent County Council, Worrall
House, 30 Kings Hill Avenue,
West Malling, Kent, ME19 4AE**

We look forward to hearing from you!!

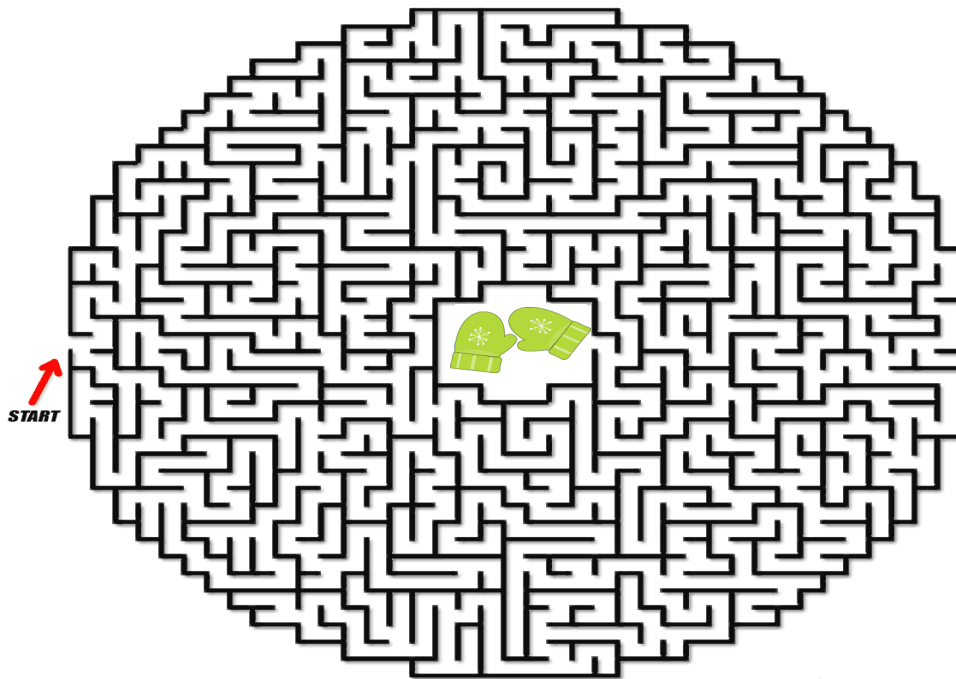




GAMES



This is the time of year you will need to keep yourself warm! You have found everything, but your gloves. You can't go out and play with your friends without them. Complete the maze and find your gloves, so you can go out and play with your friends.



WORDSEARCH



A White Winter

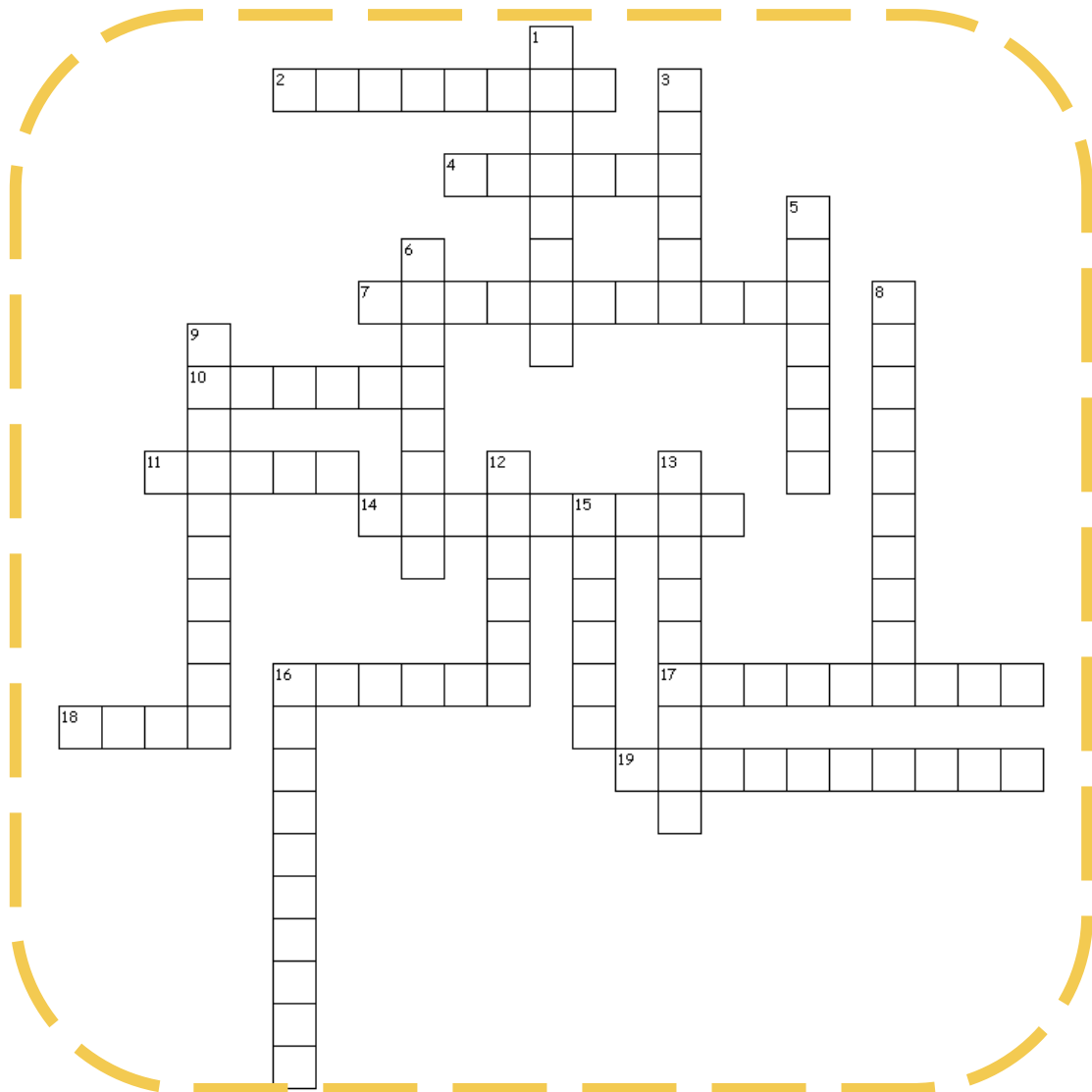
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O	Z	W	F	R	E	E	Z	I	N	G
G	I	C	I	C	L	E	E	P	F	C

