



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

## Term 4 Viking Newsletter 2026

Dear Viking Families,

As Term 4 draws to a close, we had hoped to say with confidence that spring has arrived. The clocks moving forward at the weekend may have given us lighter evenings but the weather is still keeping us on our toes. Fingers crossed the sun is shining across the Easter holiday to allow families to make the most of the beautiful parks, green spaces, beaches and coastline Thanet has to offer.

Regardless of the weather, our Viking schools always look to make the most of our school grounds and outside spaces. We seek to provide rich opportunities for every child to be creative. Whilst 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 - at Viking we follow the mantra, ***'there's no such thing as inappropriate weather, only inappropriate clothing!'*** 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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So, what is on offer across our schools?...

**Chilton...** Thrive Play at Chilton places child wellbeing at the heart of the school day, creating exciting opportunities that inspire children to wake up eager to come to school. Designed as a daily highlight, play is largely child-led and filled with engaging experiences including climbing walls, scooter parks, bouncy castles, den building and Lego and many, many more. Play Leaders organise games such as tennis and four square, while Year 5 Thrive Ambassadors “co-adventure” alongside children, supporting friendships, resolving disagreements and helping those who feel dysregulated. Thrive Play has reduced red card and first aid incidents, increased joy and positive attitudes, and improved attendance — because while we love play, our children love it even more.





**RAPS...** At RAPS we believe play is essential to support holistic development in children. Through play, pupils build confidence, resilience and creativity while strengthening friendships and social skills. High-quality play supports physical health, emotional wellbeing and positive behaviour, helping children return to learning calm, focused and ready. We intend on developing our play culture, creating exciting, inclusive and well-resourced lunchtimes, to ensure every child feels valued, engaged and happy.



Lunchtime play will have zoned areas within the playground to offer different play opportunities for example, imaginative play with costumes, fabrics, small world toys. Construction play opportunities through loose parts like tyres, planks, cable drums, crates and active/social opportunities using sports equipment, large chalk and much more.





Our chickens and rabbits help to foster empathy, and responsibility in our pupils. Children can visit these during appropriate times of the day with an adult. The new reading shed designed to stimulate a love for reading for pleasure at lunch times. This dedicated space will provide a tranquil environment, encouraging exploration of literature and fostering a lifelong appreciation for books. Mindful Mondays allow our pupils to smoothly transition into the school week through purposeful, mindful and playful activities every Monday morning.



We aim to nurture curiosity, independence and collaboration through rich play opportunities, allowing pupils to explore, take risks safely and develop lifelong skills that extend far beyond the classroom.





**Upton...**Our children are very fortunate to have incredible facilities to use at playtimes. Our beautiful sensory garden is perfect for relaxing in and playing board games. We also have den building and ninja activity lines alongside hammocks, swings, slack lines, rope ladders and zip lines!





Our Forest School is also open for the children make dens, climb trees, or use the slide and wall climbing. Our large Upton Pirate Ship, outdoor gym and our stage area are also very popular!

Exciting developments are also underway with the construction of a giant sand pit, muddy area, water area, ball pit, and soft play area that the children will love!



Whichever Viking school your child attends, I am sure you agree, we have such a host of activities on offer to suit all ages and preferences. 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. Soft skills include:

*~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. It is 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."**





**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 (27th 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 was called **'Pitch Your Passion'** and it was based on a segment from broadcaster Romesh Ranganathan's popular Radio 2 show.

Children had two minutes to describe their passion and convince the audience and a panel of judges that theirs was the best, with heartfelt performances covering a diverse range of subjects from sloths to rugby, from crocheting to the art of relaxation.

The standard of content and performance was high and picking the best was a tough task – after much deliberation the results were announced.





In the Year 3 and 4 competition, third place went to **Joshua (Chilton)**, second place to **Jaxon (Chilton)** and first place to **Robyn (Upton)**.

In the Year 5 and 6 competition third place went to **Remy (RAPS)**, second place to **Avie (Chilton)** and first place **Matilda (RAPS)**.

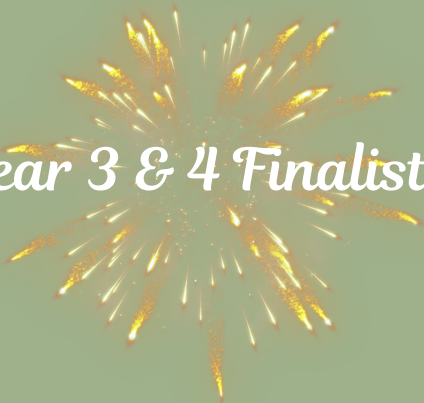
Photos show our podium winners after a hotly contested competition.



*Year 5 & 6 Finalists.*



*Year 3 & 4 Finalists.*





*Year 3 & 4 Winners.*



*Year 5 & 6 Winners.*



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## 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 last year's Speaker Competition theme 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.



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Viking schools close for the Easter holiday on Thursday 2nd April. Before the children depart for their two-week holiday, we have Easter celebrations taking place in each of our schools. Check out the 'Next Week at...' for more details at your child's school.

[Next Week @ Chilton](#)

[Next Week @ Upton](#)

[Next Week @ RAPS](#)

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**Viking Holiday Club:** A reminder we have our hugely popular Viking Holiday Club taking place across the Easter holiday. It will be based at CHILTON from Tuesday 7th – Friday 17th April. Please [click here](#) for more information or contact Miss Arthur, Extended Schools Manager ( ES@vikingacademytrust.com).

