

Ramsgate Arts Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are again!

When looking back over the newsletter I wrote this time last year, I didn't think I would be still writing about COVID a year on (or hoped I wouldn't be).

I would be foolish to ignore the headlines of rising infection rates of Omicron (but thankfully fewer hospital admissions) and know there will be mixed emotions amongst the RAPS community coming back to school. Some of you will want life back to normal and will think that Covid and its varying mutations is something that eventually will be treated like the common cold. There will be others that will want to be a lot more cautious and may 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 RAPS in 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 compromised.

Essentially, mixing indoors between Year groups will be limited as it was at the end of Term 2. Essential learning groups such as phonics and key interventions will still go ahead. Classes will be separated for indoor eating arrangements and assemblies across key stages. Breakfast Club and After School Clubs will run as usual with children organised into Key stages in 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). For the next month, we will suspend any in-class parent events, such as Art to Start or shared parent reading. These will hopefully be resumed at the end of the month dependant on infection rates. PE lessons will start as usual and the Arts curriculum will carry on as planned.

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. The classrooms will continue to be kept sensibly well ventilated. I will inform parents of a positive case (lateral flow) 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 (LFD) test every

'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.



day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.” You will be informed by the school if your child has been in close contact with someone with COVID.

NEW TESTING GUIDANCE

From 11th January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

SELF ISOLATION GUIDANCE FOR THOSE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID

The DFE state the following:

“Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD 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 LFD 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 setting from day 8.”

At the end of last Term we did have a bout of staff sickness which did leave our Team a little stretched but this did not affect the children’s learning. I would like to thank the staff for stepping up to cover ill and absent colleagues to ensure that the school life continued as normal for our children. If any staff absence occur over the following weeks we will endeavour to cover with the RAPS Team.

So as we find ourselves having just said goodbye to another challenging year, let’s stay positive and say hello to optimism, hope and trust for 2022.

Happy New Year



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