



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

Term 3 Viking Newsletter

Dear Viking Families,

We have reached the end of an incredibly successful (albeit wet!) first term of 2026 for the schools in the Viking Academy Trust, and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the outstanding learning experiences of our pupils across the last six weeks. It has been a pleasure to work alongside parents, staff and children and to witness such a thriving community at work.

The start of a new year allows us to reflect upon our hopes for the year ahead. For however long 'New Year's Resolutions' are kept for, they were made with a sense of determination and purpose of being a better version of yourself. January also saw us as Viking take the time to reflect once again on who we are and what we stand for. This was especially important this year as 2026 marks ten years of Viking Academy Trust. Throughout the year, we will be taking time to celebrate and share the many achievements of Viking over the past decade. What makes me most proud is how deeply rooted the idea of Viking as an extended family has become for everyone connected to Chilton, RAPS and Upton. We strive to create a sense of belonging to something greater than just an individual school. This feeling of togetherness — our Viking Family — is something we work hard to nurture with our children, staff and families.



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Our trust-wide competitions; sporting events, junior leadership team meetings and other events planned throughout the school year look to unite and join our three school communities under the banner of 'Viking'. One of the highlights of these trust events is the annual **Viking Speaker Competition**. For those families new to us, the hotly contested 'Speaker Competition' will see heats held within each school to select finalists to represent Chilton, RAPS and Upton at the Viking Speaker Grand Final on 27th March. As last year, there will be two age-groups with finalists selected in Year 3 and 4 as well as Year 5 and 6.



With two prizes up for grabs, the question on everyone's lips is...**Who will become Viking's Best Orator?** RAPS and Upton will be looking to retain the championship titles with Willow (RAPS) and Imogen (Upton) the reigning champions with the Year 5 & 6 and Year 3 & 4 titles respectively. However, this won't be easy as Chilton are eager to achieve their first win in the competition!!

*This year's 'Speaker' topic...The theme for 2026 is taken from a segment on Romesh Ranganathan's BBC Radio 2 show called '**Pitch Your Passion**'. The children will have up to two minutes to 'pitch their passion' to us; their passion can be as wacky or as noble as they like...just anything they are genuinely passionate about from capybaras to climate change, cross stitch to cricket!*



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Every child in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) is encouraged to take part – whilst school bragging rights may well be up for grabs, the joy and pride felt by children for having the courage to stand in front of an audience is an achievement in itself. Please look for further details shared on school website 'Blogs' and if nothing more, it will make for a great family dinner time conversation (and you never know, you may end up on the radio 'pitching your passion' to Romesh on a Saturday morning!!)

Last Year's Winners.



Year 3 & 4



Year 5 & 6



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Leading the way...News of RAPS exceptional Arts curriculum has reached the Department for Education...East Thanet MP Polly Billington and Georgia Gould, Minister of State for School Standards, visited RAPS this term for a first-hand experience of the defining role RAPS plays as the area's only school with a bespoke arts curriculum, and its dedication to the positive outcomes of ongoing support for inclusivity and special educational needs.



RAPS Head, Mr Budge affirming the success of the Arts with MP Polly Billington & Minister of State for School Standards, Georgia Gould.

Polly Billington MP said: "I was proud to show Schools Minister Georgia Gould around Ramsgate Arts Primary as I wanted her to see some of the transformative impacts of a strong arts offer for the educational achievement and wellbeing of children.

"From the brilliant art in the foyer to the dance and drama classes and the nurture provision that supports children who can struggle with a mainstream classroom all day, Georgia was able to see the positive outcomes for the children...I know she will be taking important lessons from her visit to Ramsgate to improve arts education across the country."



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R.E.S.P.E.C.T: Viking staff, like the children and families, have a **'Code of Conduct'** to adhere to. This is, in essence, our 'rule book for respect'. Under the heading **'Show common human decency'** we have written the following (which is true for every member of our Viking family – young or old, staff, leader, child or parent)...

'Be aware of the impact you have on others' If you hurt someone, saying *"I wasn't aware"* or *"I didn't mean to"* is not good enough. It is your responsibility to be aware of the impact you have on others and to make amends when you've hurt them.

This is as true for our Viking family as it is for life beyond the school gates. Multicultural, multi faith, modern Britain needs schools to support families to raise children who recognise we all must play our part and take responsibility for our actions. **Respect** is the foundation of any relationship and is fundamental if relationships are to be positive and fruitful.

At Viking, we continually seek ways to improve and enhance respectful relationships between Home and School. One way we feel this can be helped is by sharing information about 'PARENTKIND', a national charity with the aim to...

"Empower all with parental or educational responsibility to improve the life chances of children, young people and their communities."

