



ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNIOR SCHOOL

'ONE SCHOOL, ONE TEAM'

**FAMILY HANDBOOK
2021-2022**

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CONTENTS



Page No.

2. Contents
3. The Handbook – Purpose and Usage
4. The School Day
5. Arrival and Departure
6. The School Day
7. Homework and Reading
8. Junior School Library
9. Communication
10. Music
11. Reports, Assessment and Consultation
12. School Activities; Medical Matters
13. Absence; Physical Education; Mouth Guards; Lunches; Birthdays;
School Visits
14. The House System and Merits
15. Prefects; Student Council; Transfer to Senior School; Lost Property;
Junior School Family Events
17. Meet the Staff



Dear Parent

Welcome to the RGS family! We are delighted to have you, and this handbook is your reference point; please use it in combination with the website and your communications with us.

If you haven't already felt them, you will soon discover our 4 core values (love for learning, ambition to succeed, belief in each other and sense of belonging) which drive what we do. We want you to feel part of your child's voyage, because RGS is about opportunity and community.

If you need clarification on the contents of the handbook then please contact me on the telephone number below or via email. In addition, Amanda Noble or Alison Gravely, school secretaries, or Emma Evans, school receptionist, are also available on the telephone number below or via email; a.noble@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk, a.gravely@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk or e.evans@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

In Junior School we are constantly working on our 4 superpowers : able, strong, calm and kind;



With best wishes,

James Miller
Head of Junior School

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THE SCHOOL DAY

On arrival

Please plan to arrive each day by 8.30am (see Arrival and Departure, page 6, for more details). Children should go to their classroom where their teacher will settle them in.

What to bring

Children should bring the following stationery kit in a named pencil case:

- 4 HB pencils,
- a 30cm ruler,
- a set of coloured pencils,
- a set of felt-tip pens,
- a pencil sharpener,
- a rubber,
- a glue stick,
- a document wallet in which to carry work to and from school,
- scissors,
- a non-disposable ink pen (see page 5 for further details) – Y4, 5 & 6 only.

In addition, Year 5 and 6 children will need:

- a Collins pocket thesaurus (ISBN: 978-0008141806),
- a Collins pocket dictionary (ISBN: 978-0008141820),
- a protractor,
- a pair of compasses (for use at home with homework only).

These items should be **clearly named** and kept permanently at school in your child's desk/tray and a similar set of equipment available at home. A pair of outdoor trainers is also needed. In Year 3 and 4, a named 'shoe bag' to keep them in should be ordered on-line at Schoolblazer (www.schoolblazer.com) with the rest of your child's uniform. Year 5 and 6 have shoe racks outside each classroom, therefore shoe bags are not needed.

Games kit should be brought to school on the first day of term, and every Monday thereafter. During good weather the kit can be kept in the bag rack during the week, but if your child takes part in a lesson or outdoor practice during inclement weather it will be necessary to take the kit home for washing. Very active children place great demands upon the family washing machine and in poor weather they will need to be reminded to bring kit home regularly.

All items should be clearly named, including trainers and boots. In order that all 'found' items can be returned promptly to their owners, clothes and shoe labels need to be applied and you might find the following website to be useful: www.wovenlabelsuk.com

A satchel or small case for transporting school equipment is also needed. Year 5 and 6 children should purchase their own but please avoid anything expensive.

What not to bring *(yes, here's the first 'DO NOT' rule!)*

Please help us run a happy school by leaving at home:

- un-named items of clothing or equipment;
- expensive items which are unnecessary for school activities;
- electronic games;
- large sums of money;
- collection crazes – every few years this becomes a problem when children begin to spend excessive amounts on certain items and arguments tend to be the result. If I need to ban any such items from school I will inform you in the Bulletin. Please support my decision;
- items to swap or to sell to friends;
- smart phones

Handwriting Pens

In Year 3, children write using a pencil for much of the year before progressing to a pen for some written work in the summer term. Years 4, 5 & 6 should have a re-usable pen in blue ink; this can be a rollerball, fountain pen or biro but must NOT be an eraser pen. Blue ink is the colour of choice.

Spellings

Spellings are a fundamental part of English and are taught weekly. We are trialling some new methods of teaching spellings and class teachers will communicate this to you.

Settling in

During the first couple of weeks of the term it is important that parents get to know their child's teacher. It is a time for sorting out **any** questions about school and for ensuring that each child settles into RGS life. We strongly encourage an open door policy and we want to hear of any difficulties so that we can quickly attend to them. (Covid restrictions notwithstanding).

