

# Viking Academy Trust

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Chilton Primary School  
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CT11 0LQ

Dear Viking Parents & Carers,

**Tier 3 'Very High Alert'...** I am very aware of the growing concern across our Viking community regarding the remainder of this term with the increased risk of families having to self-isolate during the Christmas holiday, especially as Thanet will be placed in to **Tier 3 'Very High Alert'** when lockdown ceases tomorrow.

Government guidance states schools in England cannot close early due to coronavirus but must assess their risk assessments to ensure they remain 'covid secure' and meet necessary health & safety measures.

As you are aware, our Heads and school staff have been rigorous and robust in applying their risk assessment to ensure children can attend school throughout the lockdown period. As I stated in my first letter of term 2, in spite of everything we put in place, we are unable to guarantee safety and can only reduce the risk of spreading the virus – we cannot eliminate the risk.

I have seen on parent forums and social media, the heightened concern regarding 'bubbles' closing in the final week of term which would result in children and families having to self-isolate across the Christmas period. If a member of our school community tests positive for corona having been in school on 11<sup>th</sup> December – then the 14-day isolation period would take us up until Christmas Day.

I want to be able to reassure you that this won't happen – but I am unable to do this.

The Leadership Team and Governors are looking at alternative measures we could set out to prevent families – and at the heart of this, our children – having to face uncertainty in the run up to the festive season.

One consideration could be to establish 'remote home learning' for the period of 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December for all families wishing to keep their children at home.

Schools will remain open for children of key workers and our most vulnerable as well as those families that wish for their children to remain on site.

I ask if you would take 5 minutes to share your thoughts on this suggestion by responding in the survey below.

Please [click here](#) to access the parent survey

If this can be completed by 12pm on **3rd December**. This will allow the school leaders to take the views of our parent community on board and make plans accordingly.

Please do know we understand and appreciate your concerns and realise there isn't one 'right' view here. Just everybody working really hard to make the right decision at a time when we are all increasingly facing more challenges.

Be safe, be considerate and let's keep our community well...for Christmas and beyond!

Mrs M Lewis, Executive Headteacher

**'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.

## 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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