

## Diary Dates

- Wed 27th Nov 9.10—10.40am EYFS Xmas Craft** EYFS Parents invited (meet in Hall 2)
- Wed 27th Nov 1.30—3.00pm KS1 Xmas Craft** Year 1 & 2 parents/carers invited (meet at main entrance)
- Thurs 28th Nov 9.10—10.40am Y5/6 Xmas Craft** Year 5 & 6 parents/carers invited (meet in Hall 2)
- Thurs 28th Nov 1.30—3.00pm Y3/4 Xmas Craft** Year 3 & 4 & Class 6H (ARMS) parents/carers invited (meet at main entrance)
- Tues 10th Dec KS1 trip to Theatre** within the school day, to watch Panto.
- Wed 11th Dec 9.30am & 2.00pm EYFS Xmas Production** (Meet in Hall 1 - gates will open 1.45pm for 2pm performance).
- Thurs 12th Dec 10.30am—Year 3, Year 4 & Class 6H (ARMS) Carol Service** for their parents/carers at the Methodist Church (Children to school as normal. Parents / carers please meet us there at 10.30am).
- Fri 13th Dec 9.15am & 2.00pm Year 1 and Year 2 Xmas Performance** (Meet in Hall 1—gates will open at 1.45pm for 2pm performance).
- Mon 16th Dec 2.00pm & 5.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Xmas Performance** (Meet in Hall 1 - gates will open at 1.45pm and 4.30pm. Y5 & Y6 children should be brought back to school for 4.30pm via the yards).
- Tues 17th Dec KS2 trip to Tyne Theatre and Opera House** within the school day, to watch Panto.
- Tues 17th Dec afternoon Classes 1/2M, 1/2B, 2W Xmas Party** (information to follow).
- Wed 18th Dec afternoon Classes 5/6R & 6B Xmas Party** (information to follow).
- Thurs 19th Dec morning EYFS Xmas Party** (including any afternoon nursery children—information to follow).
- Thurs 19th Dec afternoon Classes 3L, 4A, 4/5B, 6H (ARMS) Xmas Party** (information to follow).
- Mon 23rd Dec—Fri 3rd Jan 2020 Xmas Holidays** (School reopens Mon 6th Jan 2020).
- Wed 12th Feb 3.30pm Valentine's Disco** (information to follow).
- Thurs 5th March World Book Day** (information to follow).
- 9th—13th March Book Fair** (8.15—9.00am and 3.15—4.00pm) in Hall 2
- Wed 1st April 9.10—10.40am EYFS Egg Decorating Session** EYFS parents/carers invited (meet in Hall 2)
- Wed 1st April 1.30—3.00pm KS1 Egg Decorating Session** Year 1 & 2 parents/carers invited (meet main entrance)
- Thurs 2nd April 9.10—10.40am Year 3, Year 4 & Class 6H (ARMS) Egg Decorating Session** Year 3, 4 and ARMs parents/carers invited (meet in Hall 2)
- Thurs 2nd April 1.30—3.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Egg Decoration Session** Year 5 & 6 parents/carers invited (meet at main entrance).
- Fri 3rd April 3.20pm Easter Event & Decorated Egg Competition** (FoRGPS—meet in hall 2)
- Mon 6th—Mon 20th April Easter Holidays** (School reopens Tues 21st April).



E-mail: rowlandsgillprimary@gateshead.gov.uk

Phone: 01207 549 359



## Rowlands Gill Primary School 18.11.19 Newsletter

### Our Field of Poppies



Thank you so much for sending in your home-made poppies to add to our field of poppies. The display on the stage looked beautiful and served as a calming centre piece for our Remembrance Assembly on Monday.

Some of the Year 2 children read out a poem about Remembrance and we learned about what the different parts of the poppy mean. We held a two-minute silence at 11am to coincide with the end of the 1st World war.



### Visit to the Cenotaph

On Monday, Year 1/2B, Y1/2M and Y4/5B visited the Cenotaph in Rowlands Gill to lay some wreaths which the children had made.



We feel it is important for the children to understand how the war affected our own community in the past.

As you would imagine, the children were very well behaved and respectful during their visit and showed the community how fabulous they are!



### Residents in our Community

I would be very grateful if you could help us to ensure that the members of our community are happy, safe and feel positive about school and our children.

Concerns have been raised about how adults park on Southwood Crescent during drop-offs and pick-ups. Please ensure that you don't block the garages and try not to cover the full pavement—wheelchair users are having to move onto the road to pass parked cars which poses obvious dangers.

We are also reminding children on scooters and bikes to be mindful of residents who are out in the streets, so as not to crash into them or ride too closely next to them causing alarm, and not to ride on the grass.

On Friday evening, I met with an upset resident of Dominies Close who had been verbally abused by one of our parents after challenging their inappropriate parking. One of our key values in school is respect; it is important that children see adults modelling this too.

