Kent Community Health
NHS Foundation Trust

Private and confidential

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Monday 18th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Hearing Screening

This letter is to invite you to participate in the hearing screening programme that the School Health Team at Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust offer to all reception aged children. Routine hearing tests are offered to children to identify any problems as early as possible because if they remain undetected they may affect your child's speech and language development, social skills and impair their education. Although serious hearing problems remain rare, testing ensures that problems can be picked up early to help ensure that you and your child has access to any specialist services you may require.

All children can have a screen if you think it would be beneficial, therefore if you would like your child to be included or have concerns about your child's hearing that are not currently being supported, please contact the School Health Service to arrange screening in school from May 2022, using the details at the top of this letter by **Friday 12th November 2021**.

The key issues for you to consider and to support you 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 did not receive a newborn hearing screen.

There is also evidence that the following groups may be at higher risk in relation to hearing concerns therefore, we highly recommend if you identify with one of the following groups that you access a screening test for your child, **even if you have no concerns**:

- children not born in the UK
- those of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Traveller Irish and Traveller Gypsy Roman ethnicity

- those born to mothers under 25 years of age
- those who have not received immunisations for Mumps and/or Men C booster under the pre school two dose vaccination programme.
- those who had neonatal illness

At the beginning of term, you may have completed a health questionnaire known as The Lancaster Model. If any concerns were identified with hearing, then your child will be offered a hearing screen, however if you have any immediate concerns, then please do seek advice from your GP to ensure that no concerns go undetected.

You will be notified of the outcome of your child's hearing screen via letter. If your child requires a retest, then this will be completed 12 weeks after the first screen. If your child fails two hearing screens, please be reassured that this will be followed up and they will be referred to our Specialist Audiology Services for further investigation.

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

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

Yours Sincerely

Kent School Health Screening Team

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