

Newsletter 9 – Friday 26th January, 2024

Dear Cragside Family,

I hope this letter finds you all well. It is wonderful to see so many of our children overcoming the stormy weather conditions this week and coming into school with their smiling faces which certainly warm up these cold, blustery mornings!

We have started the term thinking about how we can help ourselves, and others, flourish. During our collective worships, the children have been thinking about and suggesting ways in which they could use their voices to help everyone to flourish – looking at areas such as racism and bullying to understand how, as an individual, they can make a difference. Many of our children have been taking a role in leading these collective worships and have done so with true compassion for others.

I'm always delighted, every Friday, to give out so many Shining Star awards to children whose light has been shining in many different areas of school life. School is always a busy place – this week we have welcomed guests from Newcastle University who came into school to talk about fossils with some of our Key Stage 2 children. We've also had skipping teachers coming to coach Year 5 children and have been continuing our focus on developing Opal Play opportunities.

Year 2 Parent 'drop in' – a message from Mrs Cant and Mrs Cowie

This week our Year 2 children really enjoyed our first parent drop in session. We loved having an opportunity to share a maths lesson with parents and families. The children learned about using arrays to solve multiplication problems and loved showing their adults how brilliant they are at maths. We were delighted to see so many families working together and are really looking forward to our upcoming sessions with the rest of the school.

We hope our Year 2 families enjoyed the session as much as the children did! Our next parent 'drop in' will be for Year 1 parents and carers on **Thursday 1st February at 9.00am**.

Operation Encompass

The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in a domestic abuse incident. Following an incident at home, children may arrive at school distressed, upset and perhaps unprepared for the day. Northumberland County Council, the police and nominated key adults in school will be working together to make sure that school staff are made aware of an incident early enough to support pupils in school. A letter with further information relating to this is attached to the school newsletter.

School Attendance – 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's attendance is currently 94.6%; the national figure is 93.2%. 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 will of course, monitor your child and make adjustments, such as allowing them to stay indoors for playtime and PE, just let your child's teacher know. We are also very keen to support every child to be in school promptly. Our school doors open at 8.30am, and close at 8.45am. It's so important for us to maximize all of the wonderful opportunities being in school brings by being here as close to 8.30 as possible. Unfortunately, any 'lates'

marked in the register will also affect your child's overall attendance figure.

Mrs Gillooly and I closely monitor attendance and punctuality, so please do mention anything to us that you are struggling with.

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 and let us know why your child is absent every day, even if you have also mentioned this to your child's class teacher. If possible, please be as specific as possible, as this feeds in to 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.

Some dates for your diary

I've included the dates shared during our previous newsletter, as a reminder of some of the events which we have coming up in school.

Thursday 1 st February	9.00-10.00am Year 1 parent 'drop-in' in the Hall
Monday 5 th February	Children's Mental Health Week begins – theme is 'Your Voice Matters'
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day – theme 'Together for a better internet'
Thursday 8 th February	9.00-10.00am Year 3 parent 'drop-in' in the Hall
Saturday 10 th February	Lunar New Year
Thursday 15 th February	9.00-10.00am Year 5 parent 'drop-in' in the Hall
Friday 16 th February	3.15pm – School closes for Spring half term holiday
Monday 26 th February	Children return to school following half term holiday
Wednesday 28 th February	3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings (Rec-Year 6)
Thursday 29 th February	3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings (Rec-Year 6)
Thursday 7 th March	9.00-10.00am Year 6 parent 'drop-in' in the Hall World Book Day Year 4 Science workshops about Teeth (with Newcastle University)
Thursday 14 th March	9.00-10.00am Year 4 parent 'drop-in' in the Hall
Wednesday 27 th March	Judging Day – Decorate an Easter egg competition
Thursday 28 th March	Easter Church Services at St Nicholas' Church 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11.00am Year 1 & Year 2 2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 3.15pm End of Spring term
Monday 15 th April	Children return to school for Summer term
Monday 13 th May to Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATs
Monday 10 th June to Friday 14 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Many thanks for your ongoing support.
Joanne Parker



Let Your Light Shine

St Matthew's Gospel