

Date: 15.12.20

Reception Vision Screening Programme update for Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians

Reception vision screening normally takes place between the ages of 4 -5 years old. Due to COVID-19 lockdown and the subsequent school closures, reception vision screening was paused nationwide in March 2020. This has meant that there are children currently in reception who have not yet had an eye test in school. In order to test the children who have not yet been screened, we aim to restart vision screening in January 2021. This will be done as safely as possible following local and national guidance. This information sheet is to update you on our plans for vision screening going forward.

Why does my child need an eye test?

- Vision screening tests are designed to see if your child has reduced vision in one or both eyes. The aim is to detect problems early so your child can receive effective treatment.
- Vision continues to develop from birth to around 8 years of age. Children rarely complain of poor vision, particularly if it affects just one eye, so problems can easily go undetected.
- Reduced vision can have an impact on a child's learning and development and is caused by the brain receiving an unclear image from one or both eyes.
- Reasons for reduced vision could include the shape of the eye or a turn/squint in one or both eyes. Treatment options may include glasses and/or a patch worn over the eye with best vision.
- **For more information about child vision screening:** www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes

Information for parents/guardians of current reception children (class of 2019-2020)

- Catch-up vision screening sessions for children now in year 1 (reception class of 2019-2020) will be arranged at a community or hospital clinic in January 2021.
- If you have any concerns about your child's vision prior to their eye test with the orthoptic team, you can contact your local optician or contact the Orthoptic Department on 02476 966520.

Information for parents/guardians of prospective reception children (class of 2020-2021)

- Children who started reception in September 2020 will start to have their vision screening in January 2021.
- Opt-out consent forms for you will be delivered to schools for all reception aged children for 2020-2021. If you have any concerns about your child having an eye test in school, you can contact the Vision Screening team to discuss this on 02476 966520.

How are we reducing risk to keep everyone safe during vision screening sessions?

- ✓ All staff involved in vision screening will follow local and national guidance on infection control.



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- ✓ Risk assessments will be completed prior to attending schools to ensure all steps are taken to minimise risk

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