

Viking Academy Trust

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Chilton Primary School
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Dear Viking Parents & Carers,

Viking Term 2 Update... I am writing to express my gratitude on behalf of the Viking staff for the support shown by parents and families across the first ten days of this term. Unbelievable that we have only been back for two weeks, the half-term holiday seems such a long time ago. The reintroduction of 'lockdown' and the unfortunate escalation of positive cases of coronavirus in Thanet has meant our schools have needed to further enhance the variety of measures in place to ensure the children and staff are able to attend school in the safest way possible.

With the impact of the pandemic affecting daily life in school (as well as at home), it is important we share as much information as we can with you so you are fully informed as to what is happening beyond the school gates and inside our classrooms. Undeniably, life at Chilton, at RAPS and at Upton is different from our 'usual' November – but, be assured... our children are happy, they are immersed in their learning, they are able to play with friends and they feel safe.

Communication between Home & School... Understandably, at a time when so many things are beyond our control, it is essential you, as parents, feel in control regarding your child, their education and the impact the virus is having on the day-to-day home/school routines family life is built around.

Positive corona virus cases across the Trust: We appreciate the need for parents and families to receive up to date communication regarding the number of coronavirus cases within our schools, the impact this has on classes and 'bubbles' and the actions taken to ensure the safety of our children, staff and families.

Miss Arthur (Upton), Mr Budge (RAPS) & Mrs Law (Chilton) will continue to share communication in a timely manner to allow for you to receive **accurate information** in the following way:

Once clarification and advice has been given to the school from the Department for Education and Public Health England the school will:

- **Send a message and a letter to the class / bubble impacted**
- **Send a message / letter to the whole school community to inform them**

We politely request for parents to refrain from sharing information on social media – especially if this speculates over the individual / family concerned. We respect the privacy of all members of our community and will only use the phrase... 'a member of our community' if a child or adult within the class/bubble has tested positive.

If you have questions or require further clarification, please contact the Head of School or the office and we will look to support you.

As of today, the impact on our schools is as follows:

'One Childhood One Chance'



Chilton Primary School, Ramsgate Arts Primary School and Upton Junior School are operated by Viking Academy Trust which is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 09449979. The Registered Office is at Chilton Primary School, Chilton Lane, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 0LQ. Viking Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Chilton: One Year 2, one Year 4 and one Year 5 class is isolating following positive test results. Staff working within these classes are also in isolation.

RAPS: Both Year 2 classes isolating following a positive test result. One positive case in Year 6. The Year 6 class are not required to isolate as contact was not during the school week. A small number of staff are in isolation.

Upton: Two Year 6 and two Year 3 classes are isolating following positive test results. Staff working in these classes are also self-isolating.

Health & Safety measures in place in our schools... We continue to go over and above advice given by Public Health England and the government. Our personal hygiene strategy reinforces messages about the importance of cleanliness and children are supported throughout the day with regular hand washing, the use of hand sanitiser, follow ‘catch-it, bin-it, kill-it’ mantra and remain in their ‘bubbles’ to minimise the chance of a further spread of the virus within our schools.

The wearing of a face covering for primary school aged children remains a decision for parents and families. We do have a small number of children that have elected to wear these. All of our staff wear a face covering in corridors, communal areas of the school and during face to face contact with other adults. (unless exempt)

Thank you for respecting our request for adults and secondary aged children to wear a face covering when entering our school sites during ‘drop-off’ and collection times. As you are aware, we have fluid timings in place to stagger the number of people together at any time, however, the start and end of the school day are the two points whereby social distancing is more difficult and a greater number of people gather together in one place.

We therefore ask that you respect our decision and continue to work with us as we try to protect our children, staff and families.

[Click here](#) to view the latest government **guidance for parents and carers**. Alongside this letter is the most up-to-date information from the **Government & PHE Guidance regarding self-isolation**.

Home Learning, Microsoft Teams & IT support: As and when classes are closed and children are asked to self-isolate, ‘live learning’ has been arranged by each school to support learning from home. Whilst we appreciate it is never going to replace the quality of education taking place all day, every day in school – we believe it enhances the remote learning opportunity and have worked hard to provide engaging lessons for our children (& their parents) to participate in. It also allows for (virtual) face to face contact and (hopefully) reduces the anxiety children may feel at being apart and away from school.

Microsoft Teams (office 365) is the virtual learning platform we use to bring home learning to life. Our IT team have produced a number of **‘How To...’ guides** and support videos to assist parents getting started with this. Please [click here](#) to access these. Contact the school office if you have any technical/password issues and we will endeavour to support you.

Parental Engagement: Sadly, due to covid19 restrictions, the welcoming ‘open-door’ policy our schools cherish with families hasn’t been possible. We are keen to develop new ways allowing parents to feel involved in their child’s educational experience.

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'Virtual' Parent Teacher Consultations* have / are taking place and we thank you for persevering with the technology to allow for these to go ahead. We continue to encourage email communication, phone calls to the office and accessing our websites and social media. MCAS is our primary method for communication. Please ensure your most up to date mobile number and email address is shared with the school office.

***For parents that haven't had yet had a telephone or Teams Parent Consultation appointment (and haven't an appointment in the diary for later this month) please do contact the school office to arrange one as a matter of urgency.**

Free School Meals: support for families now, whilst in isolation & during the holiday period: Please read the accompanying information sent out or [click here](#) to read further details. If you have any questions, please do contact the school office in the first instance.



Test & Trace Support Payment Scheme: If you are asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and you're on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, you may be **entitled to a payment of £500** from your local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

The scheme will run until 31 January 2021. For more information and check your eligibility, please [click here](#) or visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

Now more than ever, it is vital we look after our mental well-being as well as our physical health. Our **'Worried?'** page on each school site contains helpful resources to support well-being at home as well as links to numerous sites that share information and contact details for organisations available to support children and families during these challenging times. Please do take the time to look & click on the link below:

Chilton Worried page	RAPS Worried page	Upton Worried page
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Viking 'spirit': I have written often during this pandemic about the teamwork and tenacity shown by all members of our Viking community. The resilience shown by children, whilst not surprising, still never ceases to amaze me. At Viking we are so fortunate to have a team of staff that daily put their own anxieties to one side, to ensure our schools continue to be warm & welcoming, safe and stimulating for all of our children.

And to you, our parent community – I thank you for trusting us to navigate our way through these uncertain times. It certainly isn't easy for a parent to give over one's trust – especially for such precious cargo, during these difficult times – and I assure you, the health and safety of our children, staff and the Viking community remains our core priority.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Be safe, be considerate and let's keep our community well!

Mrs M Lewis, Executive Headteacher

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Government & PHE Guidance regarding self-isolation:

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available [clicking here](#) or visiting:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The **14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.**

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information: is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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