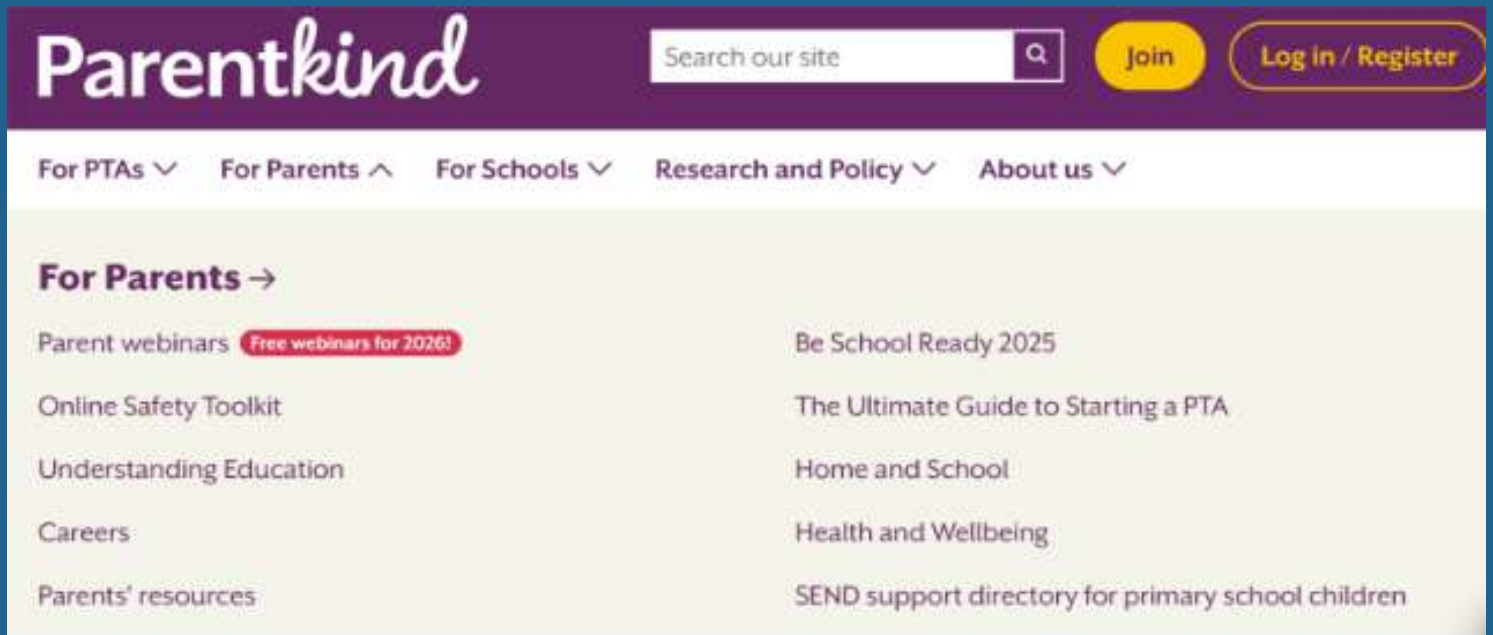


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Please take time to visit '[Parentkind](#)' website to see the variety of support materials and FREE parent webinars.



Feedback is crucial if Viking Academy Trust is to continue to provide outstanding educational opportunities for all children. Whilst nobody likes to receive criticism, it is essential families feel they have open communication with their child's school to speak out and share positive and critical comments. With that in mind, I share with you Viking's [POSITIVE PRAISE Feedback form](#) as well as our [Complaints form](#) and [Complaints Procedure](#).





Working together to resolve issues

Parents and schools share the same goal: supporting children's education.

The pattern of human nature appears we speak out more often when things aren't going well. And whilst it is right you should have the opportunity to do so, I urge you to consider completing the Viking [Positive Praise Form](#) if ever you feel a staff member or the school deserves such recognition.

I ask that if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of school life, or you seek answers to questions you may have – that you reach out and speak with us before making your views public by posting on social media. As we say time and again, we are not perfect, we will make mistakes but believe me when I tell you we do not intentionally set out to get something wrong – because that would be just silly, and silly we are not! Communication is key, so talk to us. Let's never forget we are on the same side, we want the very best for every one of our Viking children.



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Extract taken from Parentkind website:

How complaints go wrong

Tensions can run high when you're concerned about your child, but some approaches make matters worse.

Using social media

Sharing your complaint on social media can be harmful to those involved and will not lead to a quicker resolution.

Building a crowd

Other parents may share your views, but your complaint should be specific to you and your child.

Targeting people

Making it personal to individual school staff members can take things too far, keep it to challenging school policy.

