

Viking Academy Trust

Mrs Michaela Lewis (BA Hons)
Executive Headteacher
Email: eht@vikingacademytrust.com
Tel: 01843 597695
Web: vikingacademytrust.com
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Chilton Primary School
Chilton Lane
Ramsgate
Kent
CT11 0LQ

Dear Viking Parents/Carers

Viking Academy Trust: Term 6 July Update: I am so pleased to finally write to you with the news we have all been waiting for... the full reopening of our schools. As you have no doubt heard, yesterday the government released their plans for all children to return to school in the new academic year.

Our gates closed on 'school as we know it' for all Viking children on Friday 20th March. Since this time, we – as individuals; in our families, as a school and Viking community, as a nation and globally – have experienced a pandemic of such proportion that it has and will, impact upon our lives for a considerable time to come.

Like any traumatic experience, it is the recovery period that is going to require as much time and energy – to repair and rebuild our own lives and the lives of our nearest and dearest. This is also true for us as a family of schools. The Viking school leaders understand the enormity of what lies ahead if we are to support our children, staff and families as we emerge from the dark shadow corona has cast on all of our lives.

Please believe me when I say to you, we will leave no stone unturned in the support programme we put in place for our children. The unfairness and sadness of the here and now will remain for a long time to come – do not think this will be overlooked or forgotten – however, at Viking, we are looking to the future with positivity - our heads high, determined to ensure the 'recovery curriculum' in place for the new academic year will be designed with children's wellbeing at the centre – their emotional, social, physical and academic needs, wants and desires.

What happens now: Next Friday (10th); Miss Arthur (Upton), Mr Budge (RAPS) and Mrs Law (Chilton) will share with their school community the organisation we intend to have in place in order to meet government expectations. This will have the mental and physical wellbeing of **all** at the centre of decisions taken.

In the meantime, I share with you the guidance the government has prepared for **Parent & Carers**. [Click here](#) to read the document. This details the expectations upon schools and education leaders. I urge you to take the time to read this and then wait for your child's Head of School to detail what these guidelines will look like in practice – at Chilton, RAPS and Upton.

Thankfully, we are now moving forward and the light at the end of the tunnel has emerged. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require our support prior to receiving the letter from your Head of School. Our school offices are open between 8am-4pm (please telephone or email). Our websites are kept up to date with government updates (including updates regarding eligibility for government childcare offers as well as Coronavirus testing for children and families), and the information to apply for Free School Meals (which will entitle you to the £90 Summer Holiday Food Voucher). 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 continue to keep yourself, your friends and family safe.

With my warmest wishes, Michaela Lewis, Executive Headteacher

'One Childhood, One Chance'



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