

## Newsletter 11 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

Dear Cragside Family,

Spring at last feels like it's in the air (hopefully I'm not speaking too soon!) and it's been a real joy to see blue skies and lighter mornings this week. School has certainly been a lot less muddy this week and the children are very much enjoying their playtimes more. Thank you to all of you who have been able to attend our parent/carer consultation meetings this week. These are really important meetings and I love seeing all of the proud faces leave school, after these meetings. If you haven't been able to attend a meeting, please can you contact your child's class teacher to arrange a different time to discuss your child's learning. As the weather improves and more children come into school on their bicycles and scooters, please can I ask you to remind your child that these should not be ridden on the school yard. The school yards are busy at the end of the day and pushing bicycles and scooters on the yard means that all of our children and families can leave calmly and safely.

### A message from the Friends of Cragside (PTFA) group

Please find attached details of the Friends of Cragside Annual General Meeting, taking place on **Thursday 19th March 2026 at 3:30pm in the Shared Area at school**. As outlined in the attached poster, this year's AGM marks a transition for the PTFA as we look ahead to the next stage of our journey. The meeting is an opportunity to:

- Celebrate what we've achieved this year
- Review fundraising and spending
- Hear plans for the year ahead
- Be part of the future direction of the PTFA

We have also attached a nomination document for anyone interested in standing as an Officer or Committee Member. Nominations must be submitted in advance of the AGM. Whether you're interested in a formal role or simply supporting events occasionally, everyone is welcome and every contribution makes a huge difference. Children are welcome to attend with you. We hope to see you there.

### Year 5 and 6 Peer Mentors- A message from Mrs Urwin-Clark

We are excited to introduce our Peer Mentors, a group of pupils who have volunteered to help make our school an even more caring and supportive place. They have completed six training sessions, where they learned about listening skills, kindness, teamwork, and how to help others feel included. Our Peer Mentors will be supporting children across the school, helping at playtimes, welcoming new pupils, and offering a friendly face to anyone who may need encouragement or support. We are very proud of their commitment and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our school community.

### You-Tube – a guide for parents and carers

Many of our children enjoy using YouTube to watch videos, tutorials and entertainment. While YouTube can offer creative and educational content, it is important to remember that the main platform is not designed for children under 13 and may contain material that is not age-appropriate. We encourage parents and carers to closely supervise their child's online activity, ensure parental controls are enabled, and consider using YouTube Kids, which is specifically designed for younger viewers. Regular conversations at home about online safety, responsible viewing and what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable are key to helping children stay safe online. I have attached a guide for families regarding Youtube that I hope you will find useful.



## Attendance Matters – A message from Mrs Bilton

As always, we're keen to remind you about why good attendance matters:

- Academic Success: There is a direct link between regular attendance and high achievement in exams and assessments.
- Social Development: School is a vital environment for children to build social skills, make friends, and feel part of a community.
- Life Habits: Consistent school attendance builds the discipline and responsibility necessary for success in future careers.

### Whole school attendance

I am delighted to share that whole school attendance has continued to improve this half term. We are now at 95.8% which puts us in the top 20-30% of school nationally. Well done Cragside families!

### Reporting absence

Thank you very much for your support when reporting absence. It's such an important part of safeguarding to know if your child will be absent from school, and why. Please remember to use our absence reporting option when phoning school to report an absence.

Also, to remind you that the NHS guidance is to be in school with mild cold symptoms. The research also suggests that being in school is a vital support to well-being and reducing anxiety.

### Class attendance

Every week, Mrs Gillooly our Attendance Officer, Carol Barnfather our EWO, and I, monitor every child's attendance. We also monitor class attendance and share it with you.

RLC 100%  
RNH 97.62%  
1LT 94.62%  
1KB 99.20%  
2RC 97.14%  
2JF 95.88%  
3EO 95%  
3DF 93.85%  
4SG 94.23%  
4UC 91.2%  
5KR 98%  
5HC 91.07%  
6ER 97.83%  
6JB 96.52%

It's wonderful to see such good attendance across school, especially in Reception. Well done!

Warm regards and have a lovely weekend. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school.

Joanne Parker

