



Rowlands Gill Primary School

17.6.2020 Newsletter

Home Learning

Home learning packs are continuing to be provided through the school website for all year groups and will continue for as long as needed.

I realise that for some people, supporting home reading is a little tricky because of a lack of reading books. I know that, by now, those books which we sent home when we first closed will have been finished for a long time.

At the moment, we are not able to offer any type of book exchanging facility to be able to provide you with some new home reading books. We know that this is not ideal so wanted to direct you to some available and high quality on-line resources which you can access as a parent to support your child with their home reading. Some of these resources have already been shared through specific year groups' home learning packs so you may already be accessing them.

Oxford Owl <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> offers a great range of online books to suit the majority of reading levels. Parents can register themselves for an account, you only need to give your email address to get yourself set up. I have been using this website with my son and it has worked really well. This week, class teachers will work out the correct level of reader for your child to access on this website and will give the information to the office staff. So once you register, if you are unsure which books to use with your child, please just contact the office and they will let you know what the class teacher has advised. If your child already has an Oxford reading book at home, you will be able to work out the appropriate level by looking at the back of the book which they already have.

At the moment there is no requirement for any of the home learning packs, or reading books which we gave out, to be returned to school. This is to minimise items moving between home and school. Towards the end of term we will make appropriate arrangements for this.



Transition Arrangements

You will be aware from recent Government announcements that the original plan to bring back all children before the Summer holidays is impossible because of the very strict guidelines under which we are working and we await further guidance about what will happen in September.

This week we have begun our wider re-opening to key year groups and now have the new way of working underway, which so far is going well with the very limited numbers of children we have on-site. In the week beginning 29th June we will be contacting parents of ARMs, Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children who have not yet returned, to see if they want to return from 6th July (all being well, staffing-wise). Once we have done that we will know if any, other places we are able to offer to other year groups. This will also be dependent on the number of key worker children we have at that point.

We are working behind the scenes to figure out what we can do to offer appropriate transition to all children so that they can say goodbye to their current teacher and meet their new teacher. Once I have firm plans, I will let you know.



Occasional Day

Our occasional day was planned for Fri 26th June, however this is cancelled. School will be open on that day for those children who are currently attending.



Family Experiences - Loss, Trauma

We all know how difficult the recent months have been for everyone and that different families have encountered a vast range of issues to deal with. Sadly, some people may have encountered loss of a family member or friend; the trauma of a loved one going into hospital with Covid; or the emotional and mental difficulties of living under lockdown conditions.

In order for us to develop a sense of each child's experiences and those areas which may prove difficult upon returning to school we request that if your child has experienced any adversity which we don't already know about, that you contact school to let us know.

We realise that this may be very difficult for you to discuss, and of course will treat any information with confidentiality and sensitivity. In this way, we can discuss the issue fully with you and decide together how best to support your child and your family.

Nursery Applications

Do you know anyone with a child who is turning three in the next 12 months?



If so, we have the perfect Early Years setting, with a teacher and 2 higher level teaching assistants able to offer fabulous Nursery education. We offer up to 30 hours per week, in a range of patterns to suit parents.

Please contact **RGPS@gateshead.gov.uk** for more information.

Recovery Curriculum

Gateshead Local Authority have written and released a recovery curriculum for schools to use in the next academic year. It is underpinned by many key principles, the most important of which is that we do not want to narrow the curriculum with a 'catch-up' or rushed programme.



The curriculum prioritises the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children. We know that good health and well-being is fundamental to ensuring that children can engage effectively in their learning.

Across the summer, staff will be working together in teams (with the teacher who taught the class until March and the new teacher) to tailor-make the curriculum for the new academic year appropriate to the children. They will identify which parts of learning may have been lost and how best to teach the new concepts while addressing any gaps or misconceptions appropriately.

I hope this goes some way towards reassuring you that we are doing all we can to ensure that all children continue to make good progress with their education.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We are beginning our recruitment process for a new member of staff to join our lunchtime supervisor team. Anyone interested in the role, please contact Mrs Elliott for further information.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Friends of Rowlands Gill Primary (FORGPS)

Usually at this time of year, FORGPS would be collecting unwanted, uniform in good condition, however at the moment we are not able to accept donations into school. If you find yourself with good quality uniform which no longer fits your child, we'd really appreciate it if you could hang onto it for now until we can accept it into school.



We also continue to try to raise funds for the school, despite the lockdown rules - a simple way to continue to help us raise money is through purchasing a school lottery ticket. A high percentage of the proceeds go back to school so it is a great way to support it. Sign up today for only £1 per week! <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/rowlands-gill-primary-school>

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