

## Newsletter 3 – Friday 27th September 2024

Dear Cragside Family,

We've certainly seen all kinds of weather during the past fortnight and were absolutely blessed with glorious sunshine for the days that many of our Year 6 children were in Robinwood. I had the absolute pleasure of joining the children on this residential visit and was full of pride about how well the children represented our school – they demonstrated determination, encouragement and pride in themselves and the achievements of others – they were amazing and a real credit to their families and our school. I was delighted when a number of staff, from the Night Ninjas and the catering team, commented on how the children had made their day by being polite and respectful during the visit. Well done everyone and many, many thanks to Miss Rennison, Mrs Reay, Mrs Willis, Mrs Wall and Miss Burns who give up their own family time to facilitate this visit.

Yesterday, we had the official opening of our school library, where a group of our enthusiastic readers welcomed Councillor Paul Ezhichelvan into school and shared with him their love of reading. We are grateful to the Friends of Cragside and local town council who have helped us with our library redevelopment.



### Walk to School Week – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Next week, the children will be participating in a five-day walk to school challenge. Across the week, children will be encouraged to make any active journey to school, not just walking. This may include scooting, cycling or parking a little further away from school then walking. At school, we will record these active journeys as a class and your child will receive a sticker each day they participate. We would love for as many children as possible to be involved with this

### Attendance Matter – A message from Mrs Bilton

At Cragside, we are very ambitious for every child's attendance and punctuality. Where possible, we very much want every child in school every day. To support our ambitious targets for the best attendance, Mrs Gillooly and I meet every week to monitor attendance and punctuality. This week, I'm delighted to share that our whole school attendance is above the National Average for Primary schools across the country. Cragside attendance is currently 97.5%; the most up to date national figure is 96.2% Well done to our Cragside children and families!

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 can monitor your child and make adjustments, such as stay indoors for playtime and PE, just let your child's teacher know.

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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 please. If possible, please be as specific as possible, as this feeds into 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 data for your child, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Gillooly or myself.

### **Year 6 Visit to Robinwood visit – A message from Miss Rennison**

Our Year 6 enjoyed a glorious three days in Robinwood, Alston last week. The sun was shining and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The children threw themselves into all of the activities including canoeing, raft building, archery and escape rooms. We saw children pushing themselves to face their fears whilst they were rock climbing, jumping off the top of the trapeze, whooshing through the treetops in the zip wire and swinging on the giant swing.

The Robinwood staff remarked on how well mannered and respectful our children were during our stay which made us incredibly proud. Well done Year 6, for embracing such a wonderful opportunity!

### **World Mental Health Day - Friday 10th October - A message from Mrs Urwin-Clark**

Our children are welcome to wear a splash of yellow this World Mental Health Day, on 10th October, to support young people's mental health. They may accessorise with yellow socks/ a yellow headband to show their support. Lots of us struggle with our mental health sometimes and when this happens it's tough. Right now, less than 1 in 3 young people with a mental health condition are getting access to NHS care and treatment. This isn't good enough and things need to change. By taking part by wearing yellow this World Mental Health Day we can collectively raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health. Every donation will help **Young Minds** to create vital mental health resources, campaign for local support hubs and run our essential Parents Helpline. Donations are kindly welcome through our fundraising page: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/cragside-c-of-e-primary-school-1727426884593?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fcragside-c-of-e-primary-school-1727426884593&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/cragside-c-of-e-primary-school-1727426884593?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fcragside-c-of-e-primary-school-1727426884593&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)

### **Introducing 'Be You' – A message from Mrs Urwin-Clarke**

The Department for Education and NHS England have made funding available to develop a new programme to help improve children and young people's mental health by creating new Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) within schools. To enable 'Be You' to adapt their offer to fit the need within our area, they want to hear from the people who live and work in the local area.

We would be grateful if you could please complete the following questionnaires, which are anonymous, so that a deeper insight can be provided and to make sure that children and young people have access to the right support at the right time. You can follow the links below to complete yours and your child's views. A message will also be sent through School Buddy with these links.

For parents/carers: <https://forms.office.com/e/GfSgynq8vB>

For children: <https://forms.office.com/e/gisxuwX397>

### **Dates for your diary**

Please see below for a list of dates of a range of events which will be occurring

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during the Autumn term. Additional dates have been added in blue font.

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Northumberland County Council Online Admissions portal opens for Year 6 parents to complete Secondary school applications
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Walk to School Week – children travel to school by foot, scooter, bicycle etc
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	2.00-3.00pm – Reception Stay and Play
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery Stay and Play sessions – further information to follow
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	World Mental Health Day – wear a yellow accessory e.g. hairband, socks
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual and family photos with Phototronics
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings in school
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	9.00-11.00am SEN Coffee Morning 3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings in school
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>Harvest Festival Church Services at St Nicholas' Church</b> 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11am Year 1 & Year 2 2pm Year 3 & Year 4
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Friends of Cragside Non-Uniform day – further details to follow Autumn Disco organised by Friends of Cragside – further details to follow
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children and half term begins
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Online Admissions portal for secondary school applications closes
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Northumberland County Council Online Admissions portal opens for September 2025 Reception intake – please note that parents/carers of children in Nursery need to complete this for a place in our Reception class
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Children return to school following Autumn half term
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Flu Immunisations
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fayre – 12.00-3.00pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas performance
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas performance
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Am - Nursery Christmas Party Pm – Reception Christmas Parker
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Church Services at St Nicholas' Church</b> 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11am Year 1 & Year 2 2pm Year 3 & Year 4  1.30pm Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Autumn term – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children





Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Start of Spring term – children return to school

Wishing you all a good weekend,  
Joanne Parker



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