Your support with ensuring residents view our school in a positive light is appreciated, being more considerate when parking can help us achieve this.



### Lunch Arrangements

Thank you to everyone who has already registered their child's school lunch pattern. This is already speeding up our morning routines to maximise teaching time.

For the small minority who haven't yet registered their pattern, please contact the office as soon as possible.

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# Chopwell Wood Christmas Trail

Over the coming weeks, we are going to be making an RGPS scarecrow for the Chopwell Wood Christmas Trail. We will need newspaper and some straw and we wondered if any parents might have old newspapers or some straw that we could use?

If you do have any straw, we would be very grateful if you could let the office know and any newspapers could be sent in with your child.

Also (and I know this is a slightly unusual request!), if anyone has an unwanted Santa outfit, we'd be happy to take it off your hands! Thank you in advance for your support!



Mr Boddy

# Christmas Jumpers

Please send in any outgrown Xmas jumpers for the ForGPS to sell at the Christmas Craft mornings, which will give you the chance to grab a bargain and support our fund-raising for laptops for the children.



# Friends of Rowlands Gill Primary (FORGS)

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who chose us as their Co-op Community Fund over the last 12 months. We have raised a massive £3,216.33 to improve outdoor learning areas at school! This is an amazing achievement and massively surpassed our expectations, so we are now working closely with school to ensure we find the best way to invest this fantastic donation. Thank you!!



We are very busy planning our Christmas Fair on Friday 6th December from 3:15—5:15pm. Raffle tickets have already been sent home and we would be very grateful for your support in selling them to your friends and family. Since the tickets were printed, we have had an amazing prize of a VIP trip for 4 people to see the Newcastle Eagles basketball team donated!

We would still be very grateful for tombola donations (especially chocolates, sweets or bottles) and any outgrown Christmas jumpers. We have already had some fantastic donations of pre-loved toys and books but due to our storage facilities being full, we would be grateful if they could be brought in to school the week of the fair. To all the wonderful bakers in school we would very much appreciate donations for our cafe (to be brought in on the day of the fair please).

As ever, the fair can only take place thanks to our volunteers. If you could spare any time beforehand or on the day to help with setting up or running a stall, please get in touch.



# Goodbye & Thank You

Paula Wakefield, who has been the school cook for many years and has worked for Gateshead Council for 17 years, has sadly left the school. We would like to send on a huge thank you to Paula from everyone at the school for her hard work and delicious dinners over the years.

# Oriental Museum Visit

Last week, classes 3L, 4A and 4/5B visited the Oriental Museum to learn more about the Egyptians, which is their topic for this term.

They loved the opportunity to be 'hands on' with artefacts and learned some fascinating information about the belief that the weight of the heart reflected what type of person you had been.



# Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 13th December. We'd like to suggest a minimum donation of £1 for Save the Children.

# Attendance Matters

We would like to remind all of our parents/carers how important it is for children to attend school regularly and avoid any unnecessary absence in order for them to reach their full potential. During the mornings all children across the school focus on maths and english and this is an essential part of their learning. Arriving at school even a few minutes late means they will have missed some vital instructions at the start of a lesson and may subsequently find it difficult to catch up.

5 Minutes Late Each Day	=	3 Days Lost!
10 Minutes Late Each Day	=	6.5 Days Lost!
15 Minutes Late Each Day	=	10 Days Lost!
20 Minutes Late Each Day	=	13 Days Lost!
30 Minutes Late Each Day	=	19 Days Lost!

# Lateness = Lost Learning

Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives promptly. Our doors open at 8.45am, the school bell rings at 8.55am promptly and lessons begin from 9am. Children arriving after 9.15am are marked 'late' on our registers and this is closely monitored.

# What to do if your child is ill:

If your child is unavoidably ill please remember to telephone school to report the absence before 9.30am. You can telephone the school on 01207 549 359 and leave a message on the absence line.

# Some Statistics to Contemplate about Attendance at School:

98% attendance = 4 days absent from school

95% attendance = 9 days absent from school

90% attendance = 4 weeks absent from school

85% attendance = 5 ½ weeks absent from school

80% attendance = 7 ½ weeks absent from school (more than one half term)

# Which Zone is your child in?

**Under 90%**  
Local research showed that pupils who attend 90% or less are more likely to:

- Struggle with their learning
- Underachieve at school and in exams
- Will miss out on opportunities
- Have problems making friends
- Are more likely to get into trouble outside of school

**91-96%**  
Did you know?

- If you are in the Amber Zone you are at risk of underachieving due to your attendance
- Amber students miss up to 85 lessons per year

**Above 97%**  
Pupils who are in the green zone are more likely to:

- Achieve in school and in exams
- Have better friendships
- Have a better job in the future
- The Government expects all students to have 95% attendance
- By missing 10 days per year you may move from Green to Amber Zone
- Be more successful
- Win prizes for good attendance