

Newsletter 3 – Friday 6th October 2023

Dear Cragside Family,

Another busy two weeks in school have come and gone and during that time our children have benefited from a range of various learning opportunities, including our Year 6 children being First Aid trained, our Year 2 children visiting Newcastle Central Mosque and families of Nursery and Reception children joining us in school for a Stay and Play session. This morning, Mrs Cant was delighted to share, following the visit, that she received an email from Brother Khadim, at the Mosque stating 'The children were a real pleasure to talk to and a credit to the school.' Well done, boys and girls, you have represented our school exceptionally well and I'd also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the adults who accompanied the children on their visit.

School Attendance Matters! – A message from Mrs Bilton

I'm delighted to share that our school attendance is still above the National Average for Primary schools across the country. Cragside attendance is currently 95.6%; the national figure is 95%. Well done again to our Cragside children and families! But, as always, we're ambitious for our children, and would very much like to push this figure even higher. With this in mind, please know that the current guidance is to send your child to school with a cold or minor respiratory illness. This is the guidance we have been given by the DfE. We can monitor your child and make adjustments, such as stay indoors for playtime and PE, just let your child's teacher know. If your child does need to be absent from school, we have made the reporting of the reason for this considerably easier as we now have a designated absence reporting line. Please do make this call before 9am and let us know why your child is absent every day please. If possible, please be as specific as possible, as this feeds into our recording system, which is a legal requirement for us as a school and may be inspected at any time. Many thanks for your support with this. If you have any questions about attendance, or would like to know the attendance figure for your child, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Gillooly or myself.

Newcastle Central Mosque visit – A message from Mrs Cant

On Thursday the Year 2 children visited Newcastle Central Mosque as part of their RE topic on Islam. The children and staff received an incredibly warm welcome. We enjoyed learning about what it is like to be a Muslim, we learned a lot about the five pillars of Islam and the meaning behind different parts of the mosque. We found out about the Qur'an, Muhammad and why Jesus is important to Muslims. The children particularly enjoyed learning to write their name in Arabic. All the children were incredibly well behaved & a credit to our school.





MacMillan Cake Sale

Thank you all so much for your generosity and thoughtfulness in supporting our cake sale last Friday. I am delighted to share with you that our school raised £786.68 for this hard working charity.

Nut Free School

Can we please remind you we are a nut free school. Children who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties). Please can we ask that you have no nut products in the lunch boxes or brought into the school as treats.

Year 6 First Aid training – A message from Mr Beck

Last week, our Year 6 children received some very useful and important training on how to administer First Aid in a range of situations. The children were first taught about deep cuts and how to wrap wounds effectively to keep them clean and help stop them from bleeding. The children were also taught how to assess if a casualty is breathing and perform CPR effectively to the tune of the Bee Gee's Stayin' Alive. The children learned how to support a person in need and how to effectively place them in the recovery position while they wait for the emergency services to arrive. Most importantly, the children learned how to react in an emergency situation to support the person in need but also to keep themselves safe in various situations. Of course, no session would be quite as exciting without the opportunity to see and touch a real life heart and on this occasion our Year 6 children had the opportunity to see, feel and cut open the different chambers of a lamb's heart! Thank you to Caroline from Tumbles and Grumbles for leading the session, it was really great fun and incredibly useful.



Nursery and Reception stay and play – A message from Mrs Clarke

Thank you to parents and carers who were able to come into school this week and play with our Early Years children. It was lovely to see the children showing parents around their special places in school. It was a joy to see parents reading and playing with children. As we talked about in the Reception meeting these interactions are so powerful to help develop children's language and learning skills. If you want to watch the video regarding "play chat read" you can find it on YouTube. Also for lots of simple play tips at home the imagination tree and my first five years are really good websites or Instagram pages to follow.



Climate Warriors – A message from Miss Dunn

We are delighted to be partaking as a school in the Young Climate Warriors challenge. Within Year 5 and 6 we have some climate ambassadors who will be working across the school to take a stand against climate change. Our ambassadors will be completing weekly challenges, this week we are thinking about apples. We would love for all to get involved, when you next go food shopping think about choosing fruits and vegetables that are local instead of being imported. If you pick any local fruit up over the weekend we would love to see! Please send any pictures to Miss Dunn at alice.dunn@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk.

Worldwide there are 7,000 varieties of apple, however most UK supermarkets sell only 10-12 varieties. Astoundingly the UK actually imports 55% of its apples!! Check out these ['British' apples](#).

The UK 'start of the harvest' is now almost a whole month earlier than it was 60 years ago.

All trees, including apple trees, are great at storing carbon. Support local tree planting projects? Or maybe join [Just One Tree](#) - for their non-uniform/green clothing day - Friday 13th October - let your voice be heard!



Oaken pip, core blimey, pearmain, orange pippin...

Can you guess what this week's challenge is about? ... choosing local fruits - apples or pears - instead of imported fruits.

6th October challenge!

How many different varieties of British-grown apples can you try? Be brave try something different?

Eating local, seasonal produce reduces carbon emissions related to growing out of season - such as heated greenhouses, cold storage units, or transportation.

When you've completed this challenge ... Remember to hit the red button!



**Apples or pears ...
Eat local, seasonal fruit this week.**



www.youngclimatewarriors.org



An update from Friends of Cragside PTA Group

Our Friends of Cragside group have recently met to plan lots of exciting events for the Autumn term. Further details about this will be shared by the group

October 2023

11th of October - Parents Evening – Teas and Coffees will be available

12th of October – Parents Evening - Teas and Coffees will be available

23rd of October – Start collecting Christmas jumpers and Fancy Dress (Deadline 6th November to sell on the 24th of November) – further information to follow

26th of October – Committee Meeting – 7:30pm Beefeater , Cramlington

November 2023

8th – 10th of November – Collect donations for the Christmas fayre – further information to follow

24th of November – 9.15am Committee Meeting - School meeting room (This may be re-scheduled nearer the time).

24th of November – Pop up sale straight after school - Christmas jumpers and Fancy Dress.

Also, sweet treat Friday in the School Hall.

30th November – Wreath making workshop – External venue (TBC)

December 2023

4th December - Y3 & Y4 Nativity – 2pm – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

5th December - Y3 & Y4 Nativity – 9:15am – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

7th December - Y1 & Y2 Nativity – 2pm – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

8th December - Y1 & Y2 Nativity – 9:15am – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

Saturday 9th December – Christmas Fayre - 12-4pm

12th December - EYFS Nativity – 9:15am – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

13th December - EYFS Nativity – 2pm – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

14th December - Y5 & Y6 Nativity – 2pm – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

15th December - Y5 & Y6 Nativity – 9:15am – Raffle and/or Teas and Coffees

Over the weekend 2nd Cramlington Scout Group are holding a Coffee morning on Saturday 7th October, between 10.00am and 12.00pm in aid of Alzheimer's. The coffee morning will be held at the Scout HQ, Ann Welfare, NE23 6RH.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Joanne Parker

