



# Very Super Kids

Newsletter for Kent Children in



## Welcome to the Autumn edition of our VSK newsletter...

In this Awesome Autumn issue The VSK Participation team have some great things to tell you about.

They have had lots of fun activity days that you all enjoyed throughout the Summer. Look inside for more info!

At VSK, we work hard to make sure that young people are listened to and that you get your chance to tell people how you feel about home and school.

We also love to hear about and help you celebrate all the great things you do. I was so proud of you at the VSK Awards Ceremony in September, and look forward to hearing about what you get up to this year at school.

Best Wishes

Tony Doran: Virtual School Kent Headteacher

## Included in this Issue:

- The Super Council Latest News
- Staff Update
- MOMO and the Kent Pledge
- Kent Cares Town Update!
- VSK Awards Ceremony
- VSK Activity Days
- Games
- Christmas Card Competition

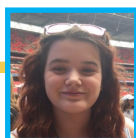


## Get in touch with us-

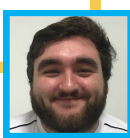
Email us at:

[VSK\\_Participation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk)

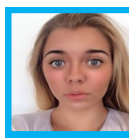
## VSK PARTICIPATION TEAM



Tia



Tom



Chelsea



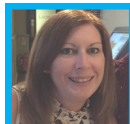
Reece



Rob



Andrea



Jo



Sophia



Sarah





## THE SUPER COUNCIL

The Super Council is for Children in Care aged 7 to 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 good experiences of being a Kent Child in Care and suggest ways to make things better.

**We had a great meeting in the October school holidays, and have some fab members.**

**We would love it if more of you came along to meetings too.**



If you are part of the Super Council, you also get free membership to Kent Children's University.

Kent Children's University offers lots of fun and exciting learning opportunities for you to take part in when you aren't at school.

There are lots of different places you can visit where you can get 'credits' added to a very special Children's University Passport you are given.

You also get 'Credits' for attending any Super Council meetings and VSK Activity Days, plus lots of other activities and competitions.

For more information visit:

<http://www.kentchildrensuniversity.co.uk/cukent/home/>

**We would also like to say a massive well done to Ruby for all the work she has put into the Kent Children's University and for her graduation!**



## FOR FOSTER CARERS

We need your help to encourage children 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 out there.'

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Contact: Tom or Tia

Email: [Thomas.Byrne@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Thomas.Byrne@kent.gov.uk) or [Tia.Pires-Higgins@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Tia.Pires-Higgins@kent.gov.uk)

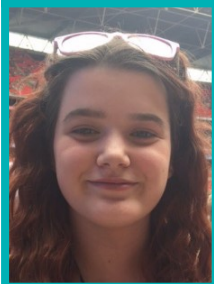
Telephone: 03000 415994 or 03000 412922

# STAFF UPDATE

Our Participation Team is growing which means we have more time and opportunities to get out and meet you, which is really the best part of our job!

We are happy to welcome some new members of staff, Tia and Rob who joined the team over the Summer.

We were sad to say goodbye to Chloe who has completed her apprenticeship with us and has moved on.

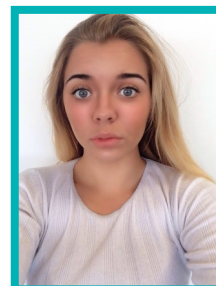


Hi my name is Tia , I'm a new addition to the VSK Participation Team and my role is an apprentice participation worker. My hobbies and interests are ice skating and horse riding. I am really looking forward to engaging and helping young people.



Hi, my name is Rob. I am an Apprentice for the Virtual School Kent. Actor by heart, I love being able to express my feelings through shows and songs, so beware! I have become an apprentice for multiple reasons. The first reason is because of the background I grew up in and my knowledge of the care system. The second reason is seeing the enjoyment on a young person's face when they know that things have been done for them and that good things are coming to them as well.

We are happy to say that Chelsea will be staying on with the Virtual School after successfully completing her level 2 Apprenticeship. She is now one of our Senior Apprentices.



