



Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

3 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to write to you with regard to the latest information concerning the Kent Test (11+) for children who are currently in year 5. Clearly this is a big consideration for parents as at this time of the year decisions are made regarding whether parents enter their children into the test and also whether preparations for the test can begin at home. I would like to assure parents that we will support you through this process to the best of our ability.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID 19 pandemic, information from the Local Authority has been available slightly later than usual, to the point where the website was still updated yesterday (02.06.20) so please do follow the links in this document for the very latest information.

The following statement regarding the Kent process for entry to Secondary Education has been released by Matt Dunkley, the Corporate Director for Kent's Children, Young People and Education and is also available to view on the official Kent Test website:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test>

"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 at:

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."

Next Steps for Parents at Garlinge Primary School and Nursery

- Decide whether you would like your child to sit the Kent Test. You know your child best, but we will support your decision making process. If you would like to contact your child's class teacher, please do so on their class email, for example 5A@garlinge.kent.sch.uk (or 5B, 5C,

5D). Or contact Mrs Pegden (Assistant Head Teacher for years 5 and 6) via 6A@garlinge.kent.sch.uk or call the main school telephone number of 01843 221877.

- If you decide to apply, it is an online application process <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-1>
You will need an email address to apply. It is usually a straightforward process that takes 5 – 10 minutes, but if you need any support, again contact the school on 01843 221877.
- Registrations are open from the 1st of June 2020 and close at midnight on the 1st of July 2020, so there is still plenty of time. There is no advantage or disadvantage to applying either early or late within this window.
- It is perfectly fine at this stage to register your child for the Kent Test and then if you change your mind, you will be able to withdraw them from the process at a later date. The reverse is not possible and the deadline for entries is strictly adhered to.

Other Useful Information

- Kent Test date ('subject to unavoidable change') – Thursday 10th September 2020.
- Results emailed and posted – Thursday 15th October 2020.
- Practice papers are available online <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/11plus-series-11-plus-practice-papers/11plus-familiarisation-materials/>
- Familiarisation papers are available online <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-3> Scroll down to Kent Test familiarisation booklet (PDF, 2.6 MB) and click.
- Kent Test information leaflet <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/kent-test#tab-1> Scroll down to Kent Test leaflet (PDF, 534.3 KB) and click.

I do hope that you find the above information useful for you to consider. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Williams
Headteacher