

Friday 22nd May 2020

### Kent Test Update for Year 5 Parents

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to further update you on Kent County Council's plans for the Autumn Kent Test. Some of you may have heard Matt Dunkley KCC's Corporate Director of Education speaking on Radio Kent last week where he discussed the plans for September. He was also asked about his plans in light of Rosie Duffield's comments that the Kent Test should be suspended amid fears for children's mental health.

Mr Dunkley has made it quite clear to head teachers that they were looking at three or four different scenarios at the moment and further information would be published to us on 1st June after consultation with other counties and the DFE. This is currently what is being displayed on the KCC website:

#### ***Kent Test for 2021 admissions***

***Registrations for the Kent Test will open on 1 June 2020 and close at midnight on 1 July 2020 for children due to start secondary school in September 2021. Parents will be informed closer to the time if any adjustments need to be made to the Kent Test as a result of the recent school closures for the majority of children.***

However, the following message will be added to the Kent website very soon too, so here is a preview of this updated information for you in advance of this:

***Dear Parents,***

***We understand that many of you with children in Year 5 are very anxious to know what will happen about the Kent Test when the new school year starts in September. We are carefully considering what might be deliverable, depending on advice from central government as the pandemic runs its course and decisions are made about the easing of lockdown for children of primary school age.***

***Many factors could change between now and the end of term and this means that we are currently unable to tell you exactly how we will assess children for grammar school in the new academic year. We can confirm, however, that we will need some way to identify which children are eligible.***

***Testing has the benefit of being available to the thousands of grammar school applicants we normally assess every year, however recently they have arrived in Kent and wherever they usually study, even if they are home educated, so it would be the most straightforward option if it is possible. Whatever is decided, though, we need to be confident that we can keep the risk to children and their teachers as low as possible, allowing grammar schools meet their legal obligations in a fair and transparent way, while allowing KCC to stay within the national timetable for coordinating school admissions.***

**We appreciate that everyone of school age is missing classroom teaching, but it is fortunate that there are many excellent resources available through schools and education sites for children. Familiarisation material for the Kent Test can also be found in the "Test Paper" tab below.**

**[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/14513/Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/14513/Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf)**

**We will update the website for everyone's benefit when we have received further guidance from the Department for Education and there is a clearer understanding of what arrangements may be possible. In the meantime, we would ask that parents monitor the Kent Test page for updates, rather than sending individual enquiries. We do understand that uncertainty is difficult, especially for children, but KCC is unable to confirm what arrangements will be in place until there is a clearer understanding of how children are likely to return to school in greater numbers.**

At this point of the year, we would normally have shared the children's Cognitive Ability Test (CAT) scores with you which would act as a guide in helping you make an informed decision as to whether you wanted to register your child for the Kent Test. Due to partial school closure, this has not been possible this year so, as an alternative, do let your child's teacher know, via dojo if you would like a phone consultation in order to help you make an informed decision about registration or not.

As highlighted in my last letter, the Kent Test familiarisation booklet will give you an idea of the exercises set in Maths, English, grammar/spelling and reasoning papers. You can purchase exercise papers online such as Bond Assessments, Letts reasoning papers, CGP11+practice papers so that your child can become familiar with the types of questions that they may encounter in the test.

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/14513/Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/14513/Kent-Test-familiarisation-booklet.pdf)

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

As soon as KCC publish further detail and information (1st June) we will share a PowerPoint presentation with you that will outline all salient points. In the meantime if you have any specific queries for any of the Year 5 teachers, please do not hesitate to contact them through dojo and I can be contacted through the school office if you have more specific or personal questions that may need answering.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs Jenny Ashley-Jones  
Executive Head Teacher