Code of Conduct

A very important aspect of our School is the **Code of Conduct**. A copy can be found in each student planner – please read it together and help your child to sign it. We are determined to ensure that our pastoral care is second to none and we want everyone to know that their time at our school is shared with others who will respect their individuality.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Before School

Children are expected to be on site and ready for the start of the school day by **8.30am**, in practise, this means they should arrive a little earlier in order to get organised.

A few children cycle or scooter to school and leave their mode of transport in the cycle shed. We want to encourage this!

The main doors into school and the entry gates on Lambton Road are fitted with number code locks for security (as are the doors into Senior School). If you have any difficulty gaining access, there is a bell button adjacent to each doorway to summon assistance.

Please note that we do not want children to arrive earlier than **7.45am**. In 'good' weather, children play on the Brandling House site until 8.15am.

Those in Years 5 and 6 are asked to take their bags into school to put them away in the bag racks. In inclement weather, the doors are open from 7.45am when the children are welcomed into the school halls. Those in Y3 and Y4 that arrive before 8.15am take their bags to the play areas across the road. From 8.15am, students and parents will have access to the classrooms where supervision is provided.

Registration begins in classrooms at 8.30am and the first fifteen minutes of the day are very important; please be punctual. Prior to registration, children go to their classroom to unpack their bags before putting them neatly in the bag-racks. They should also hand in homework, planners and any notes, and make sure they are ready for the start of the day.

After School Supervision

Lambton House, Years 3 and 4.

At 3.30pm, Miss Noble (secretary) or Mr Miller will invite parents to enter Lambton House so that they can collect children from classrooms at 3.30pm.

At 3.45pm, those children who have not been collected are taken to Brandling House by staff to be supervised by Mrs Colley or Mr Hails (after-school supervisors).

Parents should come to late room through the Brandling House gate to collect their child. Mrs Colley or Mr Hails will record the departure of all children.

Brandling House, Years 5 and 6.

The school day ends at 3.30pm and parents are welcome to come into school to collect from the classrooms at that time. Children expecting to be collected promptly can wait in Zone 1 until 3.45pm. Please note that we do not allow children to wait on the pavement beyond the school gate for collection nor can they go to the shops. Those staying for later collection wait in the Late Room until collected. At 3.45pm, all remaining Year 5 children will move to the science lab and Year 6 children will move to Mrs Wall's classroom where they will be supervised by the duty teacher or one of the after-school supervisors.

Please do not park on the 'School Keep Clear' lines, even for a moment to make a pick-up or drop off. The safety of all of our children is paramount.

Please note that after school supervision ends at 6.00pm.

Homework in Late Room

Children staying late in school are allowed to do some of their written homework; however, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that the work is of an acceptable standard in advance of being handed in for marking. In order to support this, late room will be a calm and quiet area between 3.50pm and 4.45pm. Children who regularly stay late and those travelling a long distance are particularly welcome to use their time in Late Room wisely by doing some of their homework. Please note that we are unable to allow computer-based homework in school during after-school supervision.

THE SCHOOL DAY

LESSON	FROM	TO
<i>Registration</i>	<i>8.30am</i>	<i>8.45am</i>
Lesson 1	8.45am	9.15am
Lesson 2	9.15am	9.45am
<i>Morning Break</i>	<i>9.45am</i>	<i>10.05am</i>
Lesson 3	10.05am	10.35am
Lesson 4	10.35am	11.05am
Lesson 5	11.05am	11.35am
Lesson 6	11.35am	12.05pm
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>12.05pm</i>	<i>1.05pm</i>
<i>Registration</i>	<i>1.05pm</i>	<i>1.10pm</i>
Class Reading	1.15pm	1.25pm
Lesson 7	1.25pm	1.55pm
Lesson 8	1.55pm	2.25pm
Lesson 9	2.25pm	2.55pm
Lesson 10	2.55pm	3.25pm
<i>Form Period</i>	<i>3.25pm</i>	<i>3.30pm</i>
Lesson 11 <i>Year 6, Mondays only</i>	3.25pm	3.55pm

Break

Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack from home, perhaps some fruit. This can be especially beneficial if they have a long journey to school from home. Children are also asked to bring in a named water bottle, which they can top up at the water cooler.

Those in Years 5 and 6 can purchase a sausage, bacon or vegetarian sandwich from the Dining Hall 'Tuck Shop'. We do not make these available to the younger children as we have found that it prevents many from eating all of their lunch at mid-day.

Please do not send **sweets, crisps, chocolate, or fizzy drinks**: we discourage their regular consumption in the health element of our Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE).

