



Newsletter 12 – Friday 15th March, 2024

Dear Cragside Family,

The past two weeks, have, as always, been very busy ones indeed! Today, Cramlington United coaches have been in school to deliver lessons to our girls and promote girls football, we have had a number of school visits taking place within our local area and all of our children have been thinking about how they travel to school, opting to walk or use their bicycles/scooters to travel to school, instead of using the car. We strongly encourage our children to use their voices to make a difference, and how they travel to school is one way that they can make a difference to their physical and mental health, our local community and our environment. Unfortunately, parking around our school continues to present problems for our local residents and put our children at risk from accidents occurring. Please be mindful of this if you have to travel to school by car and adhere to the parking restrictions around our school which are in place to keep our children safe. Our Y4 team were delighted to work with so many families yesterday, as part of the Year 4 family drop-in session. As we move towards the end of this short term, our children and staff are looking forward to sharing with you our Easter Celebration services on Thursday 28th March at St Nicholas' Church in Cramlington. There will be three different services, which will be held at the following times:

Years 5 & 6 - 9.30-10.00am

Years 1 & 2 - 11.00-11.30am

Years 3 & 4 - 2.00-2.30pm

We would love to see you there and hope as many parents, carers and families can attend as possible. Please can we ask that you are mindful of parking restrictions around the Church. This helps to ensure everyone stays safe, the traffic can flow freely and the coaches are able to transport the children safely to and from Church.

Staffing updates

As we look ahead towards the end of the end of the Spring term, I would like to share with you some staffing changes which will be occurring during the Summer term. At the end of this Spring term, Mrs Harper will be moving on to a leadership role in a school within a different local authority. During the Summer term, Mr Flynnwood will be the class teacher for 5RH.

Mrs Nesbit, one of our Learning Support Assistants, will be retiring at the end of the Spring term. Mrs Riches will continue to provide support to children in Year 4.

Yesterday was also Miss Crispin's last day in school and the children and staff joined in to wish Miss Crispin well in her new position at Headstart Primary. Miss Morgan will continue to support the children in our Reception classes.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of the staff and children in school to say a sincere thank you to Mrs Harper, Mrs Nesbit and Miss Crispin for their hard work, care and commitment that they have shown to the children at Cragside, for many years.

Easter Egg decorating competition

As we prepare for Easter, our annual Easter egg decorating competition will be held next week. We would like to invite all of our children to enter this competition. For those families who are new to our school, this is a time when children can decorate a hard-boiled egg (or a plastic egg) and let their creativity wander to create an eggcellent masterpiece! Please can you make sure that the children's creations are labelled with their name and class and that these are brought into school by Tuesday 26th March. There will be a small prize for each

child who enters and an Easter egg for the winning creation from each class. Judging will take place on Wednesday 27th March. Please also make sure that the child's name and class is clearly visible on their creations.



Year 4 tree planting in Valley Park

What a brilliant morning Year 4 had in Valley Park last Friday. We spent time planting trees and bulbs... working really hard to support the amazing endeavours of the Friends of Valley Park! We were supported in this work by a number of volunteers, who showed the children how to dig holes and plant the young trees very carefully. As well as planting trees, the children were also tasked with planting bluebell bulbs. They did a great job! Look out for them if you're in Valley Park.

As always, the children behaved absolutely beautifully during this work. Jill, the coordinator of Friends of Valley Park, sent a really lovely email to thank the children and staff for their work. She particularly noted how well behaved the children were. The children were so beautifully behaved, polite and interested. They were a credit to their school. The morning was a real pleasure.

What an exciting start to our collaboration with Friends of Valley Park!



Year 5's visit to Newcastle Castle – A message from Mrs Harper and Mrs Grey

On Thursday, Year 5 embarked on an unforgettable journey through time at Newcastle Castle. The historic landmark became the backdrop for a day filled with exploration, discovery and learning. One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity to ascend the castle's ancient towers, where panoramic views of the city awaited. In the castle's dungeons, we encountered tales of imprisonment and intrigue and learned about the harsh realities of life in medieval times. The children examined artefacts and listened intently to stories about crime and punishment in Tudor times.

Throughout the day, children actively engaged with their surroundings, participating in hands on activities designed to deepen their understanding of medieval life,

The children exhibited exemplary behaviour during our visit and portrayed our school in the best light possible, reflecting positively on our school's values and ethos throughout the visit. Well done Year 5!



Let Your Light Shine

St Matthew's Gospel



Friends of Cragside

We continue to be grateful to our Friends of Cragside volunteers and on behalf of the children and staff at school. We would like to give a huge thank you to the PTFA for their kind donations of outdoor equipment, including space hoppers, stepping stones and balance beams. These have been incredibly popular with our children and are such a welcome addition to our courtyard areas in school.

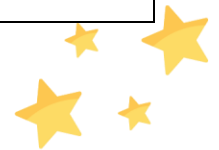


Dates for your diary

Wednesday 27 th March	Judging Day – Decorate an Easter egg competition – please can you make sure that all eggs are sent into school by Tuesday 26 th March
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 1
Monday 6 th May	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 13 th May to Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATs
Friday 24 th May	3.30pm – School closes for Half term
Monday 3 rd June	Children return to school for Summer term 2
Monday 3 rd June to Friday 14 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Monday 10 th June to Friday 14 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Many thanks, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warmly,
Joanne Parker





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