Word List

GINGERBREAD	SNOWBALLS	FREEZING	SLEDGE	SCARF
FROSTBITTEN	BLIZZARD	TOBOGGAN	ICICLE	SNOW
SNOWFLAKES	SNOWFAIR	MITTENS	FROSTY	



THE NEW YEAR CROSSWORD



Across

2. What animal is famous for hiding acorns in preparation for the winter?
4. The season when the leaves begin to grow on trees.
7. When some animals curl up somewhere safe and go into a deep sleep for the winter.
10. The season when the leaves start to turn brown on the trees.
11. There are 52 in a year.
14. What would you celebrate on the 25th December?
16. During which season do you often wear shorts?
17. Which day of the week has the most letters?
18. There are 365 in a year.
19. On the 1st January, you often make a New Year's

Down

1. is the second month of the year.
3. is the eighth month of the year.
5. You might celebrate this night on 5th November by watching fireworks.
6. It is traditional to celebrate the New Year with a kiss at
8. New
9. On Day, you send cards to celebrate love.
12. The season when the trees are bare and no leaves grow.
13. What would you celebrate by carving a pumpkin?
15. There are months in a year.
16. During the summer, you might wear these to protect your eyes.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Over the Autumn months, we held an Autumn themed art competition!

We finally picked out winners!

So without further ado please congratulate:

The winners for 0-7 year olds

1st: Shayden

2nd: Poppy

3rd: Dolcey



The winners for 8-12 year olds

1st : Alfie

2nd: Callum

3rd: Summer

The winners for 13+ year olds

1st: Chloe

2nd: Melanie

3rd: Georgegina



All entries are now displayed in offices at
Sessions House in Maidstone.

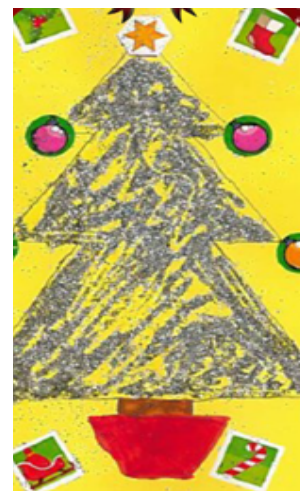


COMPETITION RESULTS

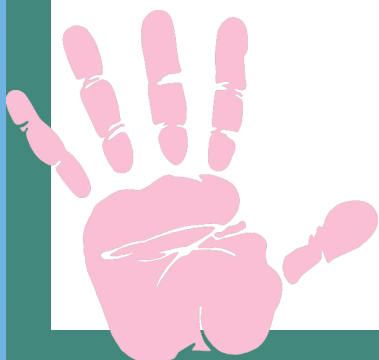
Every year, we hold a Christmas Card competition. This year we had 4 winners! Everyone's designs were brilliant and, as always, we really did struggle to choose the winners!! So really well done to:



Ajay, Izzy, Lily-May
and Luke



All the winning designs were turned into E-Christmas Cards and used by different Services in Kent County Council.



CreativeMe

An exciting creative writing competition
for all children and young people in care.

Feeling poetic? Got a story to tell?

Deadline – Friday 23rd February 2018

We are looking for poems and short
stories on any theme or topic as long as
they are suitable for a wide age range

**Let your imagination
run wild!**

There are four age categories:

4-7

8-11

12-15

16+

**See your work brought
to life in a mobile app!**

Winning entries will be published as an anthology
available through our mobile app. Winners will
receive a book token and certificate.

Submit poems and stories to your Virtual School.

Email your entries to:

VSK_participation@kent.gov.uk

including your first name and your age.



F0538

**Pearson
Publishing**