**We love hearing from you, reach us at:**

Chelsea Goodwin -  
chelsea.goodwin@kent.gov.uk

Tom Byrne - thomas.byrne@kent.gov.uk

Reece Graves - reece.graves@kent.gov.uk

Tia Pires-Higgins -  
tia.pires-higgins@kent.gov.uk

Rob Barton – robert.barton@kent.gov.uk

Joanne Carpenter -  
joanne.carpenter@kent.gov.uk

Sophia Dunstan - sophia.dunstan@kent.gov.uk

Andrea Wood - andrea.wood@kent.gov.uk

Sarah Newman - sarah.newman@kent.gov.uk





# MOMO: A Mind of my Own

MOMO has a new look.

The people at MOMO have taken on board some feedback and made their App and website easier to use. It still works exactly the same way, so you don't have to worry about learning it all again.

Check it out at:

[www.mindofmyown.org.uk](http://www.mindofmyown.org.uk)

How's it going?

Use the slider to show how happy you are.



Slide me!

**MOMO**  
MIND OF MY OWN

**One**



Angry



Enthusiastic



Unsafe



Hopeful

# KENT PLEDGE

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.





# New and improved KENT CARES TOWN

## Kent Cares Town



Thanks for visiting Kent Cares Town. This website is for all young people who are or who have been in the care of Kent County Council. Choose the section that best suits you to find out more.

### Primary

This is the section to find out everything you need to know about being in care if you are aged under 11. Click on the superheroes below!



### Secondary

Aged 11 to 16? Click below to learn about being in care, how Kent County Council supports your education and health and lots more.



### Moving On

Click here to find out about what happens when you turn 18. The information here will help you plan for when you leave care and start to live independently.

You will also find lots of useful information to help you once you are a care leaver.

Have your say on the 18 Plus Care Leavers Service.  
Click here to access our survey.



The new updated Kent Cares Town now has 3 separate sections. This Primary Section is just for you. It has loads of information about being in care, school and how to get involved in the fun things the Apprentices do.

Also check out the games section at the bottom of the Home Page!

Have a look now! Just Google [Kent Cares Town](#)

## Get Involved!

There is a gallery of wonderful art created by children in care and you can even send in your poems, stories and experiences to our Writers' Corner!

Writers' Corner

Art Gallery

Videos

Blogs

Podcasts

Corporate Parents

Check it out at:

<https://kentcares town.lea.kent.sch.uk/>

Or for help or more information, contact  
VSK\_Participation@kent.gov.uk



# VSK Awards Ceremony

On Sunday 16th of September we had our  
Virtual School Kent Awards Ceremony.

It was a great day with lots of fun things to do, some yummy food and of course the best bit was seeing everyone collect their Awards!

We want to thank everyone for coming along and getting their award and say well done for all your hard work over the previous school year. We want to give out even more awards next year so keep up the good work everyone!!







Over the whole day:

- \* 247 young people received Bronze awards
- \* 29 young people received Silver awards
- \* 5 young people received Gold awards
- \* 39 young people received 'Star of 2018' awards for their involvement with the Super Council and Our Children and Young People's Council.





