

Viking Academy Trust

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Chilton Primary School
Chilton Lane
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Dear Viking Parents/Carers

In light of the rapidly developing situation around the coronavirus we wish to keep you updated about the steps we have put in place, which are aimed at reducing the potential spread of infection and supporting our Viking community in so far as we are able to.

The health of our pupils and staff is our number one priority. Thankfully, the evidence so far from around the world is that children are not particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. However, it is still important that families and schools do all we can to protect each other and prevent transmission to others.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government, PHE and the NHS. This advice is being added to **on a daily basis** and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take.

As you are aware, advice shared from PHE stated if anyone in your household has a high temperature and/or a new, continuous cough the entire household should stay at home in isolation for 14 days.

In addition, if your child has an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to coronavirus, please discuss these circumstances with the school and isolation may be the most appropriate pathway at this present time.

Currently, the medical and scientific advice to schools is to remain open. Like all schools, the Viking Academy Trust is also planning for a possible situation where we might need to close for a length of time. This is not because we have any plans to close, but because all schools need to prepare for this possibility.

To that effect, we have made plans for the two main responses to this virus.

- Scenario 1:- A lack of teachers due to staff self-isolating
- Scenario 2: - Forced school closure by Public Health England.

Closure due to Scenario 1: - A lack of teachers due to staff self-isolating

If our schools reach a critical number of absent staff members that results in a decision to close partially or fully, parents / carers will be communicated with in the following way:

1. A text message/letter will be sent from your Head of School (via MCAS & social media) to explain the situation and guide you to the school website for further information;
2. The school will display details about the closure on its website before 8am stating if any year groups will remain on site or not;

‘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.

3. The school will provide work for pupils to complete (a range of resources will be provided such as online software and work sheets).

Closure due to Scenario 2: - Forced School closure by Public Health England

If the government closes all schools, the Viking Academy Trust will:

- Text and send a letter to all parents / carers as soon as we are informed to give as much notice as possible (via MCAS & social media);
- Publish any additional information on our school websites;
- Provide schoolwork for all year groups. We will make arrangements for teachers to stay in contact with pupils where possible;
- In addition, we are currently in discussion about plans to provide access to food for pupils who receive Free School Meals. Please see below for further information.

While closure remains a worst-case scenario, we wanted to reassure you that we are planning appropriately for this. In the meantime, the Viking Academy Trust remains fully open and will continue to follow the official guidance being issued to all schools.

Viking Academy Trust & Principals Catering:

We have been in discussion with Principals, the catering company that provide our school meals. They have provided us with an assurance of their willingness to support our most vulnerable families at a time of greatest need. While they have the capacity to provide meals for our Free School Meals children then they have a moral obligation to do so. Limitations to deliver on this pledge will be due to Principals staff absence.

The government have said they will advise schools further on this matter. In the meantime, we continue to plan in partnership with Principals and will share updates with families as the situation develops.

Foodbanks in Thanet:

At a time when our community is faced with the most trying of circumstances, we want to be able to share with you the Foodbank organisations in place across Thanet. These have been set up to support our communities most vulnerable – and will be needed now more than ever.

If you are able to support these extremely worthwhile services, your donations of food and/or hygiene products would be gratefully received. Conversely, if you find that you are in need of the assistance of a local Foodbank, please see details below of where they are situated in and across Thanet. We will continue to share this information across our websites and social media platforms.

If you would like advice or further support, please contact your Head of School in the first instance who will endeavour to offer assistance for you and your family.

Ramsgate:

Salvation Army Foodbank
167 High Street, Ramsgate, CT11 9TT

Birchington:

Stonehouse Birchington
31 Station Road, Birchington, CT7 9DJ

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Broadstairs

GAP Project, Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road, Broadstairs, CT10 1NU

Margate

Thanet Foodlink

93 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 2RD

I should like to take this opportunity to thank parents and staff for their continual support of our actions to date. We will keep you fully informed if the situation changes or the Government issues new advice and guidance. The health and wellbeing of our children, families and staff is of paramount importance.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Lewis

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