

Viking Academy Trust

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Dear Viking Parents/Carers

Viking Academy Trust: End of Year... So, I write to you for the final time this year – and what a year it has been; the most interesting and challenging school year I have ever experienced. Martin Luther King once said, “*The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort & convenience but where they stand at times of challenge & controversy.*”

I believe, without a shadow of a doubt, the whole Viking community; children, parents and staff have pulled together to make sure that, whilst we do not have the ability to change the fact that a virus has been prevalent in our society, the way that we have dealt with the fallout has certainly been within our control.

Throughout the past 18 weeks I have observed with immense pride our children just get on with their lives, parents react with a measured calm in dealing with what they have faced, and staff members act with courage and confidence in making sure that we have played our part in keeping our society operating.

The Viking family have truly come together to offer support to one another; to show we care and want the best for each other – but, just like any other family up and down the country, I am sure there has also been the odd occasion where members of the family haven't always seen eye to eye and agree on everything. For any decision we have made that you may have disagreed with, I can only stress again – we didn't have a script to follow, no 'handbook' with all the answers and solutions. Every decision taken, every judgement call, has happened with the best interests of the **entire Viking family at the heart of it**. As I say time and again, we might not always get it right but, we never set out to get it wrong – as that would be plain silly!

I sincerely hope we never have to experience a time in our lives such as that we have just lived through. I am not naive to believe all will be plain sailing in September, but we will certainly face the challenges opening our schools to ALL children will bring, with a greater understanding; awareness, knowledge and (hopefully) wisdom.

Our schools close for the start of the summer holiday tomorrow. As keen as I am for staff to take a very much needed physical and mental break, I say with confidence that the Viking staff team are looking to the new school year with positivity - our heads high, determined to ensure the full re-opening offers our children the opportunity to step back in to their school and be greeted with the attention, care & support families give to one another.

On behalf of every one at Viking, may I wish you all a happy, safe and sunny summer break, I can't wait for us all to be back together again!

Thank you for trusting us to do what is right throughout this time.

Stay safe, stay strong, stay together!

With warmest wishes

Michaela Lewis
Executive Headteacher

'One Childhood, One Chance'



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