

Viking Academy Trust

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Dear Viking Parents/Carers



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Viking Academy Trust: End of Year... I have spent time this week looking back and reflecting, not just on this academic year – but back to the 20th March 2020 – the date imprinted on my mind as the first time we were told to close our schools to the majority of our children due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The letters I sent to Viking families across this time provide an aide memoire, detailing events as they unfolded in our most recent history. Along with the irrefutable trials and tribulations we have faced – in and out of school – there have been moments of pure joy and celebration as we pulled together as a community and worked hard to protect the right of every child to receive a first-class education.

And so, as I did at the end of the last school year - I turn once again to the wise words of Martin Luther King Jr, who 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 17 months, 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 of a new school year 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 new school year offers our children the opportunity to step back into their school and be greeted with the attention, care & support families give to one another.

On behalf of everyone at Viking, may I wish you all a happy, safe and sunny summer break! Thank you for trusting us to do what is right throughout this time.

With warmest wishes,
Michaela Lewis Executive Headteacher

'One Childhood, One Chance'



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