

Viking Academy Trust

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Chilton Primary School
Chilton Lane
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 0LQ

Dear Viking Parents,

Welcome to Term 2... I hope you have all had a relaxing and restful week, I think we are all going to need as much energy in our reserves as possible for the coming weeks!

Thursday 5th November will see the country go back into a lockdown of sorts, and you will all have your own opinion on that. In line with Government guidance we will be opening during this period of lockdown, and will continue to provide the best education we can, under the circumstances. We will, no doubt, have to adapt our provision dependent on staff availability but we will keep you informed throughout.

Whatever your view on the lockdown, we are where we are, it is what it is, but one thing is for sure, as far as we are concerned, children need to be back in school, they have already lost too much of what is one of their inalienable rights in a civilised country, the right to an education.

It is a difficult and I am sure an anxious time for you all, once again having to make decisions for your children, and whilst I voice my opinion that children should be back in school, whatever you choose to do, it is your right as a parent to make that choice on their behalf.

With the threat of a virus hanging over us, it is not an easy decision to make but we need to carry on for the sake of the children and to ensure that our society can continue to function, even in a limited way.

Miss Arthur (Upton), Mr Budge (RAPS) & Mrs Law (Chilton) have been working with their staff to ensure each Viking school is as prepared as it can be for the term ahead. It is our job, as school leaders, to give you a measure of security, but we cannot guarantee that, no school can under the current circumstances, but we can only do our best.

I can promise that the health, safety & wellbeing of our children, staff and wider school communities are at the centre of all decisions taken. We follow guidance shared by Public Health England (PHE) and ask you to support our efforts in the following ways:

- Be as open and transparent regarding confirmation of positive Covid 19 testing and requirements to self-isolate
- Reinforce with your children the need for hand and oral hygiene habits and make sure we, as adults, practice what we preach!
- Ensure winter school uniform is worn, with suitable warm, wet weather clothing for play, lunch times and outside PE & Games sessions.
- Please look to communicate with school staff via telephone or email and only come in to the school office if absolutely necessary

'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.

- Take advantage of the staggered start and end of the school day to avoid being in contact with other families
- To limit the number of people together on the school site, only one adult per family group will be allowed to deliver, and collect the children, at the start and end of the school day. Please make alternate arrangements to meet older siblings (secondary aged children) & not have them meet on our school grounds.
- Please wear a face covering when you do enter the school site and when and if you speak with a member of staff on the gate or at classroom doors.
- Begin to familiarise yourself with Microsoft 365 as we will use 'Teams' as our online platform for Home Learning. Support guides can be found on our website, please [click here](#) to access.
- Remember to pack fresh water bottle daily for your child as our water fountains remain out of use.
- I urge you to refrain from using social media platforms as a means of sharing information regarding 'potential' positive covid 19 cases relating to children, families & staff of Viking. Anxiety levels are raised enough & unsubstantiated communication platforms could cause more harm than good. Let the school know if there is any risk & we can seek advice from PHE as to the best course of action to protect us all.
- If in any doubt about anything – ask!

Please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's Head if you have any questions or would like further advice. Whilst I cannot promise to have the answers, I can assure you we will do everything we can to offer our support at this challenging time.

Attached to this letter you will find an, 'Action for Happiness: New ways November' calendar... food for thought, with ideas to share with your children & extended family across lockdown. Also, below you will see a poster to encourage us to focus on 'things we can control'... it may be a small help!

More than ever, I urge you to **STAY STRONG, STAY SAFE AND STAY TOGETHER!** There will be an end to this, we just have to make sure we get there in one piece, as individuals, as well members of our Viking family, a community that we each work so hard and so faithfully for. For the sake of the children's futures, we need to make sure we continue to do our best for them.

Keep calm, stay wise, be kind!

Mjemi

Mrs M Lewis
Executive Headteacher