HOMEWORK AND READING

Homework

There are many good reasons for setting homework and it is very important that children learn to work at home in a sensible and disciplined way. Details of each night's work will be written by each child in their planner and a timetable for homework for each class will be brought home early in the term. **Parents are asked to monitor homework and sign the planner each day.** Please add useful comments if relevant eg. too hard, too easy, too short, too long, spent hours, didn't understand, please help!

As a general guideline, each piece of homework should not take longer than 20-30 minutes. Teachers, sometimes, allow more than one evening to complete work. An example can be found below. It might include additional subjects. There is also space in the student planner where the timetable can be written.

Example Homework Table

	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Monday	Spellings	English	Maths Science	Maths
Tuesday		Maths	English	English
Wednesday	Maths			Science French
Thursday		Maths	Maths	Maths
Friday	Topic	English	English French	English

Maths homework is all computer based. All children are expected to do 5 minutes Doodlemaths every night. Other tasks will be set in My Maths, Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) and Hegarty Maths (Y6).

Gentle support during homework is fine - although different systems work for different families - but we don't want parents to do the homework or for home to become a battleground over this topic.

Reading

Children are expected to read every night; this is a very important part of their academic development and at the beginning of the year they will receive a recommended reading list. Details of each day's reading should be written in the reading record section of the planner and, **as with homework, parents are asked to monitor this and sign it nightly**. Please remember that children should be encouraged to read different styles of literature.

As well as giving children the opportunity to read independently, it is still important that **you listen to your child read on a weekly basis**: this helps with fluency, accuracy, confidence and expression; it also helps children to further develop their comprehension skills and their understanding of punctuation and language. It is also a wonderful opportunity to strengthen that parent and child bond. The planner includes a section to indicate whether reading has been aloud or done independently each day. Reading aloud should be continued through all years in the Junior School, not just in Year 3.

Some nights are busier than others and common sense should prevail. If there is no time for reading one night then this should be made up on another or at the weekend. Equally, if homework is quickly finished, then more reading can be done (or why not climb a tree instead).

A recommended reading list will be issued separately and this should be the main focus of the child's reading, although reading from other sources is also to be encouraged.

Recommended Reading List

As most of our children at the RGS are generally literate well beyond their chronological age, we believe that a structured reading scheme is not appropriate. In addition, as there is such a wide variety of reading material available today, we have decided it is appropriate to publish a recommended reading list. This list has been compiled using the expertise of staff, in particular that of Mrs Karen Wall, subject leader for English. It is regularly updated. We have kept each list to a manageable size and tried to select books that represent good literature. All books on the list can be found in the Junior School library. We also encourage children to read a range of non-fiction and poetry books and a wide selection can be found in the library. There are, in addition, a wide variety of other books also held in the library that are suitable for Junior School students. Teachers are only too happy to help with recommending books.

Once a month, Mrs Wall produces a reading newsletter (Bonkers About Books) which is shared electronically with parents and children. It recommends new books as well as including reviews from children of books they have read.

JUNIOR SCHOOL LIBRARY

There are libraries in both Brandling House and Lambton House. The libraries contain all of the fiction books listed on the recommended reading list; the libraries also contain a wide variety of other fiction and non-fiction books, all of which are suitable for Junior School reading.

Children are given access to the library in English lessons, and can also visit at other times of the day with permission from a member of staff.

Books in the libraries are issued using a computerised borrowing system. Every child is given their own library number when they join the school and they use that in order to borrow books. Children can borrow up to three books at any one time. Teachers are able to issue and return books using the computers in the libraries or their own classroom computers.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between school and home is a vital two-way process. If you have anything you need to talk about then please bring it to our attention. The Junior School is a happy and caring school, and staff and existing pupils will do everything they can to help your child settle quickly. The form teacher gets to know the child best and all children are encouraged to share any concerns with their teacher and ask for help when necessary. Parents are asked to make contact with the form teacher or subject teacher as soon as there is a need, and brief contact with all staff is often possible before or after school without an appointment. The Junior School secretary, Miss Noble, is in the reception office from 7.45am until 4.15pm and will be able to help you with most of your enquiries on 0191 2818955. Miss Gravely, Assistant Secretary, is in the office between 7.45am – 1.45pm and Mrs Evans, Receptionist, is in between 9.30am and 5.30pm.

Another point of contact is the Senior School office which is staffed from 8.30am until 5.30pm; telephone number 0191 2815711. Please use this number if your call is urgent and you are unable to get through on the Junior School number.

