

# Rowlands Gill Primary School

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26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

## **Final Invitation for Return to School of Key Year Groups – Early Years, Year 1 and Year 6 for the period of 6<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

Further to my letter in early June, I am writing to invite your child, who is in one of our key year groups, to return to school from 6<sup>th</sup> July until 14<sup>th</sup> July. The school term is ending on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> so that we can offer transition visits to all children from the 15<sup>th</sup> July. **For Year 6 children only, a leavers' day is planned for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.**

In order to operate as safely as possible and to maintain a 2m social distancing radius in classrooms, we have set up a 'bubble' system, as mentioned in my previous letter. The bubble will include children from the same year group and an adult (either a teacher or a higher level teaching assistant), however this may not be the adult who usually works with that year group. The bubble will have one classroom which is theirs and an allocated outside space, with slots timetabled for them to access it. The size of a bubble is dictated ultimately by the size of the classroom. Year 1 children will be part of a bubble with a maximum of 8 children, while Year 6 will have a maximum of 9 in a bubble.

Children will eat their lunch in their bubble classroom or in their allocated outside space, depending on the weather. Each child in the bubble will have their own table and will be seated there for the duration of the day (there'll be no partner working or moving around the room). The children from bubbles will not mix at all with children from any other bubbles. Sadly, this may mean some children are not in a bubble with the friends they normally socialise with. Social distancing will also apply at playtime too for Year 1 and Year 6 children. We realise the difficulties of this, especially for Year 1 children, so we will be offering a more structured approach to playtime, where it is more like a PE lesson with an organised game or activity led by the bubble adult to keep the children distanced from one another.

Children in Early Years will be in a bubble with a maximum of 8 other children. The main principles described above will be in place for children in Early Years too but they will not sit at a desk for the duration of a day. They will be offered access to a limited range of areas within the classroom and in the outdoor area, while being encouraged to socially distance, rather than work alongside or with other children.

Whilst attending school, children will not be re-starting the curriculum and normal timetable for their class. The focus primarily is on well-being, resocialisation, learning the routines and rules in school and lots of outdoor activity. There will be some Maths and English lessons, and phonics for Year 1.

Home learning packs will still be provided for the children who do not return to school and some of the activities in the home learning packs will be the same as those being offered to children in school. The home learning will continue to be available weekly on the [school website](http://www.rowlandsgillprimary.org).

In order to ensure social distancing can be maintained at drop off and pick up times, we will be operating with two handover points. Each bubble will have an allocated handover point and an allotted time to be dropped off and picked up every day. It is an essential requirement of returning to school that these handover places and

times are adhered too fully, otherwise we compromise the safety of others. The drop off times will vary from 8.30am – 9.20am and pick-ups from 2.40pm – 3.30pm. **You will be given an allocated time for drop off and pick up which is a 10 min slot and is non-negotiable.** Funky Monkey's breakfast and after school club is available for use to support working parents, however is chargeable. Details can be found on our website, by contacting Nichola Kehoe on 07961 729421 or via email using [funkymonkeysoosc@yahoo.com](mailto:funkymonkeysoosc@yahoo.com).

In order to plan fully for this partial re-opening, I am requesting that parents complete a survey which can be accessed via this link.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uGh3-2lCmUKj28L7Qpa4KpiNhPqJO5dGri4NkyJjiqlUMTk1SzRES1NJUIhYR0hJTzVEUDY0QU5WMS4u>

This survey asks for **a definite 'Yes' or 'No' to returning to school** and seeks information on some key areas. This **form must be completed by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June** at the latest so that the bubble structure can be set and start and end times can be finalized and shared with parents as soon as possible. Depending on the numbers of children who are returning and because of the small bubble sizes, it may be that we are not able to extend opening for all of the key year groups. If this becomes the case, I will let affected groups know as soon as possible.

Due to the complex nature of this re-opening and the bubble structure which must be adhered to, the decision which you make on this form cannot be altered and your child will not be able to return until September.

Further details of how we will operate as safely as possible have been added at the end of this letter, along with information about our other expectations. These have not changed from those which I have sent previously. Your child will only be able to return to school on condition that these new measures will be followed. Updated policies have been added to the [school website](#), so that parents can find out more about the changes we have had to make. There is also a [safety video](#) on the school website which must be watched by parents and children before returning, so that everyone is clear about the safety measures. This way we can ensure that we don't have any confusion or chance of getting it wrong. It is vital that we all do everything we can to keep our school community safe.

