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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 Chilton 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 as it was at the end of Term 2. Essential learning groups such as phonics, key interventions and Miss Isaac's learning group will still go ahead. Classes will be separated for indoor eating arrangements and assemblies will continue to be 'virtual'. 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 lessons and Sports Project sessions start as usual from tomorrow. After school clubs will continue to run as planned. Children will still be able to use the full extent of the outdoor space at break and lunchtime and we do still recommend Years 2-6 having outdoor shoes as the field will get 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 continue throughout the school day with children going outside so that the air can be completely refreshed in classrooms. Every classroom has an air quality monitor 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:

“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

‘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.



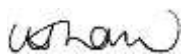
The DFE state the following:

“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 Chilton 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 Chilton healthy and as uninterrupted as possible in the coming weeks.

Please get in touch with any queries.

Yours Sincerely



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