The Friday Bulletin & Sports Magazine

Each week in term time we issue a newsletter, called 'The Bulletin', and a sports magazine via email. Their purpose is, amongst other things, to celebrate participation, effort and success, to remind you of certain events or add items to the calendar. Copies of recent publications can also be found on the school's website.

Letters

If a child is involved in any sporting fixture or educational trip, parents will receive a letter or email giving full event details, time of departure and expected arrival back at the Junior School. Sometimes pupils forget to pass these on to parents ...who might find it useful to go through their child's pockets and bags every now and again when the Bulletin is issued! Our aim is to advise you of event details two weeks in advance so that you can prepare and, in particular, contact your individual music teacher if you need to rearrange a lesson. Please be alert to potential clashes between individual music lessons and events in the school calendar. Parents can be charged by the music teacher if children miss their lesson without prior notice.

Home Contact

With such a sizeable and active school, it is inevitable that we will need to contact home from time to time. In any one week, we might need to make a large number of telephone calls to different homes and occasionally a call is urgent due to illness at school. Will you kindly ensure that you keep us informed of any change of your telephone number or address so that we can up-date our records. The office staff might also contact you via email or text.

Mobile Telephones

The use of smartphones (those which can run apps) is **not permitted** in Junior School. We do allow the use of feature phones (phones simply with text and call functionality), particularly for those children who use public transport and/or travel longer distances.

Here are some recommendations of the types of phone we will allow:

- Alcatel 20.23 £9 (pay as you go)
- Doro 5516 £5 (pay as you go)
- Alcatel 30.25x £19 (pay as you go)

Those using a phone, must sign the mobile phone contract in their planner and must adhere to the rules set out within it.

Electronic Readers

Electronic readers, such as Kindles, are becoming an increasingly popular method of reading with children. We are always happy to encourage reading and therefore children who are using these can bring them into school. Please note that electronic tablets, such as iPads and Kindle Fires, are not allowed in school.

E Safety

During computing lessons, RGS pupils regularly discuss and explore different areas of E-Safety which include: top tips for internet safety, how to prevent cyber bullying and the risks of social media networking. Computing teachers refer to many useful E-Safety websites during lessons such as: www.thinkuknow.co.uk, www.netsmartzkids.org, www.childnet.com, as well as others. Children are then encouraged to revisit these websites at home with their parents.

As well as this, 'Safer Internet Day' is celebrated within computing lessons during the month of February. We also hold an 'E-Safety Parents' Presentation' which highlights online safety issues. During the evening, we provide up-to-date practical advice on how to talk to your children about online issues as well as how your child can get the most out of the Internet whilst using it both positively and safely.

A copy of the school's Rules for Responsible Use of iPads, Computers and the Internet, is also included in the school planner.

MUSIC

Music at the RGS enjoys an outstandingly illustrious tradition. Children in both the Junior and Senior Schools are taught by music specialists and over 20 visiting instrumental tutors. A comprehensive programme of class music overflows into an extensive range of activities which take place before school, in lunch breaks and after school.

At the Junior School, all children are encouraged to become involved in musical activities, even if they have had no previous experience. All groups meet regularly and perform in concerts throughout the school year. The musical groups vary from year to year, but in the year 2021-2022 they are as follows:

Junior Orchestra:	Mondays, 8.00 - 8.30am
Chamber Choir:	Mondays, 4.00 - 5.00pm
Guitar Group	Tuesdays, 8.00 - 8.30am
Junior Choir (Years 3 & 4):	Tuesdays, 8.00 - 8.30am
Wind Ensemble	Mondays, 12.30 - 1.00pm
String Group	Mondays, 12.30-1.00pm
Junior Choir (Years 5 & 6):	Wednesdays, 8.00 - 8.30am
Recorder Group:	Thursdays, 12.30 - 1.00pm
Brass Ensemble	Fridays, 12.30 - 1.00pm

Instrumental tuition is available on a full range of orchestral, jazz and rock instruments. Speech and Drama (LAMDA) lessons are also available on this system. Year 3 students who are seriously considering taking up a musical instrument, are given the opportunity to play a stringed instrument or the flute on a trial scheme, free of charge. Year 5 students who have not done so before may also take advantage of this, or a parallel scheme for wind or brass instruments. Trial lessons take place during the autumn term, after which students can opt to continue tuition on an individual basis at a cost of £20.20 - per 30 minute lesson. Pupils already receiving instrumental tuition on entry to the school can opt to remain with their present teacher or receive tuition from one of the RGS tutors. **If your child would like to take advantage of individual instrumental tuition at the RGS, parents are asked to contact Mrs K Clappison (Head of Junior School Music) k.clappison@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk or Mrs J Graham j.graham@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk (Performing Arts' Centre Manager) at the New Parents' Meeting in June or by telephone or email soon after. Instrumental timetables are usually drawn up over the summer holiday for the following September.**

Music lessons in school take place during school time and a rota is established so that children do not miss the same academic lesson every week. Lessons are held in dedicated music rooms in either Lambton Road or the Performing Arts Centre.

