

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



5th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: School Re-opening Important Information

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in getting this information to you. As you are aware, we were notified of the Ofsted Monitoring Inspection on Wednesday morning and were inspected yesterday so that has taken up all of my time. I am delighted to say that the inspectors were pleased with the improvements we have made and were very impressed with our remote education offer. We hope to share their monitoring feedback letter with you by the end of this month. Once again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to complete the parental survey, and for your emails of support sent directly to us – the inspectors reported overwhelming positive comments from parents and very strong support of the school. So thank you!

We are very excited to re-open on Monday. As part of our continued effort to keep our community safe from Covid, we need your support to minimise the risk to everyone. **Please remember to follow all the current guidance and help us by keeping your child(ren) off school if they have symptoms or are waiting for a covid test result. This applies to everyone in the household, family support bubble or childcare bubble, if any one of them has symptoms, or is being tested, or has tested positive for the virus, your child should not attend school. Please inform of us of this as soon as possible.**

Please remember the following key points before sending your child back to school:

- If your child has a medical need, e.g. asthma; please **ensure that their medication is brought to school** on your child's return date. Medication needs to be kept in school to minimise the number of items going between home and school.
- If your child shows symptoms of Covid 19 while in school, we will call the emergency contact and the child must be collected promptly. Testing for Covid must be arranged by the parent. The result of the test must be shared with the school as soon as it is available.
- Visitors/Parents/Carers should not come on site unless they have an appointment. Please contact the office if you need to visit on tel: 01207 549 359.
- Children should wear **school uniform and trainers**. They should bring with them a coat, a packed lunch (if not having a school dinner) and a labelled water bottle. They should not bring anything else to school. (If hand cream is needed, it should be labelled and should remain in school. (If your child has outgrown their uniform and you haven't had the opportunity to get more, please just let us know).
- First aid will be provided where needed and staff will wear appropriate PPE for this, when 2m distance cannot be maintained.
- **Attendance is mandatory**, which means all children should now attend school, unless they are ill or self-isolating.
- If you intend to travel (e.g. go on holiday), be aware of quarantine rules after travel and how they apply to you and how they would affect your child's attendance at school.

Staggered Drop Off and Pick Up Times

- Parents/carers should arrive **on time** for their drop-off and pick-up time and avoid arriving early as this blocks parking for others. You will receive a separate letter with details of drop off and pick up times. We are now offering a home time system where siblings can be collected together and from the same exit point (this now includes the back gate). **Your letter with your bubble times is individual to your circumstances – please contact the office if you don't receive that via eSchools today.**
- Only one person should drop off and pick up.
- Please **adhere to social distancing** at drop off/collection points. There is a very tight slot to hand the children over and be out of the way before the next class arrives.
- Please wait on the next available line marker on the ground and **move forward along the markers as the children are handed over.** This is especially important at home time as it is very difficult for staff to recognise parents due to the face masks.
- A hand-drawn plan (apologies) is attached to this letter so that you know which class line to use when dropping off or picking up. If you are picking up a sibling group please stand in any line relevant to one of your children.
- If your pick-up location is the back gate – you will be the only parents there, so there is no map of lines!
- 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 or email 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.
- If you are late for the drop off or pick up, please phone the school office who will make appropriate arrangements.
- All **adults must wear a face mask while on the school site** (unless they have an exemption).
- Please leave the school site as soon as you drop-off or collect your child – I know it is very tempting to have a catch up with other parents, but I really need your help with this to ensure social distancing can be maintained for our whole school community.

Safety

Every decision we make has the children's safety at the core. The following safety measures will continue:

- 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.
- Children can bring a spare jumper to keep in school if they usually feel the cold.
- All children in Key Stage 2 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 Key Stage 1 and Early Years).
- 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.
- 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. If your child brings a mobile phone for walking home they should hand it to the class teacher upon arrival in class.
- **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 – please see class page on the website for details.
- The children will not be asked or expected to wear a face mask.
- All staff are currently and will continue to undertake twice weekly lateral flow testing. They will wear face masks in communal areas.

Bubbles

The bubble structure which was in operation in Autumn term will continue as normal. This includes staggered lunch breaks to be able to reduce the capacity in the lunch hall so that no children face each other at the tables, instead, they sit side by side.

