

## Newsletter 5 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Dear Cragside Family,

I hope that you are all well – the bright sunshine and cold weather this week have certainly given school a wintry feel. Since our last newsletter, we held a particularly poignant Collective Worship for Remembrance Day which provided our children with valuable opportunities to reflect on the significance of this day and to develop a deeper understanding of our shared history. During this worship, we shared some of the thoughtful poppy creations which the children had spent time creating at home. Thank you for working with your child to do this.



Our school's sporting endeavours continue to flourish. Last week, a group of Year 3 children and two Year 6 Sports Leaders attended the Hoopstarz Festival. They represented our school very well. The children enjoyed learning new hooping activities, completing challenges and developing their skills. They are looking forward to teaching other children at school the new skills and activities they have learnt during PE lessons and playtimes. Our football team has also been participating in matches, demonstrating not only their football skills but also their exemplary sportsmanship. Both of these events serve as excellent platforms for our children to develop teamwork skills and resilience, attributes that are invaluable both on and off the pitch and I am grateful to the staff and families who support us in being able to do this.

A number of our Year 6 children also recently enjoyed an enriching writing experience with an author visit to the JLV. Such encounters with professional writers are inspirational to our children and ignite their imaginations.

### Feedback to our Parent Questionnaire

I would like to say thank you to all of you who were able to complete our recent parent/carer questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable to us and it was genuinely heart-warming to read the appreciative comments shared by many families. Your acknowledgement of what we do well is greatly encouraging. Additionally, we are thankful for the constructive suggestions on how we can further improve. Please be assured that we are currently evaluating all the information gathered to inform our ongoing school improvement efforts.

### School Attendance Matters- a message from Mrs Bilton

I'm delighted to share that our school attendance is still above the National Average for Primary schools across the country. Cragside attendance is currently 96.2%; the national figure is 93.1%. Well done again to our Cragside children and families! But, 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 will of course, monitor your child and make adjustments, such as stay indoors for playtime and PE, just let your child's teacher know.

We are also very keen to support every child to be in school **promptly**. Our school doors open at 8.30, and close at 8.45. It's so important for us to maximize all of the wonderful opportunities being in school brings by being here as close to 8.30 as possible. Unfortunately, any 'lates' marked in the register will also affect your child's overall attendance figure.

Mrs Gilooly and I closely monitor attendance and punctuality, so please do mention anything to us that you are struggling with.

If your child does need to be absent from school, 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, even if you have also mentioned this to your child's class teacher. If possible, please be as specific as possible, as this feeds in to 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 figure for your child, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Gilooly or myself.

### **Primary School Admissions**

The portal to apply for Reception places for September 2024 is still now open. Please note, that parents of children who attend our Nursery provision also need to apply for a Reception place in our school. The portal can be accessed via the following link: [https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

Please contact our school office for further information about Nursery admissions. I have attached a flier for your information which details the next date for our open morning and afternoon.

### **Children's use of Social Media – Online Safety**

As a parent or carer, the best tool to support your child in leading a happy and safe life online is open conversation. Childnet provide a useful Parents' Guide which gives advice on how to begin these discussions, how to work together as a family to support your child online, and how to handle difficult conversations or situations. Each section has examples of questions to use to start conversations around safe and positive internet use, and key messages to share with your child. Please find the leaflet attached for your reference.

### **Reminder – Christmas Fayre, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

A reminder from the Friends of Cragside that the Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November between 12pm and 3pm. We are still in need of volunteers to help set up, help during the fayre and help tidy up afterwards. If you would like to help please contact Friends of Cragside by email at [friendsofcragsidecofe@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcragsidecofe@gmail.com)



## 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.

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fayre – 12.00-3.00pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Star Gazing event at Cragside
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunch and wear a Christmas jumper/accessory
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 wonderful weekend.

Joanne Parker