Music is a very important aspect of life in the Junior School. There are opportunities for children to be involved in musicals, the annual House Music Competition, Junior School Spring Concert, Friday Cafés and a variety of chamber concerts which take place throughout the school year. Above all else, we hope that your child's experience of music making will be full, varied and fun.

REPORTING, ASSESSMENT & CONSULTATION

Reports

The following table indicates when different year groups receive their reports and when Parents' Conferences take place. The dates of when you will receive these will be published in the calendar and a letter sent at the start of term. The chart below highlights the reporting cycle for the coming year.

Year Group	Autumn Half Term 1	Autumn Half Term 2	Spring Half Term 1	Spring Half Term 2	Summer Half Term 1	Summer Half Term 2
3	Parents' Conference October	Summary Report		Performance Indicators plus Student Reflection	Parents' Conference June	Full Written Report (July)
4	Summary Report	Parents' Conference November	Performance Indicators plus Student Reflection	Parents' Conference March		Full Written Report (July)
5	Summary Report	Parents' Conference November	Performance Indicators plus Student Reflection	Parents' Conference (students invited) March		Full Written Report (July)
6	Parents' Conference October	Summary Report	Parents' Conference (students invited) February	Performance Indicators plus Student Reflection		Full Written Report (July)

Assessment

This is an ongoing process designed to facilitate the educational development of each child. Assessment takes place whenever a piece of work is marked and throughout lessons when a child responds to a teacher, collaborates in group work, or works independently. In these ways, the teacher learns how well a child is doing. Assessment also takes place in certain subjects when a topic is completed, and at set times in the year when formal exams take place. We do not want our young children to feel unduly pressurised or fearful of exams and time is spent within class, in assemblies and in PSHE, to gently present the message that, although we want children to prepare for exams, they must not worry about the outcome.

Consultation & Parents' Conferences

You are welcome to come into school at any time to discuss your child's progress. Formal parents' conferences are held according to the timetable on the previous page and you will receive an invitation near to the date when you will be asked to select a time when it is convenient for you to attend.

Parents of **new** starters will be invited to attend a social gathering early in the autumn term with form teachers where the focus of the evening is getting to know staff and parents of other new starters. Further information about the philosophy and aims of the parents' conference schedule, dates and times will be issued at the start of term.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities are a very important part of RGS life and we pride ourselves on the range of activities on offer. We believe that, in addition to play-time, they help to enrich the lives of the children, help to foster links between children in other classes and also enable them to develop social skills and emotional qualities.

Many of the activities involve children of different ages and exposure to children from other year groups is valuable for both younger and older children.

Children are made aware of what is available at the beginning of the term via a clubs' list. It is important that they join activities and parents should discuss what is on offer with their children. Where places are limited, we operate a rota to ensure everyone who wants to, has an opportunity to try the activity.

Here are just some of the clubs offered this year: swimming, rugby, gymnastics, cricket, chess, computing, orchestra, choir, athletics, art, drama, football, sewing, nurture, fencing, rounders, dance, cookery, netball, story corner and eco-club.

Some activities take place before school, some during lunch-break and some after school. Some are seasonal.

There will be a list of all extra activities on the notice board in the foyer, a copy will be emailed home and your child will bring a list home at the beginning of the term.

Your contacts for club enquiries are a.spencer@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

MEDICAL MATTERS

There are medical staff on site every day, and the school doctor visits regularly. Those who are involved in accidents or taken ill are quickly seen by the school nurses, Mrs Victoria Duns and Mrs Mo Thorniley-Walker, or by a first-aid trained member of staff. Where treatment or the nature of injury warrant contact with home, we will do so via telephone or note, but we will not trouble you with information about everyday 'bumps and scrapes'.

Any medication that you would like us to administer to your child during the day should be clearly named and handed to either reception where you will be asked to complete a form.

Please keep us suitably informed of any medical requirements or conditions concerning your child. Confidentiality is respected.

Contact for Mrs Duns and Mrs Thorniley-Walker is via the Main Office on 0191 2815711.

ABSENCE

If your child is to be absent, then please let Miss Noble or Miss Gravely, School Secretaries, know via email or telephone before 9.30am. After this time, the school will contact you.

