

Rowlands Gill Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers

September Plans

As we close fully for the summer tomorrow, I'd like to thank you again for your patience and support throughout this pandemic and to try to provide you with some information about what we think September will look like. This is so that you can make any necessary arrangements and prepare your child for the changes.

The government has now published a significant amount of new guidance for schools which will apply from September and we are working with the Local Authority to risk assess and make the necessary adjustments to school so that we can operate as closely as possible to normal. However, as we know from recent weeks, guidance can and does change regularly. The information in this letter is based on what I am being told now. This could change again before our return in September so it is important to check the school website and eSchools from 2nd September onwards in case there are any further changes to make to operations for returning on Tuesday, 8th September.

Safety

Every decision we make has the children's safety at the core. The following safety measures will continue, or be introduced, in September:

- Handwashing, scheduled at regular intervals including on entry and exit, before eating, before and after playtime or PE. Hand sanitizer points at every entrance will be used before anyone enters.
- Regular cleaning of surfaces across the day.
- Windows will be open whenever possible.
- All children (from Year 2 upwards) will be seated facing forwards in class. They will share a desk with another child, sitting side-to-side. There will not be 'group' tables (other than in Year 1 and Early Years) because the children can't sit face-to-face.
- Each child will have their own pack of stationery so that there is no sharing of glue sticks etc. They must not bring any other stationery into school.
- **Your child should bring only their coat, water bottle and packed lunch (if they have one) each day.** There is no need for any bags to be brought into school – packed lunches should be self-contained and not need to be kept in a bigger bag. If your child has a genuine reason to need a bag, please contact school. They will bring their water bottle home every night to be washed. Children in Key Stage 1 will still be offered free fruit at playtime, this will be supervised so that other children do not touch other people's fruit. Children in Key Stage 2 may bring a healthy snack with them but this must be easily brought in (e.g. carried in their pocket) and easily stored and should not include a tub which needs to be returned home.

- For those children in Year 6, who need to bring a mobile phone to school (e.g. for if they are walking home alone), our storage arrangements for them will need to change. Further details will be given in September.
- **Home reading books will be provided once a week** and will be quarantined between uses. You will only need to return the book on the day that the reading books are changed for your child's class. Your child's class teacher will let you know which day that is in September.
- The guidance currently states that no one in school should wear a face mask. If your child wears a mask for their journey to school, it will need to be removed and placed into a small bag which is then retained by the parent – please do not send it into school with your child to be disposed of. Face masks should not be brought into school at all.

Bubbles

Our bubble system will still operate but in a larger sense. The principle behind the bubble system is that pupils in a bubble come into as little contact with other bubbles as possible, limiting possible infection. Each class is a bubble and is taught in their own classroom or outside, by the same adult or team of adults. Some staff may move between bubbles, which is unavoidable. They will ensure they maintain their distance and that their hands are washed between bubbles.

Playtime and lunchtime will be staggered for different groups of children because of the need to use shared spaces and because of the limit on the capacity of how many children we can have in the lunch hall at one time while minimising the mixing of bubbles.

At playtime and lunchtime these smaller class bubbles combine into slightly larger bubbles. These will be no more than two classes together e.g. 1/2M and 2W become one bubble. The larger bubble will share the same outside space and play together. We do not expect children to socially distance at playtime. Again, a specified adult team will supervise playtime and lunchtime.

Staggered Drop Off and Pick Up Times

- Please adhere to social distancing at drop off/collection points and only arrive at your specified time. There is a very tight five-minute slot to hand the children over and be out of the way before the next class arrives.
- Please wait on the next available orange line marker on the ground and move forward along the markers as the children are handed over.
- If you need to pass a message onto the class teacher, please phone or email the office. If the class teacher needs to pass a message on to you they will call you. This includes if your child has had an accident in school – they won't bring home a slip of paper, you will receive a phone call and/or a text message to inform you.
- Only one parent / carer should drop off or pick up.
- If you have more than one pupil in school and are finding that you cannot manage to meet different drop off times, please contact me to discuss the best slot to fit with. (There are more than 120 sibling links in school so it would have been impossible for me to provide a different bubble for all families to access).
- If you are late for the drop off or pick up, please phone the school office who will make appropriate arrangements. **Please do not go into the drop off or pick up area with other parents who are not part of your bubble.**

