



Headteacher:
Mrs J.M. Goodfellow
B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Raising Pupil Aspirations.

Monday 13th July, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

My staff, my governors and I have been working very hard recently to prepare the school ready to welcome back all of our children in September. I would like to take a little of your time to explain some of the arrangements we have made.

You might have seen that most other Gateshead schools are returning to school on the 7th September. However, we have reviewed our current holiday dates for the next school year and have agreed that our planned date of an earlier return (Tuesday 1st September) is better for our children and their families. Returning to school as soon as possible is our aim. Please note that we still have the two week half term holiday at the end of May and start of June to allow you to book holidays abroad at a much cheaper cost at that time. You have received a reminder of the dates on Friday 10th July so please note that our holidays, including the Easter break, is not the same as other Gateshead schools.

We have been very concerned about the gaps in learning that all of our children will have. We are trying to arrange ways of having catch-up learning and we have been successful in securing a grant for using remote home learning. Some of our staff are exploring the idea of 'blended learning' (using face to face and computer learning) with our older children. When we know more about what is available, we will keep you informed. However, we are hoping to continue the marvellous partnership that has developed between the school and parents/carers during the lockdown period.

Governors have made a very important decision this week which I want to tell you about. They have agreed to spend a very large amount of money on providing an additional class in KS2 which is going to allow us to have smaller class sizes and more flexibility. The benefits of the additional one class will have knock on benefits across the school. They discussed all options in detail and felt it was very important to spend the extra money this year and make sure our children have the best emotional and wellbeing support as well as the best educational support we can manage. As always, they put the children first and were very keen to do the best for our school community.

As you know, large gatherings are still not going to be allowed in school. So daily routines such as having an assembly in the hall with me is not possible and having lunches in the hall for more than 300 children is also not possible. We are working our way down the list of routines that need to be reviewed and putting things in place. The one main thing that would concern most parents is the arrangements for lunchtimes. We are asking our school meal provider to provide 'grab bags' (we hope to have hot food included). Therefore, we are offering you the choice of sending in your own healthy packed lunch with a drink or ordering a school meal 'grab bag' packed lunch in the usual way online. Please ensure you send a nutritional packed lunch and not a meal full of crisps, sausage rolls and biscuits because as a school, we are expected to ensure children eat well nutritionally and not just the food they prefer to eat. All children will eat their lunch at their desk for the time being, rather than in the hall and will be taught how to clean their own desk surface. Those children who have already attended school in June and July are experts now so they can lead the way!

Other big events such as the Macmillan Coffee Mornings and the Christmas Fair might need to be re-organised to provide something for us all, but delivered in a completely different way.

Once we come back to school, we will be reintroducing reading books and will be allowing children to bring in PE kits once again. Lockers and pegs will be reintroduced. Other things such as following the arrows on the floor, regular handwashing for 20 seconds and cleaning the washbasins and toilet areas regularly by children and by staff will be retained. Once again, water fountains are going to remain out of use so children need a bottle of water or even 2 bottles of water every day to drink throughout the day.

We will be continuing with staggered start and end times for our children throughout the day using the gates at the Wellington Road side of the school, which will be opened by staff. Please make sure you arrive on time so that staff can get on with the new routines efficiently.

So far, it appears that we will still not be able to open our Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club. However, if government guidance changes and we find that we can manage to run either or both clubs, we will let you know immediately by text.

Everything we are doing will be reviewed fortnightly to accommodate any changes to government guidance and school specific needs.

Below are the arrangements you need to know: (Please read in conjunction with the map below)

<u>New Year Group in September</u>	<u>Which gate? (Drop off and home time collection)</u>	<u>Drop Off Time</u>	<u>Collection Time</u>	<u>New Teacher and TA</u>
★ Year 6	Double gates on the field	8.45am	3.05pm	Miss Fleming and Mrs Crawford
★ Year 5	KS2 gate	8.45am	3.05pm	Mrs Langley and Mrs Dixon
★ Year 4	KS2 gate	8.55am	3.15pm	Y4a: Mrs Gordon/ Mrs Blance Y4b: Mrs Wall
★ Year 3	Double gates on the field	8.55am	3.15pm	Y3a: Miss Heron Y3b: Miss Newby Mrs Hui
★ Year 2	KS2 gate	9.05am	3.25pm	Miss Bradley/Miss Welsh Mrs Hogg

Riverside Primary Academy
Colliery Road
Dunston
Gateshead
NE11 9DX
Tel: 0191 4601918



Headteacher:
Mrs J.M. Goodfellow
B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

Raising Pupil Aspirations.

★ Year 1/ 2	KS2 gate	9.05am	3.25pm	Miss Tulip Mrs Lendrum
★ Year 1	KS1/EY gate	9.05am	3.25pm	Mrs Ritchie/Mrs Sumner Mrs Jones
★ Reception	KS1/ EY gate	8.50am	3.10pm	Mrs Docherty Mrs Sellers Mrs Walker Mrs Leech Miss Armstrong
★ Morning Nursery and all day Nursery	KS1/EY gate	9.00am	12.00pm for morning only children. 3.20pm for full time children.	
★ Afternoon nursery	KS1/EY gate	12.20pm	3.20pm	



We realise that when you have children of varying ages, this staggered drop off and pick up is an inconvenience. Please bear with us for the first week while we observe the issues and try our best to resolve the difficulties for you. We might well be able to organise for you to collect all of your children at once within a week or so.

There will be many things to review and sort out and we are doing our best to resolve these challenges as quickly and efficiently as possible.

We hope to provide confirmation of your child's new class and teacher very shortly, so please look out for that.

If you have a child starting our school and they have never attended before, please know that we will do our best to answer any of your queries. If you ring the school on 0191 4601918 we will be happy to help. If your child is moving up to reception class this year, we should tell you that we are still going ahead with parent

workshops and please note that they are vital to attend. Because we have not had an opportunity yet to meet our new reception parents and their children, can I clarify that all reception children can come in full time from the very first day just as the rest of the school does. So, please follow the table above for starting times. If you feel that your child will not cope with full days straight away, let us know by phone or at the gate and we will arrange to sort out a bespoke arrangement for you. Anything we can do to help your child settle in is fine by us.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking you all for your patience with us during this challenging time and say a huge personal thank you for the positive comments you have made regarding the on-line learning and organisation. It has boosted our staff to receive such lovely supportive comments for their hard work – and they have been amazing behind the scenes.

To conclude, please keep a look out for any texts and updates and we really do look forward to getting back to a little bit more of normality in September.

Best regards,

Julie Goodfellow

(Headteacher)