Leave of absence must be requested in writing, or by email, in advance of the anticipated date, but please note that holidays during term time do not qualify for leave of absence. It is the school policy that requests for such holidays should not normally be accepted. Requests are given reasonable consideration by the Headmaster. If you have children in both Junior and Senior School then please send your request directly to Mr Stanford.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All children have three periods of games, a double PE lesson and swimming lesson every week. This is beyond the level of provision for physical education in the National Curriculum, but we believe it to be appropriate as it helps to develop physical fitness, skill levels and team spirit. There are inter-school competitive fixtures in all years and we try to ensure that everybody is selected to compete on at least one occasion every year.

Parents are invited to watch any sporting event and travel with our teams when playing away. They must sign in to the office on arrival. Information is issued for each fixture (usually two weeks in advance), giving full details and advising those that need to re-arrange individual music lessons to contact their VMT (visiting music teacher) directly. Please note that if parents do not give their VMT one week's notice of the need to change the scheduled lesson, they might be charged for it.

MOUTHGUARDS

Children are not allowed to play in rugby or hockey lessons unless they are wearing a mouth guard. Look out for direct communication about this.

LUNCHES

Lunch at the RGS is taken in the dining hall in Brandling House. There is an extensive menu (including vegetarian and halal options), and all children are encouraged to take lunch at school. However, lunches are not compulsory and those who prefer to bring their own packed lunch can do so. Those who wish to bring packed lunch should contact the Finance Department so that the charge for lunch is cancelled. Any special dietary requests should be directed to the Catering Manager, Mr Bulch, via email (b.bulch@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk) or telephone (0191 2128929).

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are an exciting time for children and staff are happy to help celebrate by distributing birthday cakes; however, we would be grateful if cakes were already cut into the required number of pieces (individual cupcakes are also ideal) and sent with napkins. Please note that we do have children with nut allergies, so it is important **not** to include any nuts within the cakes.

SCHOOL VISITS

We have regular trips to places of interest which help develop and enrich our curriculum and they are an important part of school life. These range from part day or full day visits, returning in school time, to fully residential occasions. Parents will be informed of these and are sometimes given the opportunity to come along and help to staff them. The school usually meets the cost of transport and entry costs for day visits, although for a few visits a charge is necessary.

Outdoor Activities Programme

The school has a well-developed outdoors activity programme with trips or activities in every year in order to develop the pupils' independence, resilience in the face of challenges and love of the countryside.

In Year 3, children have an overnight trip to the Cheviots with lots of exciting activities planned.

In Year 4, the children visit the Lake District for a two night stay. During this time, they go canoeing, walking, griffin hunting and complete outdoor problem solving activities.

In Year 5, the children visit Robinwood for a two night stay, with a range of activities to stimulate both the mind and the body.

In Year 6, the children take part in a two night residential trip to the Cheviots where they will be immersed in the countryside of the North East, learning new skills. Weather permitting, they camp and are involved in valuable reliance skills like preparing meals etc. Quite a challenge!

At the end of Year 6, to round off their time in the Junior School, the children have the opportunity to join a five day trip, during the holidays, to the Lake District. This incorporates a night's camping, a day walk, climbing and abseiling, sailing and much more in the tranquil surroundings of Glenridding. The cost of this trip, it being voluntary and in the holidays, is met by parents (see following list).

This list is typical of visits during the year, but there will be variations.

Autumn Term

<u>Year 3</u>	War Memorial Walk Great North Museum Christmas Theatre (*)	<u>Year 4</u>	York residential visit Christmas Theatre (*)
<u>Year 5</u>	Robinwood residential visit Christmas Theatre (*)	<u>Year 6</u>	Ingram Valley Christmas Theatre (*) Kirknewton Residential

Spring Term

<u>Year 3</u>	Great North Museum Laing Art Gallery	<u>Year 4</u>	Hindu Temple Great North Museum Patterdale Hall residential Skiing, France (approx £950)
<u>Year 5</u>	Walking tour of Newcastle Skiing, France (see above)	<u>Year 6</u>	Skiing, France (see above)

Summer Term

<u>Year 3</u>	Jesmond Walk Arbeia Ouseburn Farm Kirknewton Residential	<u>Year 4</u>	Great North Museum
<u>Year 5</u>	Beamish	<u>Year 6</u>	Beamish & Victoria Tunnels London Trip (*) Activity holiday (*)

* Lake District, Patterdale Hall, in holiday time for those choosing to attend - approx £400

Visitors to School

As well as enriching the curriculum through educational visits, we also invite people into school to help develop skills and interests. In recent years, the children have met: *Steve Judge (paralympic athlete)*, *The Salvation Army*, *Rob Lloyd Jones (author)*, *Piers Torday (author)*, *Robin Stevens (author)*, *Emma Carrol (author)*, *Chris Cook (Olympic swimmer)*, *Technology Tom*, *LEGO Wedo*, *Ian Roberts (director of music at St. Nicholas Cathedral)*, *Anna Turnbull (silk painter)*, *Barclays Bank (money skills team)*, *NSPCC*.