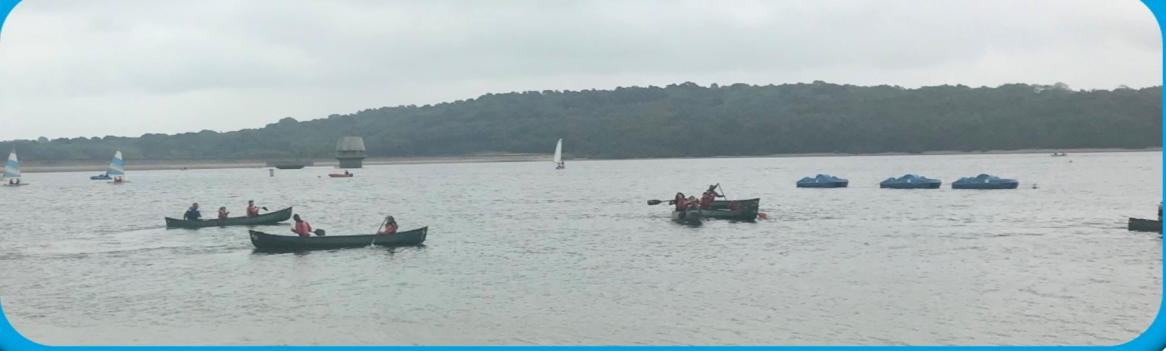
# HOWLETT'S WILDLIFE PARK



In the Summer holidays, we took a group of young people to the zoo. After a busy arrival we split into groups for a fun packed day seeing the animals. We slowly made our way around the park seeing all the different animals like dholes, ant eaters and the Pallas cat which we even got to see having a bite to eat! After about an hour, everyone wanted a pit stop for a snack, then it was back to touring the zoo! We stood and watched the gorillas for ages playing in their large enclosure, and we got to see a mother feeding its tiny baby, it was so cute! After that it was time for lunch and time in the play area. After we'd had a bite to eat and let off some steam, it was time to see some more animals. We then went and watched the elephant show, where a mum and a son elephant came to say hello and show off. After a little while it was time to make our way up the big hill and back to the entrance to collect our goody bags and go home.



# BEWL WATER



In August we took some of you guys to Bewl Water, and what a great day it was! Once everyone arrived, we split into two groups, one to do canoeing first, while the other would go biking (and we would switch at lunch). During canoeing we were split up into three of us per canoe. At first there was a lot of spinning around... and more spinning as we were trying to figure out a rhythm to our rowing. It took some of us (Chelsea and Tom!) a little bit longer to get their boats going in a straight line than the others. That wasn't the best part though, we had to group our canoes together and tie them up, so we could then play a game of fruit salad! No one fell in... Although Tom almost did, and he almost took half his boat with him! Of course, there was also an opportunity to do some cannon balls, and jump in the water at the end of the sessions, some people chose to do this multiple times. It was awesome fun!

After lunch it was time to strap on our bike helmets, pull on our gloves and choose our bike. Firstly, some of us had a little practice as we hadn't ridden a bike in a while, while the others went off on a ride where there were dirt hills and ramps to do some jumps. While the others were off on their ride, we had some people who had never ridden a bike before, and with just a little help to get started they were off and it was hard to keep up with them. So well done to you guys!





# BETTESHANGER

On Wednesday 8th August, we took some of you guys to Betteshanger, and what a great day it was! After a very busy and loud arrival, we split into three groups. One group would do den building, another would do treasure hunting and the last group would do the dreaded obstacle course. During the treasure hunt, we were given little compasses that had coordinates set to the location that the treasure laid. We had to follow the path to get the prize. After lots and lots of running, and seeking, with help from Jo, we were able to find the item that was stuck behind a sign.

After a little snack break we went off again, changing activity. We went to den building which was really fun. We got different lengths of ropes and different logs and tied them in a special way to make the frame of the den.

We then had to get the tarpaulin and place it over the den and tie it together, making the shelter.

After lunch, we had one more activity. This was the obstacle course.

Some of you guys persuaded Robert to take part! In and out, up and down, round and over you guys went, through tunnels and over hurdles.

Faster and faster the instructor was telling you to go. So, with that, we then had a go on the big obstacle course, in which some of you guys had really good fun on the rope swing. We had to catch a few of you as you came across to stop you falling in. There were some close calls but luckily there was only one splash. The obstacle course was difficult so well done everyone!





# HUCKLEBERRY WOODS



Our day out for the under 7's was as Huckleberry Woods. The day started with a safety talk then a tour of Huckleberry. We saw lots of different animals like alpacas, miniature pigs, ducks, chickens and donkeys. We were also given some small buckets with different foods for the animals. After a feeding frenzy with all the chickens and alpacas we went to do pig fishing. This involves a piece of squash on a rod and then you hold it over the fence for the pigs to grab. Those little pigs can really pull hard, they even snapped the strings! We then moved on to a treasure hunt which was really fun and led us all over the farm hunting for clues. When we reached the end we were surprised with a hoard of chocolate, it didn't last long! Huckleberry put a lovely spread on which included homemade sausage rolls, mini sandwiches, peppers with humus. After a slice of cake it was time to go meet the carers for home time.





