



St. Matthew's High Brooms C.E. Primary School
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Head teacher: Mrs S Hayward
Deputy Heads: Mrs C Pollard and Mr T Hardwick

Fulfilling God-given potential

May 22nd 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

At this point of the year, we would normally hold a meeting for year 5 parents to explain the choice of secondary schools in the area and the process for applying to them. This is not possible this year but it is still important for us to contact you about secondary schools as those children who might wish to attend a Grammar school need to register to take the Kent selection test (often referred to as the 11+). It is normal practice for us to complete online CAT tests with year 5 children before this date to help parents decide if their child is likely to obtain scores suitable for selection to a Grammar school, however we are unable to do that at present.

It is always a parent's choice to decide if they want their child to take the test. Teachers can only guide and say whether the child's standard of attainment is in line with those suitable for Grammar schools. Please read the following letter from Kent which outlines the process this year.

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.





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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.

The Kent page for finding information and entering for the Kent test is below.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places#tab-4>

We will be able to give you more information on the different choices of secondary school later on this year before you need to make your choices. Everything will be different this year and whereas we would be encouraging the year 5s and their parents to attend open days and evenings in all the secondary schools, you will understand that none of these events can take place currently. We would recommend that you look at the secondary school websites to get an idea of what they offer and this is also where you can find their admission policy.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Pollard
Deputy Head
St Matthew's CE Primary School.