THE HOUSE SYSTEM AND MERITS

In order for children to feel like part of one big family, as well as part of a class and year group, everyone joins one of the school houses that compete for trophies in activities throughout the year. These include events such as house assemblies, a general knowledge quiz and sporting events. The main aim is to help each individual child feel part of a large, supportive group that spans the age range within the school.

You will have already been asked to alert us to any preference for a particular house and your son/daughter has now been put into one of the four houses listed below:

<u>House</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Teachers in Charge</u>
Horsley	Blue	Dr Spencer, Mrs McCulloch, Miss Close, Mrs Towers, Mrs Gilmore
Eldon	Green	Miss Whitney, Miss Noble, Mrs Cree, Miss Wood, Mrs Sisterson
Stowell	Red	Mrs Stairmand, Mrs Milligan, Mr Lloyd, Mrs Johnston
Collingwood	Yellow	Mrs Wall, Mrs Baker, Mrs Hogg, Mrs Dean

Non-affiliated – Mr Miller, Mrs Clappison, Mr Wollerton and Mr Cragg.

Pupils stay in their allocated house until they leave senior school.

The main on-going academic house competition is the merit system. Children are awarded a merit which is stamped into dedicated pages in their planner, for an outstanding demonstration of an RGS superpower : able, strong, calm or kind.

Headmaster's merits are awarded for a variety of reasons, ranging from private research following a question posed in assembly or the Bulletin, to good behaviour or acts of care which are especially worthy of reward. They are awarded at the Headmaster's discretion and they recognise an individual's contribution to school life.

Every half-term the children who have collected the largest number of merits in each year group are awarded a book token.

At the end of the academic year, the House Merit Trophy is awarded in the Prize Giving ceremony to the house with the largest number of merits. At the same ceremony, a variety of prizes are awarded which celebrate many aspects of the school life, including effort, achievement and improvement in certain areas of school life. As this is the final event, we celebrate the year, the children and their many achievements and successes at the RGS, wrapped up in our superpowers : **able, strong, calm and kind**.

Encouraging classes to work as a team and to promote a sense of calm around school, we have a token system in school. Class tokens enable each class to receive rewards to celebrate excellent behaviour. Tokens are awarded for classes who move quietly and calmly through communal areas of the school, for lining up smartly and quietly at the end of play, for politeness and table manners in the dining hall and for tidy classrooms.

On a bi-weekly basis (alternating between year 3 and 4 in Lambton House, and year 5 and 6 in Brandling House), the winning class are rewarded with a class breakfast on Friday morning.

In addition to this, all tokens awarded throughout the year are accumulated, the winning class from Lambton House and the winning class from Brandling House rewarded with an end of year cinema trip.

PREFECTS

In Year 6, all children are invited to be prefects. As the oldest children in the school, they are already expected to set a good example and this allows them to take a leading role in acts of service to the school community. The duties performed are designed to give the Year 6 children additional responsibility around school.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Every year, two children from each class are nominated by their classmates to represent them at student council meetings. Meetings are held regularly throughout the year and two Year 6 students are chosen by their peers to be the chair and secretary. Whilst staff are on hand to help with the meetings, they are largely led by the students. This is a time when children can put forward their questions and suggestions about school, and then follow-up these ideas. In recent years, Student Council have been responsible for helping to choose new equipment for the playground, suggesting stalls for the summer fair and were involved in a recent review of school lunches. They have even been asked to interview, and then comment, on prospective teachers!

TRANSFER TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL

It is only rarely that we find we cannot recommend pupils for a place at the Senior School. Consequently, in the spring of the year in which your child is in Year 6, you should receive a letter from the Senior School Headmaster confirming your child's place in the Senior School.

Entry into Senior School isn't automatic but is expected on a consequence of progress and effort during time in the Junior School and respect for our values.

LOST PROPERTY

Some children in the Junior School do tend to lose things! Our system for returning items is fairly good: there are lost property containers in the Junior School. Items left in the Senior School take a little longer to return, but usually do eventually turn up if named.

Named items are easier to return to you!

