



VIKING ACADEMY TRUST

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Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We welcome you back for the start of term 3 tomorrow and I hope that you have enjoyed the festive break. I know many families have been affected by Covid across the last few weeks and it is highly likely that we will continue to face a challenging period ahead.

With that in mind and with government guidance updated, I am writing to outline the measures that will be taken at Upton to start Term 3. These are in place so that we can do all that we can to protect staffing levels, try to prevent transmission and keep children in classrooms with face to face teaching taking place. Once again, I must strike a careful balance between health and safety measures and ensuring that the quality of learning and the children's experience at school are not seriously compromised.

Essentially, mixing indoors between classes will be limited. For morning Maths and English lessons, the children will only mix in half year group bubbles (blue & green and red & yellow) rather than across all four classes. Essential provision such as phonics groups, intervention and tutoring will continue to take place unaffected. Assemblies will all be 'virtual' and the bubbles will be separated for indoor eating arrangements. Breakfast Club and After School Clubs will run as usual with children organised in to year group sections of the hall to limit mixing. Staff will be required to wear face coverings in communal areas and all visitors inside the school building will also be asked to wear a face covering (this includes visiting the school office).

PE and swimming lessons start as usual from Monday 10th and sports and music clubs will continue to run as planned from next week. Children will still be able to use the full extent of the outdoor space at break and lunchtime (apart from when the field is particularly wet and muddy).

Our cleaning and 'fogging' routines will continue rigorously and children will regularly wash hands and/or use anti-bac hand sanitiser. Staff also routinely use Lateral Flow Tests regularly and have been asked to limit their contact with others outside of their year group as much as possible. Ten minute air-breaks will now take place throughout the school day with children going outside so that the air can be completely refreshed in classrooms. We have air quality monitors in place and we will continue to keep rooms sensibly well ventilated. I will inform parents of a positive case (lateral flow or PCR) in a class as soon as we are notified.

NEW CLOSE CONTACT GUIDANCE

The DFE state the following:



Chilton Primary School
Mrs Kate Law ~ Head of School
www.chiltonprimaryschool.co.uk



Ramsgate Arts Primary School
Mr Nicholas Budge ~ Head of School
www.ramsgateartsprimary.co.uk



Upton Junior School
Miss Darci Arthur
~ Head of School
www.uptonjunior.com

“From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFT) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.”

SELF ISOLATION GUIDANCE FOR THOSE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID

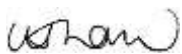
The DFE state the following:

“Individuals may now take LFT tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFT testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7”

We have been lucky so far at Upton in that staffing has remained at a level where learning has not been affected unduly. Whilst we face continuing uncertain times, I hope that we can work together as a school community to keep Upton healthy and as uninterrupted as possible in the coming weeks.

Please get in touch with any queries.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs K Law

Head of School

headofschool@chiltonprimary.co.uk



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