

Viking Academy Trust

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Chilton Primary School
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Dear Viking Parents/Carers

Viking Academy Trust: WELCOME to the start of a new school year... It is with huge excitement, anticipation (and perhaps just a few butterflies in my tummy); I share a very warm “welcome” to our Viking family.

‘Back to School 2021’ is undeniably a time of mixed emotions. Staff across the Viking Academy Trust are looking forward with enthusiasm to the start of a brand-new school year. Children and families the length and breadth of the country will be preparing for the re-opening of school gates; with back to school routines happening in every home.

We had hoped the new academic year would allow us the freedom to move forward, away from the constraints and restraints Covid-19 has brought with it. In many ways, the reopening of our schools will be a return to ‘familiar routine’ however, unfortunately, with positive cases of the coronavirus still high in our community*, particularly so among young people – we must remain vigilant in our health and safety procedures and proceed with caution. Covid-19 hasn’t gone away; friends and family are still testing positive for the virus and sadly, some people are becoming very poorly indeed.

The government has made it very clear the education of our children cannot suffer the disruption it has across the last two academic years. Quite rightly, Viking school leaders will do everything they can to ensure children return to a safe, settled and calm environment - however, we cannot remove all risk – only look to manage the risk in the best way we can to keep our children, staff and community as safe as possible.

Viking staff will continue to take lateral flow tests (LFTs) twice weekly having tested prior to their return to school for the start of the new school year. If possible, I ask if families would also consider taking a lateral flow test before the children return to their new class.

[Click here](#) to find out where you can access ‘Lateral flow tests’ locally

Obviously, if anybody in your family is displaying coronavirus symptoms, they would need to arrange to take a PCR test. [Click here](#) to access PCR tests.

Your child’s Head of School - Miss Arthur (Upton), Mr Budge (RAPS) or Mrs Law (Chilton) - will write to you across the next few days with school specific **‘Back to School’** information. Alongside this, the government has now launched its **‘Back to School Safely’** campaign ([click here](#) to access DfE information). I urge you to take time to read the documentation which will also be made available on our websites and accessible via social media platforms.

If, having received your **‘Back to School’** letter, you have any questions or concerns that remain unanswered, please do not hesitate to contact the school – or email me directly. My priority across the initial days of this new academic year will be to ensure communication systems are strong and everyone at Viking feels they have a voice – to speak out, be heard and most importantly, listened to.

‘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.

Our highly skilled team of teachers and support staff will spend the start of this year ensuring children feel happy and safe in school. Once children are secure in their environment then the academic learning will undoubtedly flourish!

Once again, I welcome families old and new back to Viking. It is my pleasure – and privilege - to lead this fantastic community of schools. I sincerely hope we are able to fulfil the pledge of trust you have bestowed upon us by choosing Chilton, Ramsgate Arts and Upton to work alongside you – parents –in educating your children!

Wishing us all a happy, healthy, safe and successful year ahead!
With my warmest wishes

Michaela Lewis
Executive Headteacher

***Thanet’s latest Covid-19 Figures (as of 30/08/2021)**

- **663 confirmed cases last week**
- **This is a rise of 15% on the previous week**
- **Per 100,000 figure nationally is 326 and Thanet is above average with a figure of 468**
- **This is 24% higher than national figures**

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