Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Orthoptic Department
Royal Berkshire Hospital
London Road
Reading RG1 5AN
Tel: 0118 322 7681
Email: rbb-tr.OrthopticsReading@nhs.net

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Dear Parents and Guardians

Information for parents/guardians of reception children (class of 2025-2026)

An Orthoptist will be visiting your child's school

- All children with date of birth **01.9.20 – 31.08.21** who attend state school in West Berkshire, Reading or Wokingham Unitary Authorities will have their vision tested during the current academic year.
- This is an **opt-out consent programme.** If you do not wish your child to have their vision tested please inform the school.
- In line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), by consenting to have your child's eyes tested you are also consenting to the school sharing your child's personal details of name and date of birth with the Royal Berkshire Hospital. If you do not wish for this data to be shared please inform the school and your child will not have their vision tested. It is then the responsibility of yourself as the parent/guardian to make arrangements for eye tests for your child.
- The testing is carried out by Orthoptists from the Eye Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. Orthoptists are Allied Health Professionals who specialise in the development, investigation and treatment of eye disorders.
- It is not necessary for you to be present for the test.
- We do not need to test children who are already wearing glasses or attending a hospital eye clinic.
- If we find your child's vision is at a level requiring further investigation your child will bring home a letter explaining the next steps. The referral criteria used are in line with national guidance based on age appropriate levels of vision. This letter will either be a recommendation to take your child to an optician of your choice or information on the procedure for referral to the Orthoptic Department.
- Completing the test successfully shows that vision is developing normally and there is no indication that glasses are required at present. Children may still need to wear glasses when they are older if they develop visual difficulties, headaches or eye strain.
- Parents/guardians if there are any concerns about your child having an eye test in school; please contact the Orthoptic Department on the above details.

- If your child is absent on the day of screening we will attempt to test again when they are in Year 1. If you are concerned about your child's eyes or vision between this you are welcome to take your child to the local opticians.

- If your child is unable to do the test on the day we will attempt to test again when they are in Year 1. In some circumstances we may refer on if after the first attempt we feel your child will not be able to do the test next year as well.

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

ORTHOPTIC DEPARTMENT