Rowlands Gill
Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs L Clarke
Dominies Close, Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear, NE39 2PP
Telephone: 01207 549 359
E-mail: RGPS@gateshead.gov.uk
Website: www.rowlandsgillprimary.org

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Dear Parent / Carer

Potential Closure of Bubbles During this Lockdown Period

From Monday, 25th January, 97% of our staff (including kitchen, cleaners and after school club staff) will be participating in the voluntary rapid testing programme for Covid.

This means that twice a week, the staff involved will be routinely tested for Covid. This is an attempt to try to identify anyone who is asymptomatic and has Covid. Where this is the case, the staff member would not attend work and would self-isolate accordingly, helping to keep our school community as safe as possible from this terrible virus.

Staff will carry out the testing at home on a morning so that the results are as up to date as possible. However, this means that there is a high chance that I could have to close a bubble with very little notice. For example, if a staff member, linked to a bubble, tests positive on a Tuesday morning, it could be as late as 8am when I am made aware of this. I would then have to contact the parents of the children in the affected bubble, to close it with immediate effect and with potentially only half an hours' notice. **I urge parents to ensure that they have a back-up plan** if this were to happen as I would not be able to admit the child into school. Please note that if I am closing a bubble, this will be communicated via telephone and may be from a blocked number rather than the school phone line.

It also remains the case, that if a child who is attending school, tests positive for Covid, the bubble would be closed and your child would have to self-isolate in line with National Guidelines. Generally, this information would be received during the school day but again the bubble would need to close with immediate effect and your child would need to be collected from school urgently. **It is vital that you ensure your own and your additional emergency contact details, which we hold on record, are up to date**. If there have been any recent changes please contact the office to update us with the details, or email a confirmation of who emergency contacts are, with their details, so that we can be sure that we are able to contact everyone quickly.

I am sure you will agree that this is a major step in increasing safety in our school and an admirable commitment from our staff to undertake this procedure in order to help to keep everyone, and your children, safer. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

L. Clarke

Mrs L Clarke
Headteacher