



## Newsletter 6 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025

Dear Cragside Family,

Many thanks to all of you for patience and understanding this morning and to those of you who needed to take a different route to school. Despite gritting the yard at the end of the school day yesterday, the heavy rain which fell last night resulted in a lot of ice on the KS2 yard. Mr Trobe did grit the yard very early this morning, but it had little impact due to the freezing conditions. Apologies also for the grammatical errors in my message...the message was typed on a small device as I wanted to let you all know of the change of plan as quickly as possible so that you could make alternative plans. Hopefully the slightly warmer temperatures over the weekend will result in the ice completely thawing by Monday.

### Primary School Admissions

The portal to apply for Reception places for September 2025 remains 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>

### Thunder in the Valley – A message from Miss Oliver

Last Friday, our Year 5 basketball team took part in the **Thunder in the Valley** competition at the Vertu Motors Arena. The pupils played exceptionally well, demonstrating great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the event. They were truly outstanding representatives of our school and we are incredibly proud of their efforts!

After the competition, the children had the exciting opportunity to stay and watch the Newcastle Eagles play, which was a fantastic way to round off an action-packed day.

### Attendance Matters – A message from Mrs Bilton

#### **Why School Attendance Matters (taken from a Department for Education blog).**

Every day at school counts. The evidence is clear - even a few days of missed school can have a significant impact on a child's education and future prospects.

#### **How attendance affects attainment-**

Recent research by the Department for Education shows just how closely attendance and attainment are linked. At primary school, children who attend school nearly every day in Year 6 (95-100% attendance) are 30% more likely to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90-95% of the time. This is why we're always working to improve attendance at Cragside.

#### **Whole School Attendance**

Our current school attendance is 95.9%. 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.

## Top Year Group Attendance

Year 2, you are our year group with top attendance this week. With attendance of 97.3%, I'm not surprised you've achieved this. Well done!

## Dates for your diary – reminders!

Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Sleep Workshop – online workshop delivered by the Family Hub team – see the attached flier for further details</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Online Safety for children at home – a virtual course for parents, ran by Northumberland County Council's ICT Team. To join, please use this link:</b> <a href="#">Wed 26/11/25 15:45 - 16:45</a>
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fair organised by the Friends of Cragside
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Am - Nursery Christmas Party Pm – Reception Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Am - Whole School Pantomime gifted by the PTFA 1.30pm Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Church Services at St Nicholas' Church</b> 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11am Year 1 & Year 2 2pm Year 3 & Year 4  1.30pm Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party End of Autumn term – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Start of Spring term – children return to school

