



Chilton Primary School / Ramsgate Arts Primary School / Upton Junior School

Term 4 Viking Newsletter

Dear Viking Families,



‘Spring has sprung!...’ As Term 4 draws to a close, we can finally say with confidence that spring has arrived. The clocks moving forward at the weekend has seen lighter evenings and the sunshine this week has brought brighter days!

At home, it has meant windows and doors are opened wide and the beautiful parks, green spaces, beaches and coastline Thanet has to offer, have been filled with families making the most of the change in weather.

This is most definitely the case for us in our Viking schools as well. Play time and lunchtimes at Chilton, RAPS and Upton take on a completely different vibe when the sky is blue and the sun is shining. Whilst sunnier days play their part in the change of atmosphere during these essential ‘brain breaks’ from the classroom; the way that Miss Arthur (Upton), Mr Budge (RAPS) and Mr McAuley (Chilton) have prioritised ‘PLAY’ during unstructured times of the day has made a difference to children’s engagement and enjoyment whilst outside.



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Not only do we have a ‘petting farm’ at RAPS, the children at Upton have an outside gym and other adventurous activities like climbing ropes and tree swings - which Chilton children also enjoy in their woodland areas. Football has always been a firm favourite for lots (but certainly not all) Viking children – and staff have spent time considering ways to reduce the focus for playtime to equal football matches and bring new (but actually quite ‘old school’) activities for children to immerse themselves in. Please take the time to ask your child what they ‘played’ across break and lunchtime, hopefully it will spark a new conversation around the dinner table this evening...





Alongside the importance of ‘play’, our Viking schools also prioritise the softer skills they will need in life, skills that will make them good people and good citizens.

- The ability to greet others and maintain eye contact, essentials in starting and maintaining successful relationships.
- The ability to interact with a self-confidence and self-belief, to display empathy and understanding to others, kindness and respect.
- To be able to communicate and articulate oneself and feel at ease in different situations with different people. To be able to disagree amicably.
- To respect opinions and viewpoints that are different to the ones we hold and accept that difference isn’t wrong, to disagree amicably, appreciating to challenge different viewpoints doesn’t have to be argumentative.

An example of how we do this at Viking is the importance we place in ‘oracy’ as part of our curriculum.

What is oracy?

Oracy is the ability to express oneself fluently in speech. It involves a range of skills such as speaking clearly, listening actively, engaging in discussions, presenting ideas effectively, and interpreting others’ viewpoints.

In October 2024, the Commission on the Future of Oracy Education in England released a landmark report: We Need to Talk. It argued that “alongside reading, writing and arithmetic, oracy is the fourth ‘R’: an essential, foundational building block to support our young people on their journey towards living fulfilling adult lives.”



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Why is it important?

Oracy skills are essential for success across the curriculum, and beyond it in everyday life. Children's wellbeing suffers when they can't articulate how they are feeling. Engagement with learning drops when they can't express their curiosity and their ideas become lost if they can't translate them into words, to share with others.

As they get older, young people with poor oracy are increasingly disadvantaged when it comes to high-stakes exam outcomes, work experience, job interviews and personal or professional satisfaction.

Our annual 'Speaker Competition' is a celebration of the Viking Oracy Curriculum and last Friday (28th March), our Viking schools came together for the Grand Final, having spent Term 4 preparing with heats in each school to narrow down the competition to just 12 finalists. The topic this year: Persuade Miss Arthur, Mr Budge or Mr McAuley to introduce a new subject to be taught in their school?

*Willow from
RAPS*



*Hugo from
RAPS*

*Esme from
Upton*

This was the tough task for young competitors taking part and a huge congratulations to all 12 finalists for succeeding in their school competitions to reach the Viking final (from Chilton we had: Harry, Lois, Elifsu and Amy. From RAPS: Remi, Matilda, Hugo, Willow and from Upton: Robyn, Imogen, Ivy and Esme).

Our public speakers had to deliver their convincing viewpoint lasting no longer than two minutes and they were not allowed props or slides. Passionate performances covered a range of topics to be added to the timetable, including fashion design, hairdressing, environmental awareness, survival skills, extreme PE and self-defence.

