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Together...

Believing, Achieving, Succeeding.

Kent Test Update for year 5 parents

Dear Parents & Carers of children in Year 5,

We are aware that a number of you will be wondering about how provision for entry to secondary schools and the Kent Test will be managed this year, given the fact that schools are closed for all but key workers.

As we have just received an update with regards to the planned September 2020 Kent Test from the KCC Corporate Director of Education, I thought it important to share his initial thoughts with you. I know that many of you will be thinking about the process during these uncertain times, therefore any information we get we will immediately pass on to you.

Mr Dunkley says,

'It is understandable that families would like to have a clear idea of what is going to happen to the Kent Test in the light of the current Covid-19 lockdown, but unfortunately it is too early to confirm anything other than that provision will be made for children to be assessed so that Kent's grammar schools can determine which of their applicants can be admitted.

A selection mechanism of some type will need to be applied, however, as it is unclear when restrictions will be released, it would be premature to fix a solution now. There is national legislation around the co-ordinated admissions process, so the action which can be taken regarding the timing of the Kent Test will also depend on advice from the DfE, which has yet to be issued.

All schools are continuing to provide support for their Year 5 pupils and there are many National Curriculum resources available free online. Our website has also offered access to free familiarisation material for a number of years. Unlike the national exams which have been cancelled, the Kent Test does not examine a taught syllabus. The process which determines what level of test performance will constitute a "pass" is set by KCC after the test has been completed, so there is also scope for flexibility when the Council considers the impact of the lockdown on everyone taking part.'

Any further information that is made available by KCC will of course be shared with you. The Kent Test familiarisation materials can be found here

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/14513/Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf



The Kent Test comprises 4 tests: Maths, reading comprehension, grammar and spelling and reasoning. All of the work shared on the Year 5 section of the school website directly links to the work that children would have been carrying out in school this term, so will directly support the progress of your child at this time in maths, English and grammar/spelling. Continuing to read a range of challenging texts will support the work needed for the reading comprehension tests, and will help with speed reading which is also a useful skill for the rigour of this test. The Kent familiarisation booklet will give you an idea of the exercises set in reasoning (verbal, non-verbal and spatial reasoning) which is not something that schools either teach or practice with children prior to the tests, due to rules set down by KCC which stop schools from 'teaching to the test'. However, you can purchase exercise papers online such as Bond Assessments, Letts reasoning papers, CGP 11+ practice papers so that your child can become familiar with the types of questions that they may encounter in the test.

Do contact your child's class teacher, via dojo, or Mrs Wright (phase leader) Miss Hamilton (Assistant Head/Year 6 teacher) or myself if you have any further questions.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs Jenny Ashley-Jones

Headteacher

