

## Newsletter 11 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024

Dear Cragside Family,

It has been so lovely to see so many of you in school over the past few weeks: this week, for our parent consultation meetings and also before the holidays when the parents of children who attend Mr Flynnwood's Chess Club came into school, as well as our Year 5 parents/carers who came into school to see their children learn as part of our family drop-in sessions. Mr Flynnwood shared that 'it was wonderful to see our chess champions teaching their adults and each other. There was a very calm atmosphere and the children really shone with the sportsmanship and the care that they showed to one another.' It's also really heartening to see the children (and their grown ups!) leave their parent consultation meetings looking so proud of their achievements and their hard work. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend these meetings with your child's class teacher.



### Hindu Temple Newcastle - A message from Mrs Urwin-Clark and Miss Burns

On Tuesday of this week, Year 4 enjoyed their visit to Hindu Temple, Newcastle. The visit complemented their work in class where they were able to extend their learning about Dharma (the duties a Hindu should follow in their life). They explored worship at a shrine, as means of visiting the gods and goddesses. The children learned about how people take off their shoes and wash their hands when they enter a temple. They learned about how the Hindu services are led by a Brahmin priest and that when they reach the shrine, Hindus ring a bell as a symbol of waking the deity. They listened to songs, and prayers called mantras. At the end of the visit, the children saw how food was offered to the deities, which is called prashad. During their visit, the children experienced 'the ceremony of light', where lamps are waved in front of the images of deities. This was truly a memorable experience for both the children and the adults. Thank you also to our parent helpers for volunteering their time to accompany this visit.



## Friends of Cragside - Enhancing our play provision

We would like to thank our Friends of Cragside for donating the materials that allowed us to build our wonderful new stage. We hope this new resource would provide children with inspiration, and a space, to explore performance and play in different ways, whilst enhancing speaking and listening skills. The children have enjoyed dancing and making their own plays on it already and we look forward to seeing more performances as the year continues! Cragside certainly does have talent!



## Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

We are taking part in the 15<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 11th-22nd March 2024. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved. Please encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

### Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing. Active school runs also help to reduce parking congestion, which is a particular problem for our local residents as well as to reduce air pollution outside of our school gates. In addition to this, there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part! To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school. [Download your free family guide](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/) using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/> For more information about the event go to [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk) . Enjoy the challenge!

## High Flying Readers

This morning we celebrated our high Flying Readers in our Celebration Collective Worship. Each teacher chose a child from their class who has really impressed them with their home reading. It was a tricky job as so many of you are doing such amazing work on your reading at home. It was such a pleasure to be able to send home our reading trophies with the children and see their faces beam with pride. Well done to all of our readers! A special thank you to Mr Irving, for creating these.

## Reading Challenge winners



## Let Your Light Shine

St Matthew's Gospel

## Reception and Year 1 Makaton and Movement sessions

This week, Reception and Year 1 have enjoyed a Makaton, music and movement session with Anna Melling of LoudArts. We learnt lots of signs including chocolate, pineapple and orange. Over the next 3 weeks, we are going to be learning a dance to 'I'm Still Standing' by Elton John using Makaton signs - we are very excited!



## 'Friends of Valley Park' visited Cragside today!

We were delighted to welcome Jill Brown, who leads the Friends of Valley Park volunteer group, to school today. Mr Brennan, our former caretaker, came to join Jill to talk about his voluntary role with the group. It was so lovely to welcome them both! Jill came to talk to the children about the amazing work they are doing to transform Valley Park into a beautiful area which all of our families can enjoy. She also set us a wonderful challenge to support the volunteers when they begin their new tree planting campaign this month. We're really excited to put our spades to work and get going with that!

To further support biodiversity in the park, each class is going to take delivery of a set of painted lady caterpillars to care for and watch develop into butterflies. Once they are grown into butterflies, we will take them to Valley Park to release into the beautiful woodlands. Jill shared all of this with the children today. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic they were about this work. We were also so proud of the children's beautiful behaviour and attitude. They really did shine as Jill talked to them.

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> 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)
11 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Big Walk and Wheel to school
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00-10.00am Year 4 parent 'drop-in' in the Hall
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Judging Day – Decorate an Easter egg competition – please can you make sure that all eggs are sent into school by Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Easter Church Services at St Nicholas' Church</b> 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11.00am Year 1 & Year 2 2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 <b>3.15pm End of Spring term</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school for Summer term 1





Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	3.30pm – School closes for Half term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Children return to school for Summer term 2
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Many thanks, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warmly,  
Joanne Parker