Contingency Plan for Outbreaks in School or Changes in Restrictions

We do have a plan in place in case of bubble closure or future national or local lockdowns, but we sincerely hope we never need these! If this were the case, we would revert to our remote teaching plan.

Wrap Around Care

Funky Monkeys Breakfast Club and After School Club will be open from Monday. Please contact Nicola as soon as possible, using the email address funkymonkeysoosc@yahoo.com if you need to access this, as places are limited.

As before none of the usual after school clubs offered by the school will be running in this half term. Miss Latta had started to run a couple of sports clubs linked to our bubble system and this will continue with classes 2W, 1/2M and 3L after the Easter holiday and details of these will follow.

PE Days and Times

We have decided to increase the number of PE lessons in Key Stage 1 & 2 this term to support children's well-being and opportunities to engage with their friends. They should wear PE kit / track suit on these days. That means until Easter, 3 days wearing PE kit and only 2 days in uniform! Please see the table below for your child's days:

Class	PE Days
1/2M	Mon, Wed, Thur
2W	Mon, Wed, Thur
3L	Mon, Tues, Thur
4B	Mon, Wed, Thur

Class	PE Days
5R	Tues, Wed, Fri
5/6A	Tues, Wed, Fri
6B	Mon, Tues, Fri
7B	Tues, Thur, Fri

Monday and Tuesday Plans

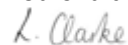
We have decided to cancel the usual timetable on Monday and Tuesday to give the children and staff the opportunity to get used to being back at school and to support well-being and socializing. We have planned 3 playtimes for each day so that the children can spend quality time playing together and catching up. Each class will use a story which links to well-being as the focus for some nice activities e.g. drawing the people they love and the 'invisible strings' which connect them. There are also two exciting whole school art projects which will be underway in the first two days back!

I have already spoken to a couple of children who are a little worried about returning to school, and a few who would rather stay at home with remote learning for various reasons. We hope this lighter return to school will help children to settle back in; however, if your child is unduly nervous or anxious, please get in touch with the class teacher via the class email and we will do all we can to help.

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday!

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact one of our team.

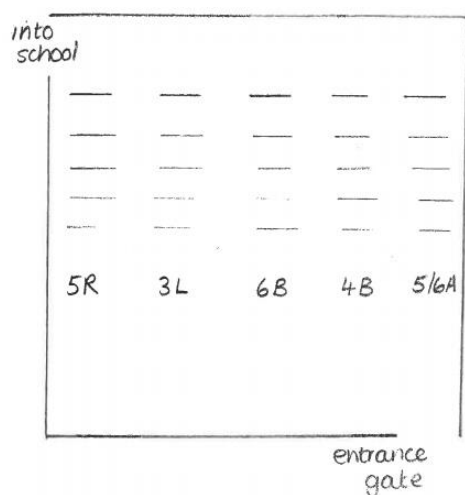
Yours faithfully



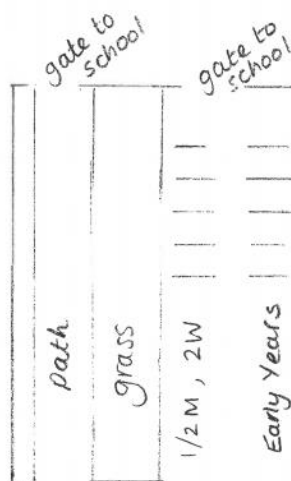
Mrs L Clarke
Headteacher

MAPS

MUGA



KS1 Gate



We are opening both gates on the KS1 yard, so 1/2M and 2W children will go through the small gate and onto the path to meet their parent. Parents step over the grass and onto the path to leave the site.

Early Years will come through the larger gate and meet their parent on the driveway. They will then walk down the middle of the driveway to exit.

Children will be handed over to parents in order of where the parents are in the line. Please remember to move forward to the next marker as soon as it is free. It is very difficult for staff to recognise parents wearing masks and this is even harder if people are further away.

If you are collecting siblings, stand on the line which is relevant to any of your children e.g. if you are picking up a Y5 and Y2 child, stand on 2W because that is the relevant line at your exit point. If you are picking up a Y6 and Y4 child, stand on either line on the MUGA.