*Willow from
RAPS*



*Imogen from
Upton*

Their performances were judged on content and ideas, clarity, expression and audience engagement and they did not make it easy for the judges to decide the winners. Upton and RAPS have taken home the sought-after shields with Imogen winning in the Lower key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) competition and Willow, the Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 & 6). 11 months to prepare for The Speaker 2026... you have to be in it to win it!

*Robyn from
Upton*



*Imogen from
Upton*

*Lois from
Chilton*



How can you support oracy at home?

1. Spark conversation with topics relating to current affairs

be that matters that may impact locally, nationally or on a global stage. Children's news sites and newspapers are a platform into a conversation. Use these to help spark conversation at home and encourage children to explain and develop their answers, rather than using just 'yes' or 'no'. Use our recent Speaker Competition as a conversation starter – which new subject would they introduce to our school timetable and why?

2. Ask about the best part of their day

Encourage your child to articulate their day and practice active listening. Asking open-ended questions like, “What was the best part of your day?” helps them reflect and express themselves more clearly. Make sure to listen attentively, ask follow-up questions, and engage in meaningful discussions. (Remember to ask about lunchimes!!)

3. Read together and discuss

Reading books or articles together and discussing them afterward can be a great way to boost oracy. Ask your child questions about the story or topic and encourage them to share their opinions or predictions. This helps them develop their speaking and comprehension skills.

On behalf of the staff teams working in our Viking schools at Chilton, at RAPS and at Upton, I wish you a lovely Easter holiday. Whether you are spending time home or away, I hope the holiday allows for you to spend time together as a family making new memories!

With my warmest wishes

Mrs M Lewis
Executive Headteacher



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HOLIDAY REMINDER: Emergency 'Out of Hours' Contact Form...

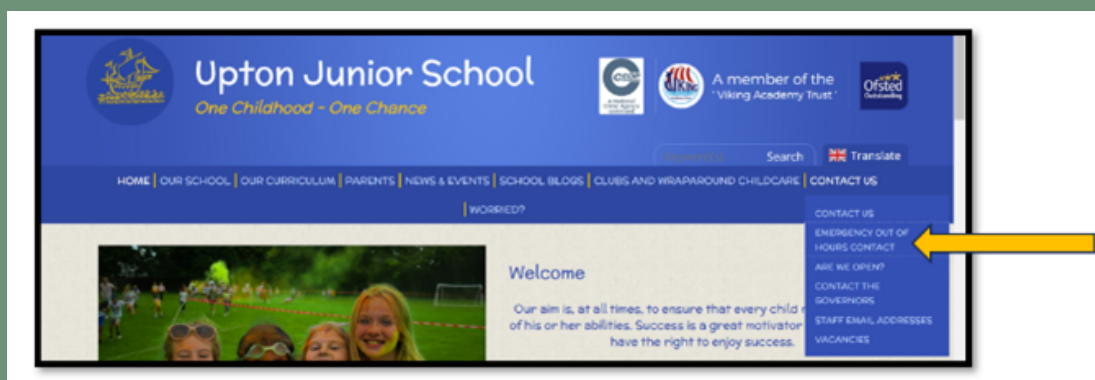
At Viking, we appreciate, despite best efforts, not everything fits within the window of a school day and emergency situations may leave you urgently wanting to contact the school. Office and Head of School emails are shared on school websites – but, as you may have seen – staff are under no obligation to read or respond to work emails outside of the 'working day'.

The message on all Viking email accounts reads as follows... The Viking Academy Trust respects the wellbeing of its staff. There is no expectation that emails are responded to before 8am or after 5pm Monday to Friday, at the weekend or during school holidays.

We have therefore created an 'Emergency Out of Hours' contact form for parents or carers to use if they feel they urgently need to share information / get in touch prior to the start of the next working day. To access this form.

Please click the 'Contact Us' tab on the school website and the emergency out of hours link can be accessed.

See the example below taken from Upton's website:





Stay in the know
and keep in
touch...



<https://www.ramsgateartsprimaryschool.co.uk>
<https://www.uptonjunior.com/>
<https://www.chiltonprimary.co.uk/>



RAPS - @ramsgate_arts_primary
Chilton - @ChiltonRamsgate
Upton - @UptonJuniorsBroadstairs



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