



Rowlands Gill Primary School

20.11.2020 Newsletter

Christmas

Sadly, due to Covid, there are somethings which we would usually do e.g. Nativity for parents, that we can't do this year; however we are working very hard to make Christmas as normal as we possibly can for the children and for you.

We plan to record a Christmas Performance where each class adds a video clip which builds into a whole school performance and will be shared with parents via the school website in the last week of term.

If we do not currently have permission for your child to be included on the school website, a member of the team will contact you shortly, to discuss what we can do to ensure no one misses out.

Last year some of the KS2 children went carol singing for the residents of the sheltered housing estate next to school. We are still awaiting permission to do this again this year, from the Health and Safety team, but hope it can go ahead.

Key diary dates for the rest of this term are included on page 2. Please be assured that all activities planned have been risk assessed and will be run in a way which does not breach any of our Covid regulations.

Y3 and Y4 Parents/Carers

Please help us to keep our whole school community and bubble structure safe by **waiting on the path in the staff car park** if you arrive too early for your bubble drop off or pick up time.

It is more important than ever that we maintain social distancing and protect one another but when the area around the entrance, or exit, to the MUGA is busy with people waiting on the grass or path, it makes many people feel uncomfortable and they find it difficult to maintain the space they need.

Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Early Years Development

I'm pleased to announce that with our growing numbers of children ready to join our school in September, we will be developing our Early Years unit from one class into two for the next academic year.

Nursery will go back to having its own classroom and outdoor area, and Reception will have their own classroom and outdoor area too. Each class will have their own class teacher and higher level teaching assistant. Miss Smales, Mrs Andrew and Miss King will continue to be the Early Years team and will be joined in September by another teacher who is an Early Years specialist.

The preparation work for these changes will begin in the summer term but will not affect our current children at all—their provision will be unaffected.

This is a really exciting step forward for our school and I am delighted that the community and residents are able to see (and hear from all of you) that we are a great school and that our Early Years is the perfect place to start their child's education.

This week we have been recording short videos of our children in action in the Early Years for a promotional video to share with prospective parents. Usually, as you know, we would offer open afternoons and tours, but Covid restrictions have prevented us from offering these which is why we've made the video.

Watch out for it being uploaded to the school website and other social media next week. And if you know of anyone thinking about where to send their Nursery or Reception child, please share our video with them. The closing date to apply for a Reception place is **15th January 2021**.

Children in Need

A big thank you to everyone for joining in with our Children in Need day last week. The children looked great in a huge array of yellow and spots!

We raised a huge **£403.11**, which included a kind donation from a parent's business of £50.



December Diary Dates

- **7th - 11th** Christingle Project in KS2 (free resources provided by Life Vineyard Church)
- **Fri 11th** - Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
- **Mon 14th** - Panto in school (each bubble will watch it at their own time across the day)
- **Tues 15th** - 5R, 4B, 7B Christmas Parties (pm)
- **Tues 15th** - FORGPS Christmas Raffle drawn
- **Wed 16th** - EYFS, 1/2M, 2W Christmas Parties (pm)
- **Thurs 17th** - 5/6A, 6B, 3L Christmas Parties (pm)
- **Fri 18th** - Please bring a large labelled carrier bag to take home all the quarantined items from trays!
- **Fri 18th** - School closes tonight for the holidays
- **Mon 4th Jan** - Training Day (school closed to children)
- **Tues 5th Jan** - Pupils return to school.



Stomping Grounds

Children in 3L and 4B have an exciting event to look forward to in early December. The team from Stomping Grounds will be coming into school (Covid risk-assessed) to teach the children basic campfire skills and set up a safe campfire ring which we will then keep as the starting point for our future plans to develop a forest school.



This has been arranged because of the children's English digital literacy unit 'Marshmallow' which they have really enjoyed. Like the boy in the film clip, 'Marshmallow', the children are going to be toasting marshmallows on a campfire after learning how to build and light a fire safely.

Following that, the children will be using the experience as a basis for their work on writing instructions.

Parents will receive a specific letter with all the relevant details soon.

Christmas Cards

Children can bring in Christmas cards for their friends as usual and we will organise the appropriate quarantine.

Please ensure the **name and class number of the recipient is clearly written on the envelope**. We are placing a Christmas postbox on each corridor where the children can post their cards.

The postboxes will be open **from Monday 30th November until Tuesday 15th Dec.** We will not be able to accept any more cards after Tuesday 15th as we need to apply the appropriate quarantine and send the cards home by the end of term.



Friends of Rowlands Gill Primary (FORGPS)

Thank you to everyone who has already returned raffle tickets to school. We have had lots of fantastic prizes donated by our local community, pop on our Facebook page to have a look! To boost our prizes further, next week we would be very grateful of donations towards hampers. They can be dropped off at the EYFS/ KS1 gate and the MUGA. Please see the letter that was sent earlier in the week via eschools for more information.

We are still collecting any unwanted Christmas Jumpers/clothes ahead of Christmas Jumper Day – please ensure any donations are brought into school by Thursday 26th November. To allow contactless browsing, we will be posting photos of the donations on our Facebook page on Monday 30th November and then requested jumpers can be sent home with your child. More details will be provided on the Facebook post.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that FORGPS has recently funded a 6 month subscription to the "Happy News" newspaper. This will be used by the KS2 classes to support positivity and mindfulness within school. We are only able to grant these requests to enhance the provision in school thanks to your generosity and support, so as ever a huge thank you .



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