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Dear Families,

As you all know, I am passionate about play and fostering a love of school through meaningful and joyful experiences. With this in mind, I am delighted to share some exciting changes to our lunchtimes at Chilton Primary School, starting in Term 3. These changes are designed to enhance the enjoyment and engagement of all our children and are underpinned by our transition to becoming a **Thrive School**.

Thrive is all about supporting children's emotional wellbeing, and play—now to be called '**Thrive Play**'—is fundamental to that wellbeing. Play provides children with opportunities to explore, challenge themselves, and communicate, all of which are vital for their development.

A Unified Lunchtime

From Term 3, all children will have lunch between 12:00 and 1:00 pm, replacing our current split lunchtime system. This change will allow us to:

- Provide greater supervision during playtimes and opportunities for play.
- Open up more areas of play for the children to explore and enjoy.

Exploring the Great Outdoors

We are thrilled to introduce more outdoor opportunities during lunchtime. From Term 3:

- Children in Years 1 to 6 will have access to our forest area during lunchtimes
- To participate, children will need to bring in a pair of wellies to change into before heading to forest area, these can be kept in school, in their lockers.
- If you'd like your child to wear waterproof trousers, you are welcome to send them in, though these are not mandatory.

New Play Activities and Areas

To enrich our children's **Thrive Play**, we will be introducing a range of new activities and resources. While not everything will happen at once, here's what you can expect to see soon:

- **New line markings and large-scale games** painted on both the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds.
- **Additional play equipment**, including opportunities for ball games, den building, and construction.
- **New Trim-Trail in KS1 playground.**
- A **sand pit** in the KS1 playground.
- As we approach Term 4, children will be able to **free-flow between the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds**, providing greater variety in activities and better use of our spaces.

'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.



- In our covered areas, we will offer activities such as **Lego play, art, and small-world play** (figures and figurines).
- A daily Thrive/wellbeing focus for **Thrive Play**.

The improvements to our traditional playtimes, mean that our children will be getting additional playtime to ensure we continue to meet our Platinum award status for Physical Education. Therefore, children will now also only have to come in to school with their trainers on P.E days, making all our lives simpler.

Donations Welcome

To help us offer the best play experiences possible, we would greatly appreciate any donations of Lego, art supplies, or small-world toys that your children may no longer use at home. If you're able to contribute, please send items into school with your child or drop them off at the office.

We are so excited about these changes, which we believe will not only enhance playtimes but also nurture our children's creativity, collaboration, and love of learning. Thank you for your continued support as we work to make Chilton Primary School a place where every child feels supported, engaged, and ready to thrive.

Warm regards,
Mr. McAuley
Head of School

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