



Newsletter 5 – Friday 6th November 2025

Dear Cragside Family,

Welcome to the second half of our Autumn term. I would like to share with you a link to our beautiful school video, which we have recently updated. Narrated by some of our wonderful Year 6 children, I feel this video really captures the joy our children have when they are in school, both when they are learning and whilst they play. I hope that you feel as proud of this as I do.

<https://dgmproductions.fromsmash.com/cragsidevideo2025>

A huge thank you to all of you who were able to join our Harvest Celebrations at St Nicholas' Church and to those of you who very kindly donated to our Harvest collections for the Hope Centre. Earlier this week, I received a letter from the Hope Centre which detailed their appreciation of the food which we were able to donate to them which will support local families. Thank you for encouraging our children to look out into the community and provide some much needed help and support for families.

Anti-Bullying Week will take place next week, with the theme "Power for Good". The week will begin with Odd Socks Day on Monday, and its purpose is to celebrate what makes us all unique. During the week, resources will be shared and the children will take part in different activities.

Children in Need Day is on Friday 14th November. If children would like to, they can come to school wearing a Pudsey or Children in Need themed accessory.

Online Safety for children at home

As a parent myself, I can appreciate how difficult it is for parents and carers to fully know and understand some of the risks that children face online, whether this is whilst they are gaming, chatting, connecting, using AI to name but a few uses of devices. In school, we work with Northumberland County Council's ICT and e-learning team to ensure that all devices and usage is safe in schools. On Wednesday 26th November, at 3.45pm, this team are offering parents and carers the opportunity to join them for a virtual, informative chat about online safety. This session is free of charge and I have attached a flier about this which contains further information. If you would like to access this training, the link to do so is here:

[Wed 26/11/25 15:45 - 16:45](#)

Sleep Workshops – Tuesday 25th November and Wednesday 17th December

We regularly hear from families about the difficulties which their children have around sleep and we all know how important this is for children (and adults!). The Family Hub is hosting an online workshop to support families of children from 4 years old in managing this. Further details about this are attached to this newsletter.

Primary School Admissions

The portal to apply for Reception places for September 2025 is now open and I have very much enjoyed welcoming families into school and showing them around our school as part of our Open mornings and afternoons. 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>

I have attached our flier for your information which details the next date for our open morning and afternoon.





Attendance Matters – A message from Mrs Bilton

Why does good attendance matter?

The Department for Education (DfE) states that 'school attendance is important for equipping your child with skills for life'; and that 'Every day at school counts' because even a few days of missed school can significantly impact a child's education and future.

Good attendance is linked to social and mental wellbeing, academic success, and helping a child achieve their full potential.

Postcards

I very much hope our Great Attendance postcards found their way to some Cragside families during the holidays. Mrs Gilooly and I focused these rewards to children who have made huge improvements in attendance. For example, two Year 6 students have improved their attendance from 85% and 86%, to an incredible 100% attendance! That's such an important improvement. Especially, when we read 'Why does good attendance matter' above.

Whole School Attendance

Our current school attendance is 96.6%. That places us in the top 20-30% of schools nationally. As always, I'm very keen to work with you to improve attendance wherever possible. With that in mind, please don't hesitate to be in touch if there is anything at all I can do to support with your child's attendance.

Punctuality- Every Minute Matters!

Our EWO, Carol Barnfather, will be in school again this half term. She'll be at the Main Entrance to have a chat and support if you are late to school. This support is always about our ambition to ensure every child is in school every day, on time. If there are any issues with this, and you would like me to support with any anxieties, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

To further support punctuality, Miss Harris has organised a 'Wobbly Mornings' session on Thursday the 20th November from 9.00am – 10.00am. The purpose of the workshop is to give parents strategies to manage those wobbly mornings. The session will cover:

- Morning routines
- Bedtime routines
- Use of electronic gadgets
- Grounding techniques
- Distraction techniques
- Attachment
- What help kids sleep
- Lessons missed and the impact.

This sounds like a great opportunity to listen, and share some top tips and techniques, to make mornings as smooth as possible. Punctuality is such an important part of school attendance, we're always here to help or support in any way, please just ask.

Top Year Group Attendance

Reception, you are our year group with top attendance this week! Wow, you knocked Year 3 from their top spot Reception boys and girls. With attendance of 98.7%, I'm not surprised you've achieved this. Well done! Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Joanne Parker



**Let Your
Light Shine**

St Matthew's Gospel