

Newsletter 10 – Friday 9th February, 2024

Dear Cragside Family,

The past two weeks have, once again been very busy weeks in school. This morning's Shining Stars assembly was, as always, a real joy to be part of and to celebrate all of the wonderful ways children in school have been shining brightly. I hope the children who received an award enjoy sharing their Shining Stars certificate with you.

It's been a real pleasure to feel the purposeful 'buzz' around learning which has been tangible during our family 'drop in' sessions, which some of you may have had the opportunity to attend. The children in Years 1,2 and 3 have absolutely loved sharing their learning with their grown ups who have been able to attend these sessions and we know that you have also found the sessions to be informative. Thank you to those of you who have completed the feedback form about these sessions. We very much recognise the importance of working in partnership with families to support children's learning and your feedback about this has been extremely positive. We look forward to welcoming families of children in Year 5 on Thursday morning.

News from Year 3

Year 3 have had an incredibly busy week and have packed in lots of learning opportunities. On Tuesday, we were very lucky to have a special visitor, Khadim, from Newcastle Central Mosque. Khadim spoke to us about Islam, shared his own experiences and helped answer our questions. He brought many special artefacts with him that the children loved exploring.

On Thursday, Year 3 had their first drop in session for an exciting expedition planning lesson! The Year 3 team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended, the children loved having you involved with their learning. We look forward to the next one!



Cragside is joining forces with Friends of Valley Park! – A message from Mrs Bilton

We are delighted to have been asked, by the Friends of Valley Park, to support them in their amazing work in our local woodland area. To kick start this work, Jill, who leads the volunteer group, is coming into school to deliver an assembly all about the work they are doing to develop the woods.



Following the assembly, Jill has asked us to be involved in planting 200 trees...we better get into training for that amazing job! She is also going to give each class some caterpillars, which we will release into the woods once they have grown into butterflies. This is to support the Friends of Valley Park as they look to introduce a wider species of native butterflies into the area.

This is such important work, and we're so excited to be involved. We really hope it will support the children's learning in lots of ways, and that it will also support our work to focus on the children's well-being. There is so much evidence to support a focus on outdoor learning and the positive impact of spending time in nature. Great that we are surrounded by so much of it!

Lunar New Year Celebrations – A message from Mrs Cowie

Chuc Mung Nam Moi! Happy Lunar New Year to everyone for this Saturday. The Year of the dragon 2024. All year groups have been taking part in activities to celebrate this week with craft and tastings. Key Stage 1, Reception and Nursery children were taught this week by Jemma and Mollie from Fizzy Dance Studios who came into school to teach a Lunar dragon dance class. A huge thank you to Fizzy Studios. The big Lunar parade in Newcastle starts this Sunday 11th February at Grey's Monument and winds its way to the Arch on Stowell Street. Enjoy!



Safer Internet Day – A message from Mrs Harper

On Tuesday 6th February we celebrated Safer Internet Day across the school. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. This year the theme was Inspiring change, making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online. Throughout the day we focused on young people's perspective on new technology and the changes young people want to see online, using the internet to make change for the better and the things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.

We enjoyed a visit from PCSOs Paul and Andrew from the police who led us through a really informative talk on using the internet safely and positively - a key message that we promote in our school and emphasise throughout the year. Children enjoyed taking part in a live assembly with Internet Legends and worked on a variety of tasks linked to SID throughout the day.

If you would like to continue the conversation at home there are free SID resources available to download at <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

Online safety is an important issue which the school is committed to teaching our children about. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Times Tables Rock Stars – A message from Mr Beck

This week, the children in Years 3-6 took part in the Times Tables Rockstars competition for February. We had over 50,000 questions answered by the children in Key Stage Two, which is absolutely brilliant! The children were in competition with their classmates individually but also working together against all the other classes. We would like to start by saying a massive CONGRATULATIONS to each of our individual winners (pictured) who received their Rockstar prizes in our celebration assembly today.

We'd also like to congratulate the top 3 classes for their awesome work. Well done 4EB who came in 3rd, 4UC who finished 2nd and 5RH who are our winning class for February.

Well done to everyone who took part for all your hard work. We're really proud of everyone for their efforts. Please keep an eye out for our March competition in just a few short weeks.



Many thanks for your ongoing support.
Joanne Parker