



Newsletter 1 – 1st September, 2025

Dear Cragside Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you and the children well and that you have all enjoyed a lovely summer holiday. I hope the children are feeling rested and refreshed and we are all looking forward to seeing the children's smiling faces and hearing all their news from the last six weeks when they return to school tomorrow. I am also looking forward to warmly welcoming our new children and families into our Cragside family– in Nursery, Reception and in some other classes throughout school.

The start of a new school year can bring lots of excitement, with the possibility of new beginnings. As with any change, we are conscious that whilst being a time for fresh start and new school year can also bring a sense of uncertainty and nervousness for some children and I want to assure you, that as a staff team, we will all do our very best to ensure that your child is settled, cared for and nurtured so that they have the best possible start to the new school year.

Timings of the school day:

A reminder that the timings of our school day are as follows:

- Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes - School are expected to be in their classrooms for registration at 8.45am. Children in these classes (Year 1 to Year 6) end their school day at 3.15pm.

To facilitate a soft start to the day, and to ease parking difficulties around our school, we will continue to open the external doors for children to come into school from 8.30am onwards. The doors will then be locked at 8.45am. Children can be dropped off at their door anytime between these times.

- Early Years classes –For Reception children, school will start at 8.45am and will finish at 3.10pm. External doors to the Reception and Nursery classrooms will open from 8.30am and will be closed at 8.45am.classrooms will open at 8.30am and will be closed at 8.45am.
- Families will be able to collect their child from our Nursery classroom between 3.00-3.10pm.

Start of the day

Registration begins at 8.45am so please make sure that your child arrives promptly into school. Please can we ask that parents and carers say goodbye to their children on the school yard without coming into cloakrooms or classrooms. School staff will be at the cloakroom and classroom doors to ensure that your child knows where to hang coats etc and to answer any of your questions. As always, Mrs Bilton and I will also be on the school yard at the start and end of every day to help you or your child with anything that you need.

The entry and exit doors for some year groups will be slightly different this academic year and are as follows:

- Children in Nursery will enter and exit Nursery from the Nursery doors
- Children in Reception will enter and exit from both classrooms via the external door in Mrs Halliday's classrooms
- Children in Miss Tuart's class will enter and exit from Miss Tuart's classroom door, School staff will then show the children where to hang their coats etc.
- Children in Mrs Beacher's class will enter and exit from Mrs Beacher's classroom door. The coat hooks for these children are in their classroom.
- Children in Year 2 will enter and exit the school via the cloakroom doors.
- Children in Year 3 will enter and exit school via Miss Oliver's classroom. The coat hooks for children in Year 3 are outside of their classrooms.

- Children in **Years 4 and 5** will enter and exit school via what was previously the Y3/4 cloakroom. The coat hooks for children in these year groups are in the cloakroom.
- Children in Year 6 will enter and exit school via Miss Rennison's classroom. School staff will show the children in the morning where to hang their coats.

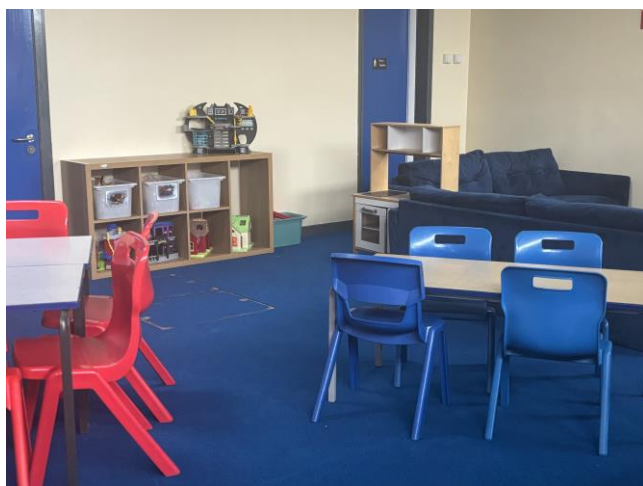
Staffing update

Mrs Cowie is unfortunately unable to be in school this week. Mrs Bilton will be teaching in 5HC this week and we are hoping that Mrs Cowie will be able to return to school next week. I will update parents and carers of children in 5HC of any changes to this.

Parking around school

Please can I ask all parents and carers to adhere to the clear parking restrictions which are in place around our school. Parking restrictions are in place on both Westloch Road and Gainsborough Place and are in place to ensure that every child coming to our school is safe. Over time, a number of 'near misses' involving children have been reported to me. The safety of all of our children is vitally important, so please take adhere to the restrictions which are in place to keep everyone safe.

Out of School Club



During the Summer, we have had our Y5/6 cloakroom repurposed to create a new space for children who attend our OOSC provision. Access to this room is still via the green gate but children will be collected from the door which was previously the Y5/6 cloakroom, a little further along the path.

School Uniform

To provide families with a range of affordable and sustainable options, we offer flexibility as to whether children wear a sweatshirt/cardigan with our school logo included or not. A lot of local shops and supermarkets sell items within our school uniform expectations (charcoal grey skirts and trousers, plain white polo shirts and red cardigans and jumpers. Our PTFA group also have a wide selection of pre-loved uniform if you want a more sustainable option. Sweatshirts and cardigans with the school logo on them can be purchased from Cloud Nine and Ark. I have listed the contact details below:

Aark: <https://www.aarkshop.co.uk/cragside-primary-school>

Cloud 9: <https://www.cloud9leisure.co.uk/cragside-primary>

Hope Centre: <https://www.facebook.com/Hope-Centre-Uniform-Bank-120300189365324>



Please would it be possible for children to wear plain black shoes to school.

Please can I also ask that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's full name. This is helpful in enabling us to return any lost property to your child as quickly as possible.

All school equipment is provided for children, so children do not need to bring any stationery items into school. Please remember that children should bring in a clear, inexpensive water bottle to school to enable staff to see that children are drinking during the school day and also to avoid any expensive water containers getting lost.

Please can I also remind you that earrings are not to be worn by children in school. To help us with this, please can you check that your child has removed their earrings before coming to school each morning.

PE Kits

Children will continue to come into school wearing their PE uniform on their allocated PE days. This arrangement maximises the amount of time in which our children can participate in physical activity whilst reducing the amount of lost property around school, which I'm sure you are all grateful for. Our PE uniform consists of **plain** black shorts or joggers (**no branded logos please**), a plain white T-shirt and a plain black sweatshirt or hoody (these are available from Cloud 9 with CRAGSIDE printed on the back). Please make sure that trainers and plimsolls are also plain black and are labelled with the child's name where possible.

School lunches

Our school catering will continue to be provided by Dolce this year and I would like to remind parents/carers to ensure that you pre-select your child's food options before they come into school on Tuesday.

We continue to promote a healthy eating culture at school and we therefore encourage parents and carers to provide a healthy packed lunch for their children, avoiding junk food and high sugar foods. If you would like some ideas about healthy lunch boxes, please look at the suggestions shown on the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

No Nut Policy

We continue to be a nut free school. Please be mindful of this when sending your child into school with snacks and/or packed lunches. We do have a number of children with severe nut allergies and it is important that we all adhere to this to ensure the safety of all of our children.

Wish very best wishes to you and the children.

Joanne Parker.



**Let Your
Light Shine**

St Matthew's Gospel