# SHORNE WOODS



For our last summer activity day we went to Shorne Woods to do some shelter building and team games. First off it was shelter building and boy, did we need to build them, it was chucking it down with rain! We got soaked and covered in mud! The shelters went up and were quickly put to use.

After a nice packed lunch break it was time for some team games. We played a variety of games including 'floor is lava, marble runs and walking the plank'. The last one made us really muddy and the more muddy we got the more we slipped off the planks! Once we'd done a few games of each, by popular demand, it was time to go and play in the park. Everyone had lots of fun on the swings and climbing frames.

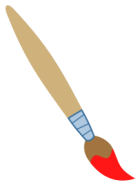


# WRITER'S SECTION

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

If you have something you would like to share with us or would like to show your work in the newsletter please contact Tom.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Email us:

[VSK\\_Participation@kent.gov.uk](mailto:VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk)

or send your pictures, news and info to:  
Thomas Byrne



*Virtual School Kent, Worrall House,*

*30 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, ME19 4AE*







# GAMES



## Awesome Autumn

F O G G Y U Q Z X F F  
C I S O G G Y R P Q H  
H L R S P C A N D Y A  
I A A E Y O J P L B L  
L S M V W L W U E H L  
L P X B N O T M A A O  
Y O T L E U R P V R W  
B O N F I R E K E V E  
J K B T F F Y I S E E  
P Y A U T U M N O S N  
B V C W I L T E D T H

### Word List

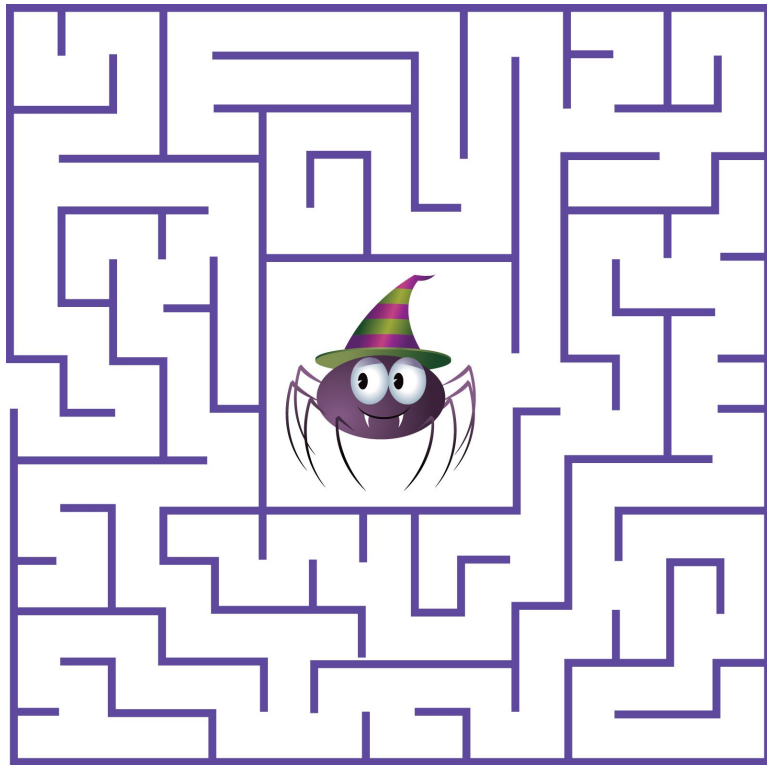
HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN LEAVES SPOOKY FOGGY  
FIREWORKS BONFIRE AUTUMN WILTED CANDY  
COLOURFUL HARVEST CHILLY SOGGY AMBER

We've hidden a few pumpkins around this  
newsletter, can you find them all?

How many did you find?

