

Newsletter 9 – Friday 7th February, 2025

Dear Cragside Family,

The past two weeks have, once again been very busy weeks in school. This morning's Shining Stars assembly was, as always, a real joy to be part of and to celebrate all of the wonderful ways children in school have been shining brightly. I hope the children who received an award enjoy sharing their Shining Stars certificate with you.

It's been a real pleasure to feel the purposeful 'buzz' around learning which has been tangible during our family curriculum mornings, which many of you have had the opportunity to attend. The children in Years 6 and 2 have loved learning their times tables with their grown ups who have been able to attend these sessions and we know that you have also found the sessions to be informative. Thank you to those of you who have completed the feedback form about these sessions. We very much recognise the importance of working in partnership with families to support children's learning and your feedback about this has been extremely positive. We look forward to welcoming families of children in Year 4 on Thursday morning.

Times Tables Rockstars Competition - February 2025

Today is the beginning of the TTRS competition for February. Children from Years 1-6 are strongly encouraged to take part and win one of our Times Tables Rockstar prizes and also help their class to win an extra class prize! There will be an individual winner in each class, and a winning class from KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2. Please help your children to get logged on each day for just 10-15 minutes and point them towards the 'Garage' game so they can score points whilst also improving their individual heat maps! Thank you for your continued support.

Kindness Week

This week, we had a Kindness Workshop from the charity 52 Lives (www.52-lives.org) and their School of Kindness! We learned that kindness has three qualities – being friendly, generous and considerate. We learnt about the science of kindness and the positive impact it has on our physical and mental health. Next, we practised empathy by watching videos of kindness in action and then said kind things to each other in the classroom. To put our kindness into action, we thought of someone we knew who could do with a little kindness. We then made them something in our classrooms and plan to give it to them this week. Finally, we looked at the quote 'be the change that you want to see in the world' and decided that we can help to create the kind of world we want to live in. The School of Kindness has a Kids' Club which is free to join where you will get a free newsletter with kind challenges, stories, activities, jokes, competitions and videos to watch. Just visit www.schoolofkindness.org/kids-club to sign up.

Lunar New Year Celebrations

As a school, we love to celebrate our global neighbours. The classes loved learning about the traditions of the Lunar New Year. Every class got involved in some Lunar craft and got a good luck fortune scratch card. Some classes prepared and tasted their own lunar treats of spring rolls and stir fry. Happy New Year to all the countries that celebrate Lunar New Year! CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI 新年快乐



Kindness to our environment – A message from Miss Hames

This week in English, the children in Year 4 have begun reading 'One Plastic Bag', the story of Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling women of the Gambia. In response, the children of 4RH have taken it upon themselves to become courageous advocates for change and have been litter picking the school grounds. They have shown extreme determination and perseverance and the school field and yards have never looked cleaner! We hope that the children continue in their mission to make a positive impact to the environment and advocate against single-use plastic, much like the inspirational women did within our story.



World Book Day – A reminder from Miss Rennison

World Book Day is creeping up on us. This year it will be held on Thursday 6th March. As last year's vocabulary focus was so successful, we are continuing the theme this year. Can we ask that your children come to school dressed as a word? For example, your child could wear a sequin dress with the word 'shimmering' or wear a t-shirt with a question mark with the word 'inquisitive'. Please make sure your child has their word displayed on them. We will spend time looking at all the ambitious words you've chosen and share them with the children. We would also like to invite your children to bring to school a potato book character on World Book Day. These will be displayed in our school library for everyone to see.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 11th February

Safer Internet Day 2025 will take place on the 11th of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. In addition to learning about this

theme, our safer internet day will launch with an assembly about being kind online. Year 5 and 6 children will participate in workshops around this theme during the course of the day. To help you to keep your child safe when they are using different devices, the following website provides some useful guidance about mobile phone usage, keeping children safe whilst gaming and security settings for tablets: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Many thanks for your ongoing support and have a lovely weekend.
Warm regards,
Joanne Parker

