



Rowlands Gill Primary School

18.9.2020 Newsletter

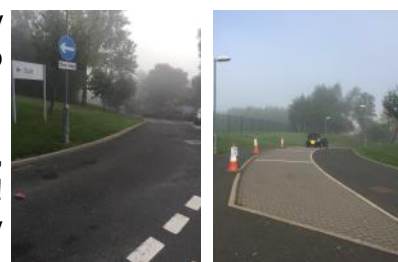
Back to School

I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us with our 'new normal' and the alterations to the bubble times which we had to make on Monday. Everything that we have put in place, as part of our 46 page risk assessment, has been done to make sure we are as safe as we possibly can be and your support to ensure that this is upheld has been fantastic.

The children have all settled back in really well and we're delighted to be back to 'normal'. The bubble structure and staggered playtimes and lunchtime are working well. All of the children know where their seat is in the lunch hall and, for Year 2 upwards, they all have their own special place to sit in class and a stationary pack which belongs to them. We've even had remote assemblies, where I appear on the screens in the classroom to lead assembly, so that we can maintain the bubble structure.

The morning 'drive-through drop-off' zone for the MUGA is working really well now. Thank you for following requests from myself and Mr Proud to help to keep the area flowing.

For those of you lucky enough to have the 8.55-9.05am drop-off time slot, you might be interested to see these photo taken at 9.01am this morning! You are more than welcome to arrive at this time and take the opportunity of the quieter parking, if you have a child with this drop-off slot.



General Illness

As is always the case at this time of year, we have had children with common colds and sore throats, some of which have led to a slight cough.

Parents have been really proactive in contacting us to find out whether they should send their child in. One of my well-used phrases this week has been, "Is he/she 'snotty'?" 'Snotty' is good because we've been told it isn't a symptom of Covid but is a symptom of the common cold!

You know your child better than we do and if you would usually send them in with a general illness (e.g. sore throat), then please do so and let the adult on duty know that they are a little unwell (or leave a message with the office).

If you are in doubt, please contact the office from 8am onwards for advice.

Coronavirus Symptoms / Self-Isolation

If your child has any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, then you must not send them into school.

Your entire household should self-isolate until your child is tested.

The same applies if someone else in the household has symptoms—your child should not attend school until a test result is received.

If you find yourself in this situation, please contact the school office to inform us ASAP.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD BACK TO SCHOOL UNTIL YOU HAVE AGREEMENT FROM THE OFFICE.

Please also note, that if you have a child from a bubble which has been closed, including from other schools, they should be self-isolating, even if they do not have symptoms. (The entire household do not have to self-isolate in this situation). That child should not be on the school grounds to pick up siblings as this poses a risk to our school community.

4 Pages Today!



Return Books from Lockdown

In March, when we had to close the school in hurry, children were given a few reading books to bring home (as we only expected to be closed for a couple of weeks).

If you have not already sent them back into school, please do as soon as you can. Our supplies of reading books are now very low and we need as many as possible because of the quarantine rules which apply.

Even if you aren't sure if it is from our school, send it in and we will send it back to you if it isn't ours.

Lost Property

We're only two weeks in and we already have a few missing items of clothing.

Please could parents from Miss Winskill's class keep an eye out at home for a black hoodie which may have inadvertently gone home with the wrong child last week.

We also have an unnamed, unclaimed brand new purple jumper aged 10-11 in the KS2 corridor.

PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING THEN WE CAN ENSURE IT IS SWIFLY RETURNED TO YOU.

PE

Being a parent myself, I know it's difficult adjusting to the fact that your child needs to attend school wearing PE kit during the week!

Long hair needs to be tied up on PE days, or your child needs to bring a hair bobble with them that they can then use to tie it up for the lesson.

If your child attends school without wearing their PE kit we will contact you to drop one off or they will miss the lesson, so it's really important that we continue with the great start we've made already!

Meet the Teacher Event

Thank you to those parents who attended our virtual meetings with the class teachers. Although somewhat strange, it was a good chance for parents to find out more about their child's class and class teacher.

