

# Rowlands Gill Primary School

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Re: School Closure

As advised by the Government tonight, we will be **closed with immediate effect**, for the vast majority of our children due to the Coronavirus pandemic and National Lockdown. The information about provision for Nursery children in primary schools was unclear in the Prime Minister's broadcast and I have no further information about it at the moment. Once I know more, I will of course update you.

### Critical Worker Places

From tomorrow, we will **only be open to vulnerable children and children whose parents are Critical Workers**, as identified by the DfE document released on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (which differs slightly to the one available last time and is included at the end of the letter). This offer is our way of supporting frontline staff to continue in their vital role. It is by no means an entitlement to extra schooling and should only be taken up when no other suitable childcare is available to them.

If you require a Critical Worker place for your child, please **complete the online form which is available on the school website**. To access a place, we are requesting that both parents are Critical Workers (or in the case of a single parent family, that the main parent is a Critical Worker) as outlined in the attachment to this letter.

If you have no other childcare option for tomorrow **and** are applying for a Critical Worker place, you can bring your child to school at 8.45am to the MUGA at the top and Mr Boddy and I will meet you and your child there. They will be looked after in school tomorrow by our teaching assistants until Critical Worker places can be firmed up and bubbles for these children established.

I politely request that you complete the online form as a matter of urgency. I am sure you will appreciate how difficult it is to organise this at such short notice and to ensure that we are supporting requests for places fairly. **You will be notified of whether your child has a place**, and the arrangements for this, as soon as possible.

Children of Critical Workers will be in small bubbles in school, supervised by teaching assistants. All class teachers will be working from home to co-ordinate our full package of Remote Learning, including live lessons. **The children of Critical Workers, who are in school, will access the same remote learning as their classmates.** Funky Monkeys will be offering breakfast and after school club provision (chargeable), for the children who have a Critical Worker place and need the wrap around care.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER

### **Vulnerable Children**

Some children who are vulnerable will also be able to attend school. **If your child falls into this category, one of the school team will contact you by telephone in the next two days** to discuss our plan to support. Please do not send your child to school tomorrow. Please wait until we contact you.

### **Remote Learning**

All other children will need to stay at home. Remote learning will be provided **from Wednesday via Google Classroom, Seesaw or Tapestry** depending on your child's year group. Class teachers will be in touch via the class emails tomorrow to support you and your child in accessing the remote learning.

If your child does not have access to an appropriate device to access home learning online please email us on [RGPS@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:RGPS@gateshead.gov.uk) and we will make arrangements to provide the home learning in an alternative format and discuss whether they can access the live lessons via a parent's mobile phone.

### **Benefit-related Free School Meals**

For those children who are in receipt of Benefit-related Free School Meal entitlement, **you will receive an email or letter via eSchools in the next few days** to establish how we, as a school, will continue to meet this entitlement during the school closure. Please note, the Benefit-related entitlement is different to the Universal Free School Meal entitlement for children in Reception and Years 1 and 2. The Universal entitlement is not being offered.

### **Updates**

Please continue to **check the school website and eSchools** as this our main form of communication from now on. Sophie Dias kindly adds updates to the FORGPS Facebook page and if you have parents What's App groups, please feel free to prompt each other if you receive alerts or information. When we are able to re-open we will alert you via these means.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further clarification or support. I apologise for the short notice but I know that you will appreciate it is a rapidly evolving situation over which I have no control. I also know that everyone understands that the priority has to be, and remains, keeping all of our school community safe. Thank you for all of your kind messages of support and appreciation.

We, like you, are all keen to return to normal as soon as possible and when it is safe to do so. Our aim remains the same - to provide the best education for our children and the best support for our community. Look after yourselves, your loved ones, follow the Government guidance and stay safe.

We send all our love from the whole team here at Rowlands Gill Primary School.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs L. Clarke & the team at RGPS

## **Critical Workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

### **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

### **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians

- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

### **Transport and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sector