Class	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time	Place
Early Years	8.35 - 8.40	2.55 – 3.00	KS1 Yard Gate
1/2M	8.45 – 8.50	3.05 – 3.10	KS1 Yard Gate
2W	8.55 – 9.00	3.15 – 3.20	KS1 Yard Gate
3L	9.05 – 9.10	3.25 – 3.30	KS1 Yard Gate
Mornings Only Nursery	8.35 - 8.40	11.45	KS1 Yard Gate

Class	Drop Off Time	Pick Up Time	Place
6B	8.35 - 8.40	2.55 – 3.00	MUGA
5/6A	8.45 – 8.50	3.05 – 3.10	MUGA
5R	8.55 – 9.00	3.15 – 3.20	MUGA
4B	9.05 – 9.10	3.25 – 3.30	MUGA
7B	8.55 – 9.00	3.15 – 3.20	Main Entrance

Please watch the safety video, which is available on the school website, to see the bubble drop off system in action for both locations, if you haven't already used the system. Mr Boddy and I will be at the drop off locations to help you get used to the system.

The Curriculum and Timetable

Our normal teaching timetable will resume and all National Curriculum subjects will be taught with the relevant balance of time for each. We have a carefully planned Recovery Curriculum which has been mapped out by our teachers and subject teams, including the child's current and new class teacher, to ensure that any content missed during the school closure is addressed.

PE will be taught outdoors as much as possible. There will be no contact sports during the Autumn Term. So that the children are not bringing items and bags into school unnecessarily, we have decided to ask the children to wear their PE kit, all day, on their PE days. They will come to school on their PE days wearing their kit. For this reason, you may want to provide a tracksuit to wear over the top of their kit, or they can wear a school jumper on top. There will be no PE lessons in the first week back. The class teachers will inform you in September of which days your child will have PE.

We will not be attending swimming lessons until at least October and only then when it is safe to do so. The plan is that Year 3 will attend swimming lessons first and we will be offering 'top-up' lessons for the children who have missed out on swimming lessons this year due to the school closure.

We will not be able to host whole school assemblies for the foreseeable future. Instead, teachers will deliver class assemblies or we will hold virtual assemblies through the classroom whiteboards.

In the first few weeks back, we will be placing a greater emphasis on mental health and well-being to support the children returning to school and in getting to know their new class and feel comfortable with being back. It is entirely natural for the children to feel a little anxious about returning to school, however we have found that those who have already returned have soon settled into the 'new normal' routine. Children always amaze me with how resilient they are but please rest assured that we will support every child appropriately.

Uniform

We expect all aspects of our uniform policy to be followed again, including wearing the appropriate footwear – black shoes. We would appreciate your support with this as it helps us to set the tone of pride and high expectations. There is no need to wash uniform any more frequently than you usually would.

Wrap Around Care

Funky Monkeys Breakfast Club and After School Club will be open in September (and has been throughout the closure). Please contact Nichola as soon as possible, using the email address funkymonkeysoosc@yahoo.com if you need to access this, as places are limited.

None of the usual after school clubs offered by the school will be running in Autumn term. Miss Latto will run a couple of sports clubs linked to our bubble system – more details will follow in September.

Online Learning in the Event of a Possible Further ‘Lockdown’ or Closure

In the event of a possible further ‘lockdown’ we are putting plans and systems in place to be able to switch to an online learning platform to provide learning from home. We will send more information about this in September, along with a questionnaire to find out about the types of technology you have available at home to access online learning.

Covid Testing and Isolation

Sadly, when we return it is clear there will still be ‘risk’. People will still have Covid and the risk of transmission of the virus will still exist. Our commitment to you is that we will communicate with you promptly and clearly if we have a concern, however, we need a commitment from you that you will act swiftly and in accordance with the guidance if we, or you, are worried about your child. We need you to ensure that if your child is showing symptoms of Covid that they are isolated and tested as quickly as possible. We will inform Public Health England of every child that we send home with symptoms to ensure the Track and Trace System is ready to alert others should a test return as positive.

As is normal, when we return to school there will be other bugs and viruses that are not Covid but manifest themselves in a similar way. Please understand and bear with us – if their symptoms are the same as Covid we will ask you to seek a test and your child will have to be isolated until the outcome of that test is known. I realise that this may be frustrating but we have to work together on this to protect all children and our staff.

I hope that you have a happy and safe summer break. Like you, we have never experienced anything quite like this before and our staff are in desperate need of some time to rest and recuperate. We look forward to welcoming you back in September and will, of course keep in contact, should anything change before then.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Clarke
Headteacher