

Ramsgate Arts Primary School

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Monday 31st August

Dear Parent and Carers,

I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer. We are very excited about inviting all of the RAPs community back on Thursday 3rd September. As I have said in my previous letters, there will be mixed emotions about the children coming back to school, and possibly about how the Government has dealt with Covid-19 in general, but I do whole-heartedly agree with the Government in that our children have had long enough out of school and need to be back in school with their peers learning.

As I'm sure you will all appreciate, there are many matters to consider when planning and preparing the return to school for children and the wider school community. As well as the overriding need to ensure the safety of children and staff, I am very aware of the possible impact that the Covid-19 pandemic will have had on the wellbeing of both children and adults. With this in mind, we will ensure that the wellbeing of the children will form the foundation of our school when we welcome back our whole community. On this firm foundation, future learning will stand.

We know that children will also have had completely different educational experiences during lockdown and I'm sure there will be gaps in their age-appropriate knowledge. In addition to ensuring that there is a strong well-being programme, we will also be adapting our English and Maths curriculum to make sure there is an emphasis on the basic age-appropriate skills, putting interventions in when needed to maximise learning.

The following information was shared with you at the end of term but I have put it into sections which will hopefully be easier to access.

Communication:

Communication is key to our success. As face to face communication will be limited, we will rely on electronic means of sending information. Therefore, please can I ask you to ensure we have up to date contact information for you. This is a big change for all of us but we must begin to get used to the new normal.

Newsletters will be sent fortnightly. Class Blogs will be updated three times a week. We will post updates to our social media and messages will be sent via MCAS. Everything is always uploaded to our website: Newsletters on the 'home page', Class Blogs under 'Your Class' and copies of all texts, messages and additional letters under 'Parents Information/Information sent home'.

Organisation of the school day:

- School doors will open at 8:15 and close at 8:30 to allow a 'fluid' entry and avoid over-crowding – please do not arrive on the school site prior to 8:15.
- All children in Yrs 1-6 will enter via the gate by the dance studio, Yrs 1 and 2 will enter the school building via their classroom doors; Yrs 3-4 will enter via the playground door at the back of the foyer and Yrs 5-6 will walk along the side of the building and enter school via the door by the library.
- We will operate a one-way system and parents will leave via the Newington Road gate.

'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.



- Children can be taken around to classrooms by one parent. If your child is old enough to be dropped off at the dance-studio gate to walk around to class by themselves, that would help us maintain social-distancing at drop-off time.
- **The back carpark drop-off facilities will be temporally closed as this will be used as a playground.**
- We will encourage parents to leave the school site swiftly to avoid over-crowding.
- Inside, children will remain in their ‘bubbles’ and will only mix with those children during the time that they are in school.
- Outdoor play will be zoned for year groups and children will be able to mix with other children in their year group.
- The cleaning kits in each classroom and learning spaces, along with our regular cleaning regimes, will continue to be in place.
- We will teach the children about hygiene measures – hand-washing will be frequent and hand sanitiser readily available in classrooms and around the school.
- Staff will be able to move between classes but we will try to limit that movement where possible.
- Each class will have at least one Teaching Assistant.
- Group work (including phonics) will continue, but will be conducted within a bubble.
- PE will go ahead, outdoors only. Children in Yrs 3-6 will need to come to school in their PE kits on their PE days as we do not have adequate space to separate changing facilities.
- Lunchtimes will be slightly staggered to allow for the separation of groups inside the building and hot school meals will run as usual. Children may eat in the hall or their classrooms, depending on year group. Lunchtimes will still be one hour long.
- Our curriculum will initially focus on English, Maths, well-being and PSHE as we reintroduce the children to the routines of the school day. We will gradually introduce the wider curriculum across Term 1.
- **The KS2 Arts curriculum will be taught from 2.15 -4.15 but this will not start until Monday 7th September. KS2 children will finish at 3.00 on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September.**
- The end of the day school will finish as usual – KS1 will finish at 3.00 and KS2 at 4.15 on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. School finishes at 3.00 on Friday for everyone.

Attendance:

The Government have made it clear that all children should be in school and that we should facilitate full provision. We have also been directed that normal attendance procedures should be applied for those not coming into school. I will be interpreting this in a way that builds the confidence of all of you as we return.

School Uniform and Equipment:

All children are to come in school uniform. Equipment will be provided their classes and children should not need to bring their own into school. They will need to bring in a water bottle as there will be no drinking fountains. On the days of PE or Dance, KS2 children can wear there PE kits to school. The PE days will be shared on Class Blogs.

After School Club and Breakfast Club:

- In order to comply with the rules around groupings of children and maintaining ‘bubble’ integrity, to start Term 1, we will only be able to run a limited After School Club.
- After School Club will run until 5.45, but there will be a restriction on numbers in each year group. We will try to extend this provision as and when we can.
- Suzi Stowe, our After School Club leader, would have already been in touch regarding whether you have a place. **After school club will start Monday 7th September.**
- **There will be no Breakfast Club for Term 1, but we will try to offer this provision as soon as we can.**

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School Events:

At this point in time we will be reviewing all school events over the coming weeks and will keep you informed what will be happening in Term 1. Sadly there will initially be limited face to face events, meetings or after school activities in Term 1.

Infection Protocols and Remote Learning:

We have very clear protocols in place for any person showing symptoms and if needed, will be in contact with Public Health England. This has been the case throughout lockdown and we will be in touch if there are any issues. Please do not react to events or reports on Social Media which can be both untrue or misleading.

Please inform us immediately if family testing returns a positive result so that we can liaise with the relevant agencies. If any pupil is showing symptoms, they must not come into school as they will need to self-isolate under current guidance. This can be found at www.gov.uk, Coronavirus Guidance and Support. Anyone self-isolating with symptoms must access testing and engage with the NHS Track and Trace process.

If a symptomatic pupil comes into school, parents will be contacted and the student will be isolated until they can be picked up.

Please discuss recommended hand and respiratory hygiene habits with your child. Guidance for pupils includes the following key points:

- Frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly (NHS guidelines), or use alcohol based hand sanitiser to cover all parts of their hands.
- Children will clean their hands upon arrival, after breaks, when moving to a new room, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.
- Try not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- Use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze, and bin tissue waste immediately.
- If a pupil is self-isolating or unwell, parents must contact the school by 8.30am on every day of absence.

It is highly unlikely that the Government will close the schools in future, however, we are preparing for all eventualities and if this were the case, then we will be continuing to teach as normal a timetable as possible via blogs or remote learning.

I know the return to school may seem over-whelming. Under normal circumstances, we can all feel anxious about the start of the new academic year but this start is different for all of us. There are different routines and procedures in place and there are some new faces to get to know, but the school looks very much like you left it! If you consider what we have endured as a RAPS community over the past six months, we are certainly equipped to tackle every eventuality. I thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

Kind regards



Nick Budge

Head of School

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