

Private and confidential

School Health

Maidstone Studios
Vinters Business Park
New Cut Road
Maidstone
ME145NZ

Phone: 0300 123 4496

Email: kentchft.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net

Web: www.kentcht.nhs.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child was due to be screened for their vision and hearing in the spring/summer term of their reception year. Due to the closure of schools during this time, we were unable to complete the screening.

The aim of this screening is to identify hearing and vision difficulties that haven't been recognised previously and would benefit from further investigation. The impact of COVID-19 continues to be felt, and as a result we are regrettably unable to provide this screening to all children who missed the opportunity earlier in the year.

If you have concerns about your child's vision, which they aren't already receiving care for, we recommend that you make an appointment at your local high street opticians for a free eye test.

A list of Opticians in Kent can be found at
<http://www.kentandmedwayloc.co.uk/index.asp?id=50&page=184>.

Key issues to consider in deciding whether your child needs an eye test are if:

- there is a family history of eye problems
- one eye is turning in or out
- the child complaining of regular headaches or sore eyes
- the child consistently rubbing or screwing up one or both eyes
- the child is holding things close to them related to them being able to see, not a habit

If you have concerns about your child's hearing, which they aren't already receiving care for, please contact school health service to arrange screening in school in the spring and summer terms in 2021. To do this please contact us using the detail at the top of this letter by Wednesday 16th December 2020.

If your level of concern means you do not think this delay is appropriate please contact your GP.

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

Key issues to consider in deciding whether you are concerned about your child's hearing are:

- if they aren't clear when they speak
- don't reply when you call them
- talk very loudly
- ask you to repeat yourself or respond inappropriately to questions
- turn up the volume of the TV very high
- If there are any of the concerns above and they were born outside of the UK and did not receive a newborn hearing screen.

If you have any questions relating to this letter or wish to discuss any health concerns which could impact on your child's education, please contact the School Health Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Burton
Head of School Health and Immunisation Service

Do you have feedback about our health services?

Phone: 0300 123 1807
8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
Text: 07899 903499
Email: kentchft.PALS@nhs.net
Web: www.kentcht.nhs.uk/PALS

If you need to speak to someone about your appointment, please contact the service directly using the details at the top of page one.



**Patient Advice and Liaison
Service (PALS)**
Kent Community Health NHS
Foundation Trust
Unit J, Concept Court
Shearway Business Park
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4RG