

Viking Academy Trust

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Chilton Primary School
Chilton Lane
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CT11 0LQ

Dear Viking Parents/Carers

Viking Academy Trust: National Lockdown: Arrangements for Term 3

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a return to a lockdown across the country, we are now able to confirm school closure will be for the duration of Term 3 and we will plan for a full reopening at the start of term 4.

The dates are as follows:

- Term 3: Tuesday 5th January – Friday 12th February (6 weeks)
- Half Term: Monday 15th – Friday 19th February
- Term 4: Monday 22nd February – Friday 1st April

Home Learning, Microsoft Teams & IT support: Arrangements for 'Home Learning' will follow the format your child's Head shared yesterday. '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.

We do appreciate the challenges that may come with home learning; for the children, parents and staff. I promise we will do our utmost to support families – not just with IT issues but also with ensuring children continue to feel part of their school family and that we focus upon positive mental health and well-being as well as 'academic' learning.

Please do not feel you are alone in navigating through the next six weeks. Get in touch with us and allow us to help where we can.

On-site provision for our vulnerable children and those pupils of critical workers: To ensure we can safely open our schools in a covid-secure way, we ask only KEY 'CRITICAL' WORKER parent/carers to access the offer of childcare within school. If you have the capacity to keep your child at home in order to reduce the number of people in school, then we ask for you to please do this.

For families with a 'vulnerable' child, Mrs Claxton (Upton), Mrs Hughes (Chilton & RAPS) or your Head of School will be in contact to discuss learning support and provision across this term. If you believe your child meets the 'vulnerable' criteria and you haven't had the school contact you by Thursday, please do contact your Head for support.

'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.

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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FREE SCHOOL MEALS: We have communicated with families currently in receipt of free school meals and have also shared with **all** Viking families the information required to apply for free school meals. (Please [click here](#) for further information). I strongly advise families to complete the application if any of the reasons below apply to you:

- 1) You have a child in Year R, 1 or 2 that receives universal infant free school meals* but could meet the threshold for Free School Meals (FSM) application
- 2) You have a child in Year R, 1 or 2 that receives universal infant free school meals* and another child in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 that receives Free School Meals.
- 3) Recent circumstances have changed your financial situation and therefore you may now meet the criteria to be in receipt of Free School Meals.

*Please note: Universal Infant Free School Meals is a nationwide government initiative. EVERY child of infant school age is in receipt of this. It is different from Free School Meals (FSM). An application must be completed for you to receive FSM.

The reason I am urging you to ensure your details are as up to date as possible is due to the voucher system used for FSM during periods of school partial closure.

Our finance team is currently in the process of organising the vouchers and will share information with families that are registered for free school meals. Please note, it isn’t too late to apply – once your application has been confirmed, you will be included in the voucher list.

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>

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.

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More than ever, I urge you to **STAY STRONG, STAY SAFE AND STAY TOGETHER!** There will be an end to this; the vaccine brings a light at the end of the tunnel - 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.

Keep calm, stay wise, be kind!

Michaela

Michaela Lewis
Executive Headteacher



FOOD BANKS & other support available in Thanet during this challenging time.

<https://www.thanetsupport.co.uk/category/coronavirus/food-banks>

Kent Coast Volunteering

Thanet Hub

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Coronavirus - Changing Minds - The Lifeboat project	Coronavirus - Cliftonville Community Centre	Coronavirus - Global Generation Church	Coronavirus - GRASS Food Voucher Scheme
 07467 034812	 07529 248188 available Mon to Fri 10:30am-3:30pm	 01843 226232	 07761 916654
Coronavirus - Margate Independent Food Bank	Coronavirus - Millmead Children's Centre	Coronavirus - Ramsgate Family Food Bank	Coronavirus - Salvation Army, Margate
 07443 890082 or 07752 605042	 01843 280555	 01843 596777	 01843 298260
Coronavirus - Salvation Army, Minster	Coronavirus - Salvation Army, Ramsgate	Coronavirus - Six Bells Children's Centre	Coronavirus - St Austin & Gregory's Food Parcel Service
 01843 822308	 07900 497326	 0300 041 1666	 01843 220825
Coronavirus - Thanet Food Link - St Pauls Food Bank (Margate)	Coronavirus - Thanet Food Link - St Peters Food Bank (Broadstairs)	Coronavirus - Thanet Iceberg Project	The Community Outreach Project
 01843 447187	 07385 290358	 01843 500021	 07760 352290