



Cragside Church of England Primary School

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“Let Your Light Shine”

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Newsletter 11: Friday 17th February 2023

Dear Cragside Family,

I hope that you are all well and are looking forward to the Spring half term holiday. The brighter mornings are certainly giving a sense of Spring being in the air and it's lovely to see the snowdrops and daffodils pushing through the soil to welcome the beginning of this new season. I've attached to this newsletter a flier which we have received from Cramlington Town Council which gives information about a skateboarding activity being held at Alexandra Park during the half term break.

Tuesday 28th February - update of planned date for Industrial Action

I am sure you continue to be aware that, despite discussions between the Government and teaching unions there has been no change to the regional and national plans for the proposed industrial action due to take place on Tuesday 28th February. Thankfully, our staff who are eligible to strike have shared with me their planned intentions for this date, which is something they are not obliged to do. This means I am able to share with you and give you as much notice as possible as to what this means for us at Cragside. Currently, with the information that I have, school will be partially open on Tuesday 28th February for the following classes:

- Mrs Pemberton's class (RLP)
- Mrs Cant's class (2RC)
- Mrs Harper's class (3RH)
- Mrs Urwin-Clark's class (4UC)
- Miss Rennison's class (6ER)

Children who have an allocated social worker or an EHCP are also able to come into school, as part of our risk assessment for the day. Our breakfast club and after school club provision will also be available for those children whose classes will run as normal. If anything does change between now and then, I will let you know as soon as possible. If the industrial action is called off, even at the last minute, then we will be fully open for all children. However, based on the national tone currently, I feel this may be being overly optimistic. Again, this has been a difficult decision for all involved to make and we are all desperate for a resolution to be found at a national level.

It is important again to highlight that this planned industrial action is in relation to the National Education Union's dispute with the Government, and not related to any specific issue in our school. Whilst other schools may have different plans in place on these proposed dates, our plans are as a result of the number of staff who are members of professional associations which has fed into our individual risk assessment for this date.

February Half Term Reading Challenge

This half term holiday your child will bring home the reading challenge. The aim is to colour in a heart for every 15 minutes of reading you do over the holidays. Please return this to your class teacher when school returns after the holiday.

World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March is World Book Day. As always, we love to celebrate our love of books in Cragside on World Book Day. This year we would love to have a vocabulary parade. For this, we are asking that if you are able that children come to school dressed up as a word. We will then have a parade in the school hall. For example, you could wear a sequin top and come to school as the word sparkly. Please see the pictures below for some ideas. As always, if children would prefer to dress up as a book character they will always be welcomed.



Reading Challenge

We have now updated our reading challenge to give your child the opportunity to receive a range of different rewards. This will begin after the half term holiday. Every time your child reads at home and you sign their reading journal then they will receive a tally towards a reward. New rewards will be:

- 25 tallies: Bookmark
- 50 tallies: Pencil
- 75 tallies: Keyring
- 100 tallies: Reading Scrapbook
- 125 tallies: Book

I'm looking forward to seeing all of the wonderful home reading the children from Cragside are doing.

Get Caught Reading

Thank you everyone who has sent in photographs for our Get Caught Reading display in school. I love seeing how much reading is happening outside of school time. Please continue to send your pictures to emma.rennison@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk

Friends of Cragside logo competition – A message from the PTA

Our Friends of Cragside PTA group are holding an important competition for all of our children and asking our children to design a logo for the organisation. The logo will be used by the charity to publicise all of the exciting events which they hope to organise. All of the children will bring home a competition form this afternoon and all entries must be handed to class teachers by the end of the day of Wednesday 1st March 2023. Every entry will get a sticker for participation. There will be a prize for the winner and a runner's up prize for each year group. The PTA will reserve the right to edit the winning logo as needed and use in all of our communications.

Cragside football team – A message from Miss Burns

The Year 5/6 football team were outstanding in their match against Whytrig Middle School, beating them 3-2. They showed excellent teamwork and determination after being 0-1 down at half time to fight back in the second half and come away with the win. I am so proud of the team for their hard work and for supporting each other on and off the pitch. It was an amazing way to start the 2023 matches and long may the victories continue! Go Cragside!

Have a lovely Spring half term.
Joanne Parker