

Newsletter 5 – Friday 10th November, 2023

Dear Cragside family,



What a lovely, bright, sunny end to our first week back after half term! During this week, we have spent a lot of time talking to our children about their learning behaviours and have introduced a lighthouse system to show the children how well they are doing in relation to the expected learning behaviours that we expect to see in school. I have loved hearing from so many children that they achieved 'Guiding Light' status – the highest possible recognition of the learning behaviours we want to see. The learning behaviours that we have shared with the children link to three key words – ready, safe, respectful.

Thank you to all of you who were able to join us at our Harvest Celebration at St Nicholas' Church and to those of you who very kindly donated to our Harvest collections for the Hope Centre. The sound of the children singing in Church was beautifully joyful.

We are thrilled to announce that our Friends of Cragside PTA group recently applied to the Community Chest Scheme and submitted a bid for a grant to improve our library area in school. The application was considered by the Cramlington Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee grant panel who decided to award the group £5,000.00 towards helping us with a new innovative library design. We can't wait to get started in creating these changes and are very grateful to the individuals who spent their time writing and submitting this bid. We will keep you updated as to how this progresses!

On Wednesday 15th November flu vaccinations are due to take place in school for children in Reception through to Year 6. Please complete the online form for your child (if you have not already done so) - this should still be completed even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccine.


Next Friday 17th November, on Children in Need day, children are to come to school dressed in full uniform but they are welcome to wear Children in Need themed accessories. We kindly welcome donations through our JustGiving Page:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/cragside-c-of-e-primary-school-1699607522980?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fcragside-c-of-e-primary-school-1699607522980&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

School attendance – A message from Mrs Bilton

I am pleased to share with you that our current whole school attendance figure is 95%. That's above the national average for this week of 92.8%. Well done Cragside children!

To sustain this above national average attendance, I'd like to share this Department of Education advice with you to support you as you decide if your child is too ill to be in school.

The Department for Education has shared the following guidance of which circumstances are usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. Where parents/carers are unsure if their child is too unwell for school, we ask that they follow this link for further guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> 

Thank you very much for all of your hard work to support our amazing Cragside attendance. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries regarding this advice.

Primary School Admissions

The portal to apply for Reception places for September 2024 is now open and I have very much enjoyed welcoming families into school and showing them around our school as part of our open mornings and afternoons. Please note, that parents of children who attend our Nursery provision also need to apply for a Reception place in our school. The portal can be accessed via the following link: <https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal LIVE/en>

Times Tables Rockstars

Our November Times Tables Rockstars competition has just taken place. As you can see, from the photograph below, we have introduced some new and exciting prizes for our winners. Well done to everyone who took part, times tables are such an important part of Maths and what better way to learn them than to use Times Tables Rock Stars and join our monthly competitions. Our December competition will take place in the first week of December and we will have more Rockstar prizes available for our winners.

From December, our children in Year 1 and 2 will join us to make sure they can join the fun! Please keep an eye out for an email letting you know when the next competition is about to begin. Congratulations to all our individual winners and to 6JB - our winning class for November.



Anti-Bullying Week and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABAs) update-A message from Mrs Urwin-Clark

This year, we are holding Odd Socks Day in order to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a positive way. To take part, all students have to do is wear odd socks to school, it couldn't be simpler! Odd Socks Day will take place on the first day of Anti Bullying Week, Monday 13th November to help raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week. The rest of your child's school uniform should be worn as normal. As a school, we will be participating in a range of activities throughout the week, in line with our PSHE theme of Celebrating Difference, to promote the idea of respect and kindness.





Congratulations to our ABAs! They are now trained Consent and Boundaries Ambassadors and are currently working towards their Inclusion Badge. During their training, the children learned all about the meaning of personal boundaries and the importance of consent. They are currently planning a project to deliver to the whole school. Further information to follow.

Family Hubs and Calmer Therapies

Please find attached to this newsletter two fliers detailing further information about support for families and children who may need some additional support.

Year 6 Newcastle Eagles visit-A message from Mr Beck

Yesterday, our Year 6 children went to visit the Newcastle Eagles at the Vertu Motor Arena in Newcastle. The children took part in a range of activities based around Science and Maths. They studied videos of the women's team in action whilst two of their star players helped the children to find the percentages of shots made and the ratios of turnovers for and against their team. The next stage was to look at the science of sport and the different aspects of science that are present in everyday sports without us really ever noticing them at work. The children were able to identify various aspects of physics such as gravity and forces (push and pull) and the impact they have on a wide range of different sports. Next, the children had the opportunity to go down onto the court and have a go for themselves, taking shots from different angles and then marking their own success percentages. Finally, the children were shown the evolution of the game of basketball and the making of a modern basketball and basketball shoe. The children came away with some very exciting homework - designing their very own basketball shoe for a Newcastle Eagles competition to win 4 tickets to any game they like! Thank you to the Eagles for providing us with such a fun day and great way of learning about the role of Science and Maths in sport.

Parking around school

May I request, on behalf of our children and local residents that all parents and carers are responsible when parking their cars whilst dropping off and picking up their children. As you will be aware from the signage surrounding our school, there are parking restrictions along Westloch Road and Gainsborough Place. These parking restrictions are in place to ensure children, pedestrians and residents stay safe, especially around school drop off and collection times. Please can I ask that all parents and carers adhere to these restrictions and park with consideration and respect to our local residents. We have plenty of room in our bicycle and scooter sheds if you want to try a different way of getting to school.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Joanne Parker