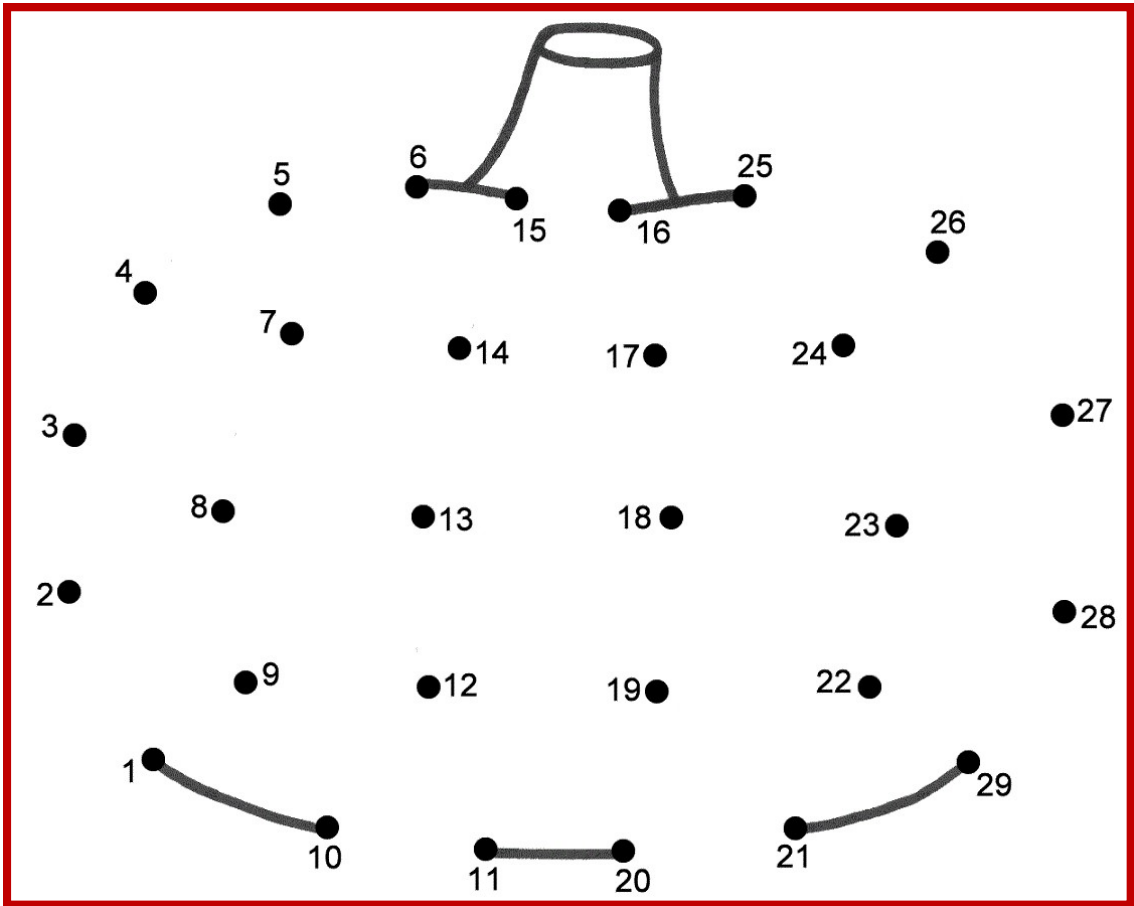
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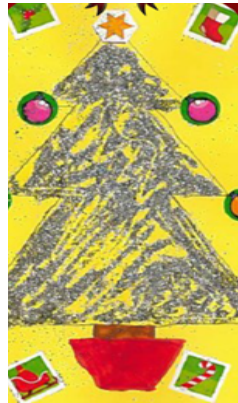


Can you help Sidley find her way out of the maze?

Help us find what's under the dot to dot...



# COMPETITION TIME



Each year we hold a Christmas card competition and this year is no different! The deadline to get your entries in is

**11th December 2018**

Every year we receive mind blowing designs and have always struggled to choose a winner. So get your glitter at the ready, step up the game and grab that mistletoe as inspiration because we can't wait to see the results this year!

***Please make sure you have given us your details, otherwise we might not be able to contact you if your design is chosen. Get designing guys!***

**NAME:**

**AGE:**

**ADDRESS:**

**TEL:**

**Please *POST* your completed entries to Thomas Byrne at Virtual School Kent, Worrall House, 30 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, ME19 4AE**

**or *SCAN* to [Thomas.Byrne@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Thomas.Byrne@kent.gov.uk)**

***WINNERS WILL BE SHOWN IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!!!***