The general information which was shared with parents who attended will be made available on the class page on the school website early next week. So if you missed the meeting you will be able to catch up with the key information provided.

School Lunch

Due to the bubble structure, we need to have two lunchtime sittings and they need to run efficiently! Gateshead School Meals service have streamlined the menu for all Gateshead schools, for the time being, to assist with the additional demand on the lunch hall and timings. The new menu means the service of the meals is much quicker.

The vegetarian option is the same meal as the main meal, but with Quorn substituted for the meat. For this reason the vegetarian option is only available to vegetarians or for dietary / religious reasons which the school already know about. (Previously, the vegetarian option would be a totally different meal, available to anyone but, for now, this is not the case).

The current menu is on the school meals section of the school website:

<https://rowlandsgillprimary.org/school-meals/>

If you haven't already let the office know about your child's meal pattern, and it is different to last year, please email to confirm their pattern for this year.

Reception Applications

Do you know anyone with a child due to start Reception in September 2021?

If so, we have the perfect Early Years setting, with a superb teaching team, able to offer fabulous education and an amazing learning environment.

The Local Authority admission system is now open for applications. For more information about what we can offer, please contact **RGPS@gateshead.gov.uk**.

E-mail: rgps@gateshead.gov.uk

Phone: 01207 549 359



Safe Parking

You may have noticed me outside of the school gates this week, to ensure the flow of people and traffic, for the safety of our children and families.

Whilst out there, I have noticed that some people are parking in dangerous places. **Please do not park anywhere on the school site other than in a parent's parking bay.** For example, do not park over the driveways leading into school, or on the corners where our school road leaves or rejoins Dominies Close.

This type of parking means that people struggle to see the road they are crossing and often, that people with buggies have to move onto the road.

I appreciate that parking can be difficult; it is the same in every school, but **I urge you all to put the safety of our school community first and park safely.**

Homework

Please check out your child's class page on the school website for details of their homework.

Social Distancing

Please remember that when you are on the school site, you have a major part to play in ensuring that everyone can socially distance.

We politely request that you:

- wait only in the designated places where there are social distancing markers / don't stand in the box junctions around the gates
- leave the site as soon as you can (please don't wait around catching up with other families)
- ensure that if your children are with you, that they stay close by you. When children are off playing on the grassy area together they are mixing with children from other bubbles — we have spent the day tirelessly keeping bubbles separate so that if there is a confirmed case, the amount of children who would have to self isolate is as small as possible. By allowing your children to play with others, you could inadvertently cause an outbreak across more than one bubble, which no-one wants.

Your support is greatly appreciated by us all.

Friends of Rowlands Gill Primary (FORGPS)

Despite the school closure last academic year, the fantastic team of volunteers who run the FORGPS have continued to work behind the scenes to fundraise for the school and support parents and the children.

The School lottery continues to generate income and the sale of pre-loved uniform continued across the summer holidays to get everyone ready for their return to school.

Once again, Sophie Dias has done a fabulous job of posting information from the school website, to the FORGPS Facebook page which has helped to alert parents to important communication from the school. If you aren't already a member of their page, it's a good one to join (just search for Friends of Rowlands Gill Primary School on Facebook). Thank you Sophie!

Attached to our newsletter is the information about their virtual Annual General Meeting on 12th October. They are always looking for new members to join the team and to share their ideas.

Prior to that meeting, I will be meeting with the chair/vice chair of the committee to talk through what we can and can't offer this term under the current restrictions. As always our aim is to do everything we can in the best interests of the children so no doubt we'll need some creative thinking.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members for their hard work and continued support. We really appreciate all that you do for our school community. Thank you, from Mrs Clarke.



E-mail: rgps@gateshead.gov.uk

Phone: 01207 549 359

Friends of Rowlands Gill Primary School

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome.

Stay informed and get involved.

Join us to learn about what we do and to help us support the school in new ways for new times

Via Zoom due to social distancing requirements

Monday 12th October 19.45

Please register your interest in attending via our Facebook page or by emailing friendsofrg@outlook.com (access codes will be provided nearer the time)



Parentkind
Member Association