



Newsletter 7 – Friday 10th January, 2025

Dear Cragside Family,

Welcome back to a new year and a new school term. I hope that you had a joyful time over the holiday. On behalf of everyone in our school, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. I would also like to say a huge thank you for the kind donations which you sent into school as part of our kindness advent. These were gratefully received by the Hope Centre who sent an appreciative letter to the children this week. During our Shining Stars worship this morning, we not only celebrated those children whose work and commitment to learning has been exemplary this week, but also announced our Spring term Year 6 Prefects and new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. These children were given badges, which we would like them to wear each day, so that their leadership roles are recognised by other children who may need some help and support.

In addition, this week we have been delighted to welcome a number of new children into our Nursery setting, as part of our January intake and it has been wonderful to see these children explore the setting and become familiar with the routines and activities which take place within the setting.

As we begin a new year and a new term, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few things:

School Uniform

Please ensure that all school uniform is clearly labelled. We have an increasing amount of unnamed sweatshirts, hoodies and coats which we are unable to relocate with their rightful owners! Children should be wearing a white polo shirt, red sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without school logo) and grey trousers or skirts. PE kit should be worn on PE days and must consist of a plain black joggers/leggings, a plain black sweatshirt or Cragside hoodie and a plain white t-shirt. I aim to make our school uniform as affordable and accessible as possible for all families and children should not be coming into school in any branded items. The Hope Centre in Cramlington offers a range of preloved, sustainable uniform items for our school. Please can I also remind you that children are allowed to bring healthy snacks and water into school.

Attendance Matters – A message from Mrs Bilton

I thought it would be useful for me to share a few words from the Department for Education about the importance of good attendance for your child.

How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.

Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

The data also shows that, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

Given the critical benefits of excellent attendance, I'm sure you will share my delight and pride in our high rate of attendance at Cragside. We are currently at 96.3%. This high rate of attendance puts us in the top 10-20% of schools nationally. This is such wonderful news, and shows that every Cragside family fully appreciates how important it is to be in school every day. Well done Cragside families.

Please can I also remind you that if you are unsure about whether your child is well enough to be in school, we would encourage you to consult the NHS guidance for parents for when to keep your child off school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>

Thank you so much for your support with all of our work to maintain excellent attendance.



Parking in the local area

As most of you will be aware, there are parking restrictions within the local area which are in place for the safety of all children coming into and leaving school. Parking around school continues to pose a risk to our children. Last term, a near miss was reported to me, where a parent narrowly missed hitting a child as they were reversing away from school. Parking around school is also a problem for many of our local residents, who have reported to me that their drives have been blocked, preventing them from leaving their home. There are a number of identified parking areas which families could use to park at and then walk along the cycle paths into school.

Primary School Admissions

Just a reminder to our Nursery families that the portal to apply for Reception places for September 2025 is still open. The portal can be accessed via the following link: https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en Please note that this portal closes on 15th January 2025. Parents of children who are currently registered in our Nursery do need to apply for a place in our Reception classes, if you would like your child to be offered a place in our school. If you would like to look around our school and see us in action, please contact our school office to make an appointment.

Dates for your diary – Spring term 2025

During the Spring term, we would like to welcome you into school to give you the opportunity to come and see teaching and learning in our school and to actively participate in a learning activity with your child. These sessions will be held in the school hall and will begin at 9.00am. They will last approximately 45 minutes, but this may vary depending on the content and age of the children.

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| Friday 10 th January | Times Tables Rockstars Competition for children in Year 1 to Year 6 |
| Tuesday 14 th January | Skip4Fit session for Year 5 |
| Thursday 23 rd January | Year 5 and Year 6 Space Club children visiting Kielder Observatory |
| Wednesday 29 th January | Year 6 Curriculum workshop and SATs Information session for parents and carers |
| Monday 3 rd February | Children's Mental Health Week begins |
| Thursday 6 th February | 9.00am Year 2 Curriculum Workshop for parents and carers |
| Tuesday 11 th February | Safer Internet Day – Be kind online workshops arranged for Years 5&6 |
| Thursday 13 th February | 9.00am Year 4 Curriculum Workshop for parents and carers |
| Thursday 20 th February | 9.00am Year 3 Curriculum Workshop for parents and carers |
| Friday 21 st February | 9.00am Reception Classes Curriculum Workshop for parents and carers |
| Friday 21 st February | 3.15pm – School closes for Spring half term holiday |
| Monday 3 rd March | Children return to school following the half term holiday Fairtrade Fortnight begins |
| Thursday 6 th March | World Book Day |
| Thursday 13 th March | 9.00am Year 1 Curriculum Workshop for parents and carers |
| Thursday 20 th March | 9.00am Year 5 Curriculum Workshop for parents and carers |
| Wednesday 9 th April | Judging Day – Decorate an Easter egg competition |
| Thursday 10 th April | 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 |
| Friday 11 th April | 3.15pm – End of Spring term |
| Monday 28 th April | 8.45am – Children return to school for beginning of Summer term |

Many thanks for your ongoing support.
Joanne Parker



**Let Your
Light Shine**

St Matthew's Gospel