Our aim is to ensure that this partial re-opening feels as normal as it possibly can for you and your children, while adhering to guidelines given. We will do all we can to alleviate anxiety and make the return to school a positive experience in any way we can.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support, both of the school and with supporting your children's learning at home – we really are grateful for all that you do.

If you have any queries about the partial re-opening, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Clarke  
Headteacher

The guidelines for our partial re-opening of school have been determined by a thorough risk assessment, in consultation with various bodies, including the Local Authority, Unions and Public Health England. In order to keep everyone safe at school, we must insist that all of these points are understood and adhered to by parents, staff and children who decide to return to school.

- Children should socially distance from one another and from staff.
  - Children should wear school uniform every day and trainers. We request that they wear a clean uniform every day. Children will not be required to bring a PE kit as many of the lessons will be outdoors and often physical which is why we are asking for the children to wear trainers for now.
  - Children should bring a coat to school every day, as we will be outdoors more. This will be hung on their chair.
  - Children should bring a labelled water bottle to school and it will remain in school throughout the week. It will be thoroughly washed and refilled every day by school staff.
  - If children need sun cream, hand cream or want their own hand sanitiser we request that they are clearly labelled with the child's name and are kept in school once they have been sent in.
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- Children and staff will wash their hands at least 8 times per day. Hand sanitising stations will be placed at the entry point to school where children will sanitise on entry and exit each day. Each classroom has handwashing facilities for use throughout the day.
  - We will continue to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' system for coughing and sneezing. Each classroom has tissues and a bin with a lid on it. The bins will be emptied several times across the day.
  - There will be very strict guidelines on the use of toilets so that social distancing can be maintained and so that regular cleaning can occur. For this reason, it may be that the children, especially in Key Stage 2, have to wait longer than they normally would to be able to go to the toilet.
  - All outdoor equipment, (e.g. tyre park, climbing equipment, trim trail) will be closed.
  - First aid will be provided to children who hurt themselves, following a 2m social distance where possible. If this is not possible, the first aider will wear PPE to provide first aid.
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- No-one with Covid symptoms should attend school, this includes for dropping off, nor should anyone attend school who is part of a household who are self-isolating.
  - If a first aider is dealing with a child who is Covid symptomatic, they will wear full PPE including a face shield. This will be explained to the children.
  - Emergency contact details must be updated, when signing up to return to school and parents must understand that if a child is symptomatic of Covid19 we will call the emergency contact and the child must be collected promptly. Parents will then need to arrange for the child to be tested for Covid (by using 111 online) and must inform the school of the results as soon as possible. If the result is positive, we will have to take swift action to isolate all members of the child's bubble.
  - Parents must understand that **if any child or adult from their child's bubble tests positive for Covid, that ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS from that bubble must self-isolate for 14 days and will not be allowed to attend school.**
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- The school kitchen is re-opening and will be providing packed lunch style dinners, sometimes with a hot item e.g. a sausage roll. These can be ordered and paid for via SIMs pay. Children in Reception and Year 1 are entitled to a free school packed lunch under the 'Universal Free School Meals' scheme and children in Year 6 who are in receipt of 'Means Tested Free School Meals' are also able to enjoy a school packed lunch for free. Please note however, that **for children returning to school who have been receiving the benefit related free school meal shopping vouchers, this system will end.**

- If children do not wish to have a school packed lunch, they can bring in a packed lunch from home.
- Parents must socially distance from one another in the handover point areas and ensure that their children do too.
- Only one adult should drop off and pick up.
- Parents must not enter or try to enter the school site without a prior and pre-arranged appointment.
- All contact with the school should be via phone call or email.
- If a child is distressed when being dropped off, a member of staff will approach at a distance and try to assist in encouraging the child to come into school. They will negotiate with you the best way forward for supporting your child to leave you and come into school.
- Parents should try, where possible, to follow the Government travel guidance and avoid the use of public transport for getting to school.
- Parents are encouraged to only arrive at school for their allotted time to avoid needing to 'hang around' outside and potentially causing social distancing difficulties.
- Children can bring scooters and bikes to school however they must be able to put them into the bike shed themselves as parents will not be permitted past the gate. Children who are using the upper floor of the building will not have access to covered storage for bikes or scooters, but they will be stored securely.
- Children and adults must follow our guidance on keeping safe in relation to Covid19 routines. Any deliberate refusal to follow or non-adherence to this guidance will be treated seriously.