



**North Cumbria
Integrated Care
NHS Foundation Trust**

Sept 2020

Department of Orthoptics (Eye Clinic)

Tel 01228 814791

Dear Parent /Carer.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR CHILD FOR AN EYE TEST AT YOUR LOCAL OPTOMETRIST (OPTICIAN)

Due to school closures last term resulting from COVID 19, the National Vision Screening Programme for children age 4-5 years (last school years Reception) has not been undertaken in most schools throughout Cumbria.

Why is it important to have an eye test?

A child's vision only develops until the age of 7-8 years and this is known as the critical period. After this it may not be possible to improve your child's vision and your child may be left with permanently reduced vision in one or both eyes. This may have implications in later life such as their ability to drive or career choice. There is often no indication of a vision problem particularly if just one eye is affected and parents have no idea that their child needs glasses.

We strongly advise that at the first opportunity you make an appointment for your child with a local optometrist.

The school based screeners will endeavour to catch up with all children by the end of year 1 but we would encourage you to not wait until then so that any problems can be picked up at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Carol Telford, Jane Eyre, Karen Fyles and Sylvie Booth

(Orthoptists)

Louise Willis

(Clinical Services Manager Universal 0-19)