

Newsletter 3 – Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Cragside Family,

It is lovely to see the sun shining brightly today, after the heavy rain which we have seen this week. In spite of the cold and rain, the children in school have been shining brightly. I was delighted to join Mr Roper's Class recently, where I was invited to listen to a song which the children have written, produced and performed all about our school - it brought a tear to my eye! I was also very proud to hear, from Mr Freedman and a number of parents this morning, that our boys football team were an absolute credit to our school whilst they were playing in a tournament yesterday. The boys played six matches in total and despite losing the first two matches, the children went on to win the next four games, without conceding another goal. Well done to all involved! In addition to this, our girls football team also showed wonderful perseverance and determination during their game after school yesterday.

Over the next few weeks, we are opening our school up to invite families who have children joining Reception, in September 2025, to see our school in action. Please find attached flier with further details and information about these dates.

I have also attached a letter to this newsletter, detailing our work as an Operation Encompass school.

Our Friends of Cragside group have also asked me to remind you that the last date to be able to purchase tickets for the Autumn disco is on Wednesday 16th October.

A lot of our children were excited to see the Northern Lights display yesterday and have been talking about how special this was for them today. Mr Trobe, our caretaker, took some amazing photographs of this display across our school field.



SEND Coffee and Cake Drop-in Morning -Thursday 17th October 9.15am - 11am

Our next Special Educational Needs drop-in coffee morning is next Thursday 17th October 9.15am - 11am. As usual, this is open to all parents and carers of children with SEN and is an informal opportunity to speak to other parents, seek advice, share tips and not feel alone! Come along to find out what's happening at the local

family hubs and what support is available to you as a parent too. This half term, we will have Rowan Reed, our Early Help coordinator joining us. Please come to the main office anytime between 9.15am - 11am. As this is a drop-in please come along for as long as you like. I look forward to seeing many of you there! Any questions please email - ellie.harris@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk.

World Mental Health Day - A message from Mrs Urwin-Clark

Yesterday we welcomed our children and staff to come to school wearing a splash of yellow in support of YoungMinds' Hello Yellow fundraising event. So far we have raised £52, so thank you for your support. The day began with a whole school assembly, where the children learned about the charity and about how they never should go it alone when feeling sad, lonely, anxious or scared. We listed the people we can turn to and ask for help from and about how sharing our feelings can begin to help us.

The children continued their work in their classrooms and here is a selection of their work:



Children's use of Social Media

We all want our children to be safe whilst they are using the internet and our curriculum in school gives children the knowledge and skills to help keep themselves safe. This is also an important area where we really appreciate parents and carers reinforcing the same message at home too. We all want the very best for every child and it is important that they are protected from unsuitable online content and have a healthy balance between screen time and other activities. The digital world is a large part of all our lives and brings with it many positives. In spite of this, it is also important to be aware of the dangers and risks that the internet poses to children.

As well as parental controls and filters, it is also important to monitor how much time a child is spending on digital devices. Some tips to support this include:

- Setting up a timetable or rota to clearly identify where your child is allowed screen time.
- Where possible, ensure that your child remains in the room with you at all times, during their allocated time on a device.
- Making sure that you are aware of what your child is accessing online and who they are communicating with
- Have relevant parental controls or protection in place on PCs, laptops, mobile phones, tablets and streaming services of TVs and games consoles.

It is also important that parents and carers adhere to the age restrictions for apps and sites. Here are some of the popular ones for quick reference:



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Social Media Age Restrictions



It is always better to wait until the required age to join any social media service. These rules around age relate primarily to privacy, but are also relevant to safety. Some services offer additional protection to users who are under 18 and by supplying a fake age, children can potentially lose some of this protection. This means children are exposed to content which is intended for older users. More information about this can be found using the following links:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/resource/thinkuknow-advice-from-ceop>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Times Tables Rock Stars October winners – A message from Mr Beck

Well done to our October Times Tables Rockstars! We're so impressed with all the hard work that has gone into the Times Tables Rockstars competitions over the first couple of months of the school year. This week we had over 50,000 questions answered by the children in Years 3-6! Well done to everyone who took part. Please keep an eye out for an email with details of the November competition and encourage your child/children to take part. Thank you!



Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.
Joanne Parker

Dates for your diary

Please see below for a list of dates of a range of events which will be occurring during the Autumn term.

Thursday 12 th September to Thursday 31 st October	Northumberland County Council Online Admissions portal open for Year 6 parents to complete Secondary school applications
Monday 14 th October	Individual and family photos with Phototronics – school will be open from 8.00am for families who would like photographs of children with their siblings, where the sibling does not attend our school
Wednesday 16 th October	3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings in school
Thursday 17 th October	9.00-11.00am SEN Coffee Morning 3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings in school
Tuesday 22 nd October	Harvest Festival Church Services at St Nicholas' Church 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11am Year 1 & Year 2 2pm Year 3 & Year 4
Wednesday 23 rd October	Friends of Cragside Non-Uniform day – further details to follow Autumn Disco organised by Friends of Cragside – further details to follow
Thursday 24 th October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children
Friday 25 th October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children and half term begins
Thursday 31 st October	Online Admissions portal for secondary school applications closes
Friday 1 st 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 th November	Children return to school following Autumn half term
Thursday 21 st November	Flu Immunisations
Saturday 30 th November	Christmas Fayre – 12.00-3.00pm
Monday 9 th December	2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 10 th December	9.15am Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 10 th December	2.00pm Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 11 th December	9.15am Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Wednesday 11 th December	2.00pm EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 12 th December	9.15am EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 12 th December	2.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas performance
Friday 13 th December	9.15am Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas performance
Monday 16 th December	Am - Nursery Christmas Party Pm – Reception Christmas Parker
Tuesday 17 th December	1.30pm Key Stage 1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 th December	1.30pm Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Church Services at St Nicholas' Church 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 th December	End of Autumn term – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 6 th January	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children





Tuesday 7th January

Start of Spring term – children return to school



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