



## Newsletter 14 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2025

Dear Cragside Family,

As we approach the end of a brief and busy half term, I am pleased to share with you some of the recent highlights and important updates from our school.

Last week, our Year 6 children completed their end of Key Stage SATs tests, demonstrating remarkable focus and concentration throughout this period. I am immensely proud of the effort and resilience shown by all our Year 6 children. They approached these assessments with unwavering determination, giving their absolute best - a testament to their character and dedication to be their very best. Both myself and the Year 6 team would also like to say thank you to the families who helped to prepare the children for these tests, by encouraging extra learning at home, ensuring the children were calm and relaxed when coming to school and that they arrived promptly for breakfast club during the week. It felt like a real team effort that enabled the Year 6's to shine.

Last Wednesday, our Reception children embarked on an enriching visit to St Nicholas' Church. This visit provided them with a wonderful opportunity to explore the various features of the church as part of an engaging scavenger hunt. The visit ended in an enjoyable story time session led by church representatives. Many thanks to the adults who were able to volunteer to accompany the children on this visit.

Today I welcomed Emma Foody, MP, to Cragside. During her visit, we toured the school grounds and enjoyed watching the children engage in the wide range of activities available to them during playtime. This was followed by a productive discussion focused on educational and community matters.

### Staffing Updates

As we look ahead to the next academic year, I'd like to inform you of some staffing changes. Miss Hames will be leaving Cragside at the end of the Summer term as she relocates to the North West of England. Additionally, Mrs Davidson, a long-serving member of our lunchtime and Out of School Club staff, will be retiring, with the aim of pursuing her passion for camping and countryside walks. I am grateful to both Miss Hames and Mrs Davidson for their commitment and dedication to our children during their time at Cragside.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Kirstie Beacher will be joining our teaching team from September. Some of you may remember Mrs Beacher, who spent some time in Year 1 during the Autumn term.

### Bicycles and Scooters

It's great to see so many children coming into school using their bicycles and scooters. This is not only a fun and healthy way to travel to school, but also helps to ease the travel congestion and ongoing parking problems that can occur around school. When children do travel to and from school on their bicycles or scooters, please can I remind you that children need to push their bicycle or scooter whilst on the school yard. Our yards are very busy places and we need to avoid any accidents occurring for any of our children, parents and families.

### Parking around school

On the subject of travelling to school, if you do need to use your car to transport your child to school, please can you adhere to the parking restrictions in front of our school, on Westloch Road and at the back of our school, around Glenluce Drive. Parking Enforcement Officers are monitoring these areas to ensure that all of our children are safe on their walk to and from school.



## Attendance Matters- A Whole School update – A message from Mrs Bilton

Our whole school attendance remains at 96%. That keeps us in the top 10-20% of schools nationally. It also places 30<sup>th</sup> out of 132 schools in Northumberland. This is something we should be so proud of! Well done Cragside families. We have continued to closely monitor Monday attendance, which this Monday was at 92%. Whilst that is still an improvement, we are really keen to improve further, so we'll keep our Monday attendance focus going next half term. Thank you for all of your support with this.

As an additional part of our monitoring of attendance, we've been looking at attendance in each year group across school- from Reception to Year 6 - Well done Year 3, with 97.5% this week, you are our year group with the highest attendance.

To help celebrate the amazing attendance so many of our children have achieved this half term, I had the absolute pleasure of signing another very large pile of celebration postcards today! If your child receives a Great Attendance postcard, we've been monitoring their attendance, and we've noticed a big improvement.



If we have been closely monitoring your child's attendance and they have achieved 100% attendance this half term, they will receive a Gold Award certificate in an envelope in the post. I am delighted that I have sent out so many of these today!



Just to remind you about what the Department for Education says about the importance of good attendance at school-

School attendance is crucial for a child's academic success, overall well-being, and future opportunities. Good attendance is directly linked to higher attainment, better mental health, and improved social skills. Schools play a vital role in creating a positive learning environment and supporting children's attendance.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss about your child's attendance.



## Dates for your diary

Please see below for a reminder of the key dates for Summer 2.

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	School closes for Summer half term holiday
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children return to school for Summer Term 2 Year 4 Multiplication Check period begins (ends 13 <sup>th</sup> June)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="#">Year 3 visit to Valley Park</a>
w/c Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks and Re-screening check for some children in Year 2
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	5.00pm - New to Reception Parents evening (for children joining Reception in September 2025)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 school trip to Science Centre
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Leavers Service at Newcastle Cathedral (children and staff only)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Rwandan Flag non uniform day
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Transition Assembly at the JLV
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 trip to Northumberland Zoo
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	9.15am – Y3/4 Sports Day 2.00pm – Y5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 5 Geography Fieldwork trip in Cramlington
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 children to JLV for the full day and Cragside transition day
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am – Y1/2 Sports Day
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Nursery Stay and Play 10.30-11.30am – Morning session 2.00-3.00pm – Afternoon session
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Reception Celebration Assembly and Sports morning Year 3 to Vindolanda and Roman Army Museum Visit
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Surfing trip
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Year 1 Celebration Assembly
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Year 2 Celebration Assembly
<a href="#">Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July</a>	<a href="#">Reception visit to Whitehouse Farm</a>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Year 4 Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Year 3 Celebration Assembly
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Year 5 Celebration Assembly
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Year 6 Leavers Assembly 3.15pm End of Summer term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Start of Autumn term

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Joanne Parker

