

Rowlands Gill Primary School

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11th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

New Arrangements – Starting Monday 14th September (This Monday)

Welcome back to our new school year! It has been a lovely week welcoming back the children, who are all so excited and happy to be back. They have coped brilliantly with the 'new normal' following the changes which we have had to implement to comply with Covid regulations. We have tried to ensure that school feels as normal as it possibly can for everyone and the children have responded really positively, taking everything in their stride and doing so with a smile on their face.

The staff have been really impressed with the children's attitudes and enthusiasm and our school, once again, feels alive and a lovely place to be! We have also truly appreciated all the positive comments from parents and carers too. It has really helped us to hear you acknowledge how difficult it has been for us to re-open under these restrictions. We would like to thank you for bearing with us while we tested our first week and the 'new normal'.

When I set the drop-off and pick-up times, back in July, I had to ensure that we would have enough time in case the handovers were slow or in case there were any particular tension points and I asked parents to bear with me while we figured some of the logistics out. For some parents this meant a wait of 30 minutes between siblings coming out of school, which is far from ideal – I thank you for managing with that as a temporary measure.

Across the week, the children have been able to enter and exit school much more quickly as the routines have become established and adults are using the socially distanced markers to space out when they have to wait. As a result, I have been able to review the timings and improve them so that, at the most, there is only a wait of 10 minutes between groups of children on drop off or pick up and, for most people with siblings, most timings can fall back-to-back.

The new timings will start from Monday. I realise this may be short notice for some parents, but I hope for the majority of parents it will be a very welcome change. If you have adjusted working hours to meet drop-off and pick-up times and are struggling to make the new changes to take effect from Monday, please email me (I will respond over the weekend) and I will work something out to help you next week.

The new arrangements are as follow:
(Please note Class 3L will now use the MUGA)

Class	Start Time	Entrance	Home time	Exit
Early Years	8.55 - 9.05	KS1 Gate	3.10 - 3.20	KS1 Gate
1/2M	8.40 - 8.50	KS1 Gate	3.00 - 3.10	KS1 Gate
2W	8.40 - 8.50	KS1 Gate	3.00 - 3.10	KS1 Gate
3L	8.55 - 9.05	MUGA	3.20 - 3.30	MUGA
4B	8.55 - 9.05	MUGA	3.20 - 3.30	MUGA

5R	8.45 - 8.55	MUGA	3.10 - 3.20	MUGA
5/6A	8.45 - 8.55	MUGA	3.10 - 3.20	MUGA
6B	8.45 - 8.55	MUGA	3.10 - 3.20	MUGA

On a morning, the children will head straight into class once they are met at their entry point by a member of staff. This will not be the class teacher, as they will be in class ready to receive the children. There will no longer be a club run by Miss Latto for siblings because all drop off times have now been pulled more tightly together. All children must enter school using their designated drop off point.

The location of the MUGA and the fact that we are using it for our older children means that, if parents want to, they can drive up the road, past the school car park and drop off their child straight from the car. The second and third parking spaces will be designated drive in and drop off spaces – they should not be used to park in. A member of staff will be next to the spaces next week to ensure they keep flowing as a very quick drop-off. There is no need for the adult to bring the child onto the MUGA, but drop-off timings must be adhered to. The children will be safely directed into school by a member of staff on the MUGA.

At home time, the class teacher or teaching assistant will bring the class out to the exit area and will send them to their adults one at a time (except for KS2 children who have permission to walk home alone). Adults should wait on the socially distanced markers. If a parent would like to speak to the class teacher at this time, please step back out of the way when your child has been sent to you and once the class are all dismissed please make your way over to the teacher. They will be happy to talk to you, while maintaining social distance.

Please remember that the car park is for staff use only and should not be used by parents. Your co-operation with this is much appreciated.

Parents can arrive at any point during their bubble time. This allows parents with children in different bubbles to have back-to-back times, e.g. a parent with a child in 2W and one in 5R, could go to KS1 gate at 3.08 then head straight up to the MUGA for their 3.10 – 3.20 slot.

If a parent arrives late, please can they enter the relevant area, maintain social distancing from other parents and move up the orange markers until you are met by the adults on duty. We will keep your child at the relevant point until all children are dismissed. If you are more than a few minutes late, please call the office.

Next week I will send out another letter which will explain, our response protocol to Covid should we have a positive case and a reminder of some of the key points from our risk assessment. Despite everyone's best efforts, it is clear from the local and national news that Covid cases are rising and our risk assessments are truly being tested.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us via email at RGPS@gateshead.gov.uk or by calling the office team.

Thank you again for your continued support of the children, the school and the staff. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Clarke
Headteacher