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Please find below links to events taking place in Thanet across the two-week holiday alongside restaurants participating in the 'Kids Eat Free' deals:

[Easter Adventures at the coast of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate - Visit Thanet](#)

[What's On in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate - Visit Thanet](#)

[Easter holidays 2026: 15+ Kids Eat Free & £1 restaurant deals across the UK](#)

[Restaurant vouchers: Top deals & 2for1 offers | MSE](#)



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## Kids eat 'FREE' or for just £1 this Easter

### **Asda Café (every day)**

Kids 16 or under get a FREE breakfast or a meal for £1. No minimum spend required

### **Beefeater (every day)**

Up to two children can eat a 'free' kids' breakfast when an adult buys a cooked breakfast for £9.99

### **Bella Italia (Sun-Thurs)**

Kids eat 'free' on Thursdays or for £1 Sunday-Wednesday, when an adult buys a main meal. From 4pm-6pm

### **Bills (weekdays only)**

Kids can get a free kids' meal (normally £6.95) when an adult buys a main meal

### **Brewers Fayre (every day)**

Up to two children can get a 'free' breakfast when an adult buys a cooked breakfast for £9.99-£10.50

### **Burger King (every day)**

Kids can get a King Jr Meal for £1 (normally £3.79) during the Easter holidays

### **Dobbies (every day)**

Kids eat 'free' when an adult buys a main meal (£8.95-£11.75)

### **Dunelm Pausa Café (Mon-Fri)**

Kids can eat for 'free' when an adult spends £4

### **Frankie & Benny's (Mon-Fri)**

Kids can eat for free (normally £7.99) when an adult purchases a main meal

### **Fridays**

Children aged 12 and under can eat for 'free' if you're signed up to its app, select the 'kids eat free' deal, and buy a full-price adult main meal

### **Harvester (weekdays only)**

Kids aged 10 and younger can eat for £1 when an adult downloads the Harvester app and purchases a main meal

### **Hungry Horse (Monday only)**

Kids eat from £1 when an adult buys a main meal. Mondays only

### **Ikea (excludes Fridays)**

From 11am, kids can get a main meal from 95p. No minimum spend

### **Morrisons Café (every day)**

You can get a 'free' kids' meal when an adult buys a main meal from £4.50

### **Sainsbury's Café**

You can get a kids' meal for £1 when purchasing an adult main meal for £5.20 or more

### **Sizzling Pubs (Mon-Fri)**

Kids eat for £1 when an adult buys a main meal. Valid from 3pm

### **Subway**

You can get a 'free' kids meal (normally £3.19) when an adult buys a Footlong sub

### **Tesco Café (weekdays only)**

Kids can eat for free when an adult buys anything in the Tesco Café and scans their Clubcard

### **Table Table (every day)**

Up to two children can eat a 'free' breakfast when an adult buys an unlimited cooked breakfast

### **The Real Greek (Sunday only)**

Kids under 12 can eat for 'free' on Sundays when an adult spends £10

### **Toby Carvery (weekdays only)**

Kids aged 12 and younger can eat for £1 when an adult downloads its app and buys a main meal

MoneySavingExpert

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 you to spend time together as a family making new memories!

With my warmest wishes

Mrs. M Lewis  
Executive Headteacher



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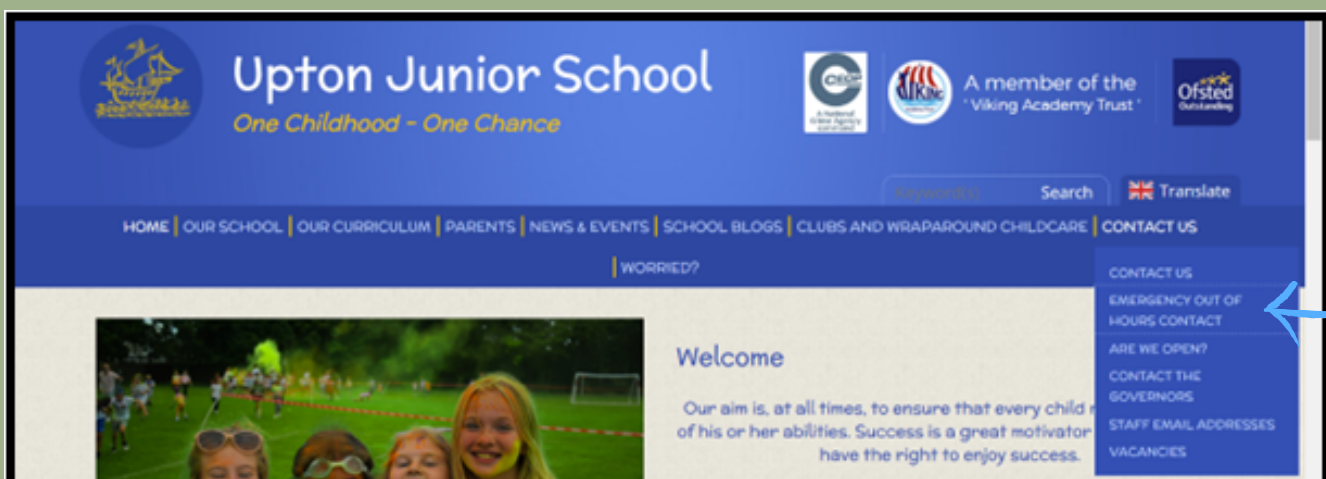


**HOLIDAY REMINDER:** Emergency 'Out of Hours' Contact Form...At Viking, we appreciate, despite best efforts, not everything fits within the window of a school day and emergency situations may leave you urgently wanting to contact the school. Office and Head of School emails are shared on school websites – 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](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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<https://www.facebook.com/VikingHolidayClub>



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