If you are anxious about something that has been lost on the Senior School site, please let us know so we can seek it for you.

JUNIOR SCHOOL FAMILY EVENTS













In May a good number of students and their families run at the Children's Cancer Run in Gosforth Park. This is one of our favourite events and we hope you will sign up for that event in particular. We have held discos for the children, 'Friday Cafes', and, at the end of the year, a Summer Fayre at the RGS Day. Sometimes the events are organized by small groups of parents and we have also had, over the years, formally created associations of parents to plan and introduce a broader range of activities. Mr Miller will be very pleased to discuss events that individuals or groups might wish to organize.












Threadaware – Threadware is a scheme available to new or existing RGS parents who are able to quickly and easily access good quality second hand uniforms and sports kit at substantially discounted prices. The money raised from the sales goes towards the Bursary Fund. If you have any questions, please contact me via: Mrs E Evans (e.evans@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk) or Miss Gravely (a.gravely@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk).

Uniform can be purchased during the school term between the hours of 9.30am and 3.00pm. If you require to view or purchase uniform during the school holidays, appointments must be made with either Miss Noble (a.noble@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk) or Mrs Evans (e.evans@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk).

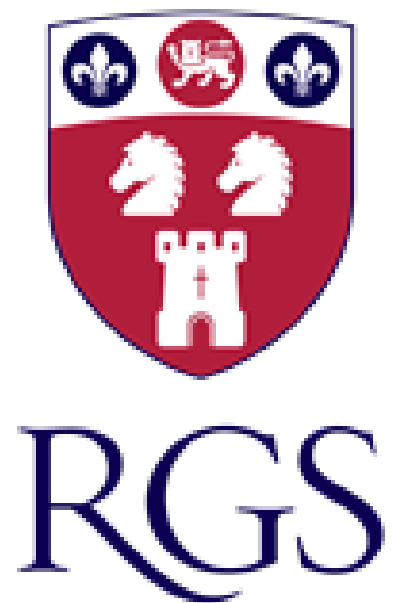
STAFF PHOTOS

It is always useful to be able to put a name to a face so we've put together a staff 'photo shoot' pages to help you recognise members of staff and so you know who's who around school. We hope they don't scare you too much! They are arranged alphabetically by surname.

		
Mrs Claire Baker Class Teacher 5B Subject Leader: History, Geography & Swimming Charitable Events Coordinator	Mrs Susan Charlton Playground Supervisor	Mrs Katherine Clappison Assistant Head (Academic) Junior School Head of Music
		
Miss Helen Close Class Teacher 5C	Mrs Caroline Colley Late Room Supervisor	Mr Adam Cragg Head of Boys' Games
		
Mrs Catherine Cree Class Teacher	Mrs Shirleyann Davison Playground Supervisor	Mrs Heather Dean Class Teacher 3D
		
Mrs Tracey Etherington Swimming Coach	Mrs Emma Evans Junior School Receptionist	Mrs Alaina Gilmore Teaching Assistant

		
Miss Alison Gravely Assistant Junior School Secretary	Mr Steve Hails After School Supervisor	Miss Katie Hobson Teaching Assistant
		
Mrs Linsey Hogg Class Teacher 4MH	Mrs Lesley Johnston Lead Teaching Assistant	Ms Alice Lee: Director of Student Development & Learning Support
		
Mr Thomas Lloyd Class Teacher 6L Subject Leader: Maths	Mr Roddy Mackay PE, Swimming & Gymnastics	Mrs Samantha McCulloch Class Teacher 4MH Subject Leader: Art & Design Technology
		
Mrs Rachel Milligan Class Teacher 5M Subject Leader: PSHE, RE & Drama	Mr James Miller Junior School Headteacher	Miss Amanda Noble Junior School Secretary

		
Miss Michaela Noble Class Teacher 6N	Mrs Cate O'Hanlon French & Spanish Teacher	Mrs Helen Sisterson Teaching Assistant
		
Miss Tracy Smith Playground Supervisor	Mrs Shirley Spearman Playground Supervisor	Dr Tony Spencer Deputy Head Subject Leader: Science
		
Mrs Louise Stairmand Class Teacher 3S	Mrs Rachel Towers Class Teacher 3T Subject Leader: Computing	Mrs Karen Wall Assistant Head (Pastoral) Class Teacher 6W Subject Leader: English, French Library Co-ordinator Deputy Designated Safeguarding Officer
		
Miss Alison Whitney Class Teacher 4AW Subject Leader: Outdoor Education	Mr Ben Wollerton Games Teacher	Miss Lucie Wood Class Teacher 4LW



2021 - 2022