

Newsletter 7 – Friday 5th December, 2025

Dear Cragside Family,

The joy and excitement of Christmas is well and truly underway here at school! Today we celebrated our annual Christmas lunch day and the festive spirit filled our school hall, with all of the children not only enjoying their meal together, complete with laughter, music and...we were thrilled to welcome a very special visitor to school...Santa himself! Santa popped in to say hello to all of the children as they were eating their lunch and the children in Nursery and Reception enjoyed a wonderfully cosy story with Santa, which was a truly joyful moment.

Many thanks also to our PTFA for organising yet another successful Christmas Fair last Saturday. It was great to hear how busy the Fair was and how much the children enjoyed meeting Santa and the reindeer who came to visit. Many, many thanks to all who organised and supported this event.



Next week, we will have the opportunity to see all of our children present their Christmas nativities. Due to limited space in the hall we ask that a maximum of 2 adults attend per child, per performance. No bookings are required – please check the dates and times of each performance in the dates list shown at the end of this newsletter. On Christmas party dates, children can come into school wearing their party outfit. Please ensure that this clothing is suitable for outdoor play and keeps the children warm!

Primary School Admissions

The portal to apply for Reception places for September 2026 remains open until January. A reminder to all parents of children who attend our Nursery provision that you will 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

Parking around school for Christmas events

During the month of December, our school, like all schools, host a variety of performances and events that parents and carers attend. This can lead to an increase in traffic around the school, during these events. Please find attached a leaflet, produced by Northumberland County Council which provides some clear guidance around keeping the area around our school safe for children, parents, residents

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and the wider community. I am also receiving more complaints from local residents who are sharing their concerns about driveways being blocked and inconsiderate parking in their roads. Please can all of you try and adhere to all of the local parking restrictions which are in the local school area, as these are here, primarily to keep the boys and girls in our school, safe.

I would also like to remind you that the disabled parking bays at the front of our school are for blue badge holders only. Please respect this as we have a number of families who need to use these bays.

Cragside Star Gazing event – A message from Mr Flynnwood

Following last year's great success, I am pleased to announce that we will be working with our wonderful Kielder Observatory partners again. On Monday the 12th of January we will be hosting: star gazing, planetarium talks, workshops with the astronomers, and our fantastic students from Space Club. Anyone who attended last year, will tell you how interesting and exciting the event was. Great that we can do it all again!

Times for the event are to be confirmed, but it will most likely run from 4-6pm. A form to sign up for the planetarium talks will follow in the new year.

Attendance Matters – A message from Mrs Bilton

At Cragside, we want our children to be in school learning and striving for success every day. Research shows that regular attendance and good punctuality are crucial factors in students achieving their full potential in education. The attendance ladder is a handy way to see what we are aiming for, and when we get worried about a child's attendance.

Attendance Ladder



Whole School Attendance

Our current school attendance is 96.06%. With all of the cases of chicken pox and other coughs and colds, our whole school attendance is not where we would like it to be. We're still above the national average, but not as far above as we would like! With that in mind, please follow the NHS guidance about attendance-

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well.

Class attendance

Well done 2RC and 1 KB you have almost full attendance. Here's an overview of current attendance for each class:

RLC - 98.94%
 RNH - 92.06%
 1LT - 95.3%
 1KB - 99.11%
 2RC - 99.47%
 2JF - 97.22%
 3EO - 97.22%
 3DF - 93.98%
 4UC - 97.33%
 4SG - 98.67%
 5KR - 90.04%
 5HC - 97.12%
 6ER - 93.72%
 6JB - 96.44%

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please don't hesitate to ask.

Dates for your diary – reminders!

Monday 8 th December	2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 9 th December	9.15am Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 9 th December	2.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 10 th December	9.15am Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 10 th December	2.00pm EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 11 th December	9.15am EYFS Nativity (Nursery and Reception)
Thursday 11 th December	2.00pm Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Friday 12 th December	9.15am Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Monday 15 th December	Am - Nursery Christmas Party Pm – Reception Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 th December	Am - Whole School Pantomime gifted by the PTFA 1.30pm Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Church Services at St Nicholas' Church



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NEWSLETTER



	9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11am Year 1 & Year 2 2pm Year 3 & Year 4
Friday 19 th December	1.30pm Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party End of Autumn term – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 5 th January 2026	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 6 th January	Start of Spring term – children return to school



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