Behaving aggressively

Abusive and aggressive behaviour will never be tolerated by a school and can lead to consequences for you.

Only use AI with caution

AI doesn't always get it right when citing laws and can make a complaint more complex than necessary.

Lacking partnership

Having a good relationship with your school is important and it benefits all to move on after complaints are resolved.

On behalf of the staff teams working at Chilton, at RAPS and at Upton, I wish you a lovely half-term holiday. A reminder we have our hugely popular Viking Holiday Club taking place across half-term. It will be based at RAPS from Monday 16th – Friday 20th February.

Please [click here](#) for more information or contact Miss Arthur, Extended Schools Manager (ES@vikingacademytrust.com).



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We have also shared the latest, 'Kids Eat Free' (or for £1) this February half-term.

Kids eat 'free' or for '£1'

Asda Cafés kids eat for £1 No minimum spend required	
Banana Tree kids eat 'free' When an adult buys a main meal	
Beefeater 'free' kids' breakfast When an adult buys a cooked breakfast. Valid every day	
Bella Italia kids eat for 'free' When an adult buys a main meal	
Bill's kids eat 'free' When an adult buys a main meal	
Brewers Fayre 'free' kids' breakfast When adult buys a cooked breakfast. Valid every day	
Dobbies kids eat for £1 When an adult buys a main meal	
Dunelm Pausa Café kids eat 'free' When an adult spends £4 in café	

Frankie & Benny's kids eat for 'free' When you purchase an adult main meal	
Hungry Horse kids eat from £1 When an adult buys a main meal	
Las Iguanas kids eat 'free' When an adult buys a main	
Morrisons Café kids eat 'free' When an adult buys a main meal. Valid every day	
Premier Inn kids eat 'free' When an adult orders full a main meal	
Sizzling Pubs kids eat for '£1' When an adult buys a main meal	
Table Table 'free' kids' breakfast When an adult buys a cooked breakfast. Valid every day	
The Real Greek kids eat 'free' on... When an adult spends £15	
Travelodge 'free' kids' breakfast Or for £1 in some locations. When an adult buys an unlimited breakfast	

Happy holiday!
With my warmest wishes,
Mrs. M Lewis
Executive Headteacher



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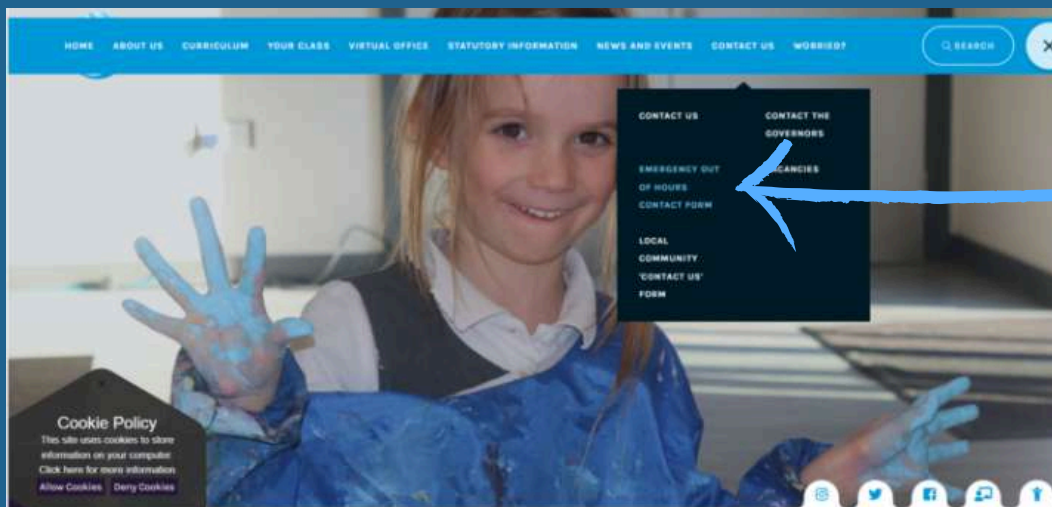
HOLIDAY REMINDER: Emergency 'Out of Hours' Contact Form...

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 RAPS' website:



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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](https://www.instagram.com/@ramsgate_arts_primary)

Chilton - [@ChiltonRamsgate](https://www.instagram.com/@ChiltonRamsgate)

Upton - [@UptonJuniorsBroadstairs](https://www.instagram.com/@UptonJuniorsBroadstairs)



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[Facebook.com/ChiltonPrimarySchool](https://www.facebook.com/ChiltonPrimarySchool)

[facebook.com/uptonjuniorschoolofficialbroadstairs](https://www.facebook.com/uptonjuniorschoolofficialbroadstairs)

<https://www.facebook.com/VikingHolidayClub>



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