

**Private and confidential**

**School Health**  
Maidstone Studios  
Vinters Business Park  
New Cut Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 5NZ  
**Phone:** 0300 123 4496

**Email:** [kentchft.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net)

**Web:** <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk>

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Hearing Screening**

The School Health Team at Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust routinely offers hearing screening to all children in reception class to assess whether there is an issue which requires further investigation. The impact of covid-19 continues to be felt and as a result we are regrettably unable to provide the hearing screening.

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, using the details at the tops of this letter by **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. If your level of concern means you do not think this delay is appropriate please contact your GP.

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.

### **Vision Screening**

The School Health Team at Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust routinely offers vision screening to all children in reception class to assess whether there is an issue which requires further investigation. The screening will be carried out from January 2021 till the end of the summer term. If your child is receiving treatment for a vision problem or wears glasses they will not have their vision screened. Please contact us to opt out of the vision programme using the details above

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

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

The results of the screening will be sent home within four weeks of the screening being completed. Please ensure that your child's school has an up to date address and contact number for you to ensure the results letter is sent to the correct address or that we can contact you by phone if required.

If there are concerns with your child's vision we will refer them to the orthoptist for a follow up appointment.

If you are happy for your child to have their vision checked you do not need to contact us.

If your child is absent on the day of screening we will attempt to see them again in school, if this is not possible we will invite you to attend a community clinic.

### **NCMP – Height and Weight measurement**

Each year in England, school children in Reception have their height and weight checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Height and weight measurements are used to calculate weight status. We collect this information because it builds a picture of how children are growing to help plan better health and leisure services for families. We are also able to offer further support and advice about your child's weight. The NCMP will be carried out from January 2021 till the end of the summer term

You can view a short video about the benefits of the NCMP here: [https://youtu.be/i8\\_mubVI6hk](https://youtu.be/i8_mubVI6hk)

The checks are carried out by trained health care professionals. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils.

Please be aware that your child will not be made to take part if they do not want to or are unable to do so. We will contact you to let you know if this happens.

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's priority is to make sure we are delivering our services in a way that supports the safe care of all our patients and staff during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We want to reassure you that we are following Government and Health guidelines around safe Covid Practice.

### **Opting your child out of the Vision and/or NCMP programme**

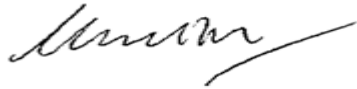
**If you do not want your child to take part in the vision screening or NCMP, please inform us by the Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020**, using either the email address or telephone number at the top of this letter. You will need to provide us with your child's name, address, date of birth, school name and address so that we do not screen your child.

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.

If you require more information regarding the Kent Community Health NHS Trust School Health services please visit [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health)

Information about how Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust collect and use information can be found at [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/legal/](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/legal/)

Yours faithfully



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](mailto:kentchft.PALS@nhs.net)

**Web:** [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/PALS](http://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