

## Newsletter 12 – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Cragside Family,

It has been another busy and exciting few weeks in school. We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day, with children enjoying a range of activities designed to promote a love of reading. It was wonderful to welcome visiting authors who shared their stories and inspired the children with their creativity. We have also been delighted to see the return of the Drumbas to school, which the children thoroughly enjoy and which bring lots of energy and rhythm to our school day. It has been lovely to see so many opportunities for children to learn, participate and celebrate together. Thank you also to Year 5 staff, children and families who joined us for our Curriculum morning yesterday – this certainly seemed like a lot of fun!

### Year 3 Moki Competition – A message from Mr Freedman and Miss Oliver

During the Autumn and Spring terms, Year 3 took part in the Cramlington Schools Moki Competition. Each day, the children wore a Moki band to track their activity and competed against another school to achieve the highest number of active minutes. Year 3 were incredible and showed fantastic enthusiasm and determination throughout the competition. Their hard work paid off, as they won the competition for the second year in a row. Well done, Year 3!



### Healthy Snacks and Lunchboxes in school

We encourage children to bring in healthy snacks full of vitamins and minerals containing no added salt, fat or sugar. Many of these will help contribute to their 5 daily portions of fruit and vegetables, keep them alert and help them concentrate. It can be hard during the week to think of suitable items for them to bring in to school, but we are aiming, with your help, to support the children in guiding them to make healthy choices regarding snacks.

Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 have a daily snack of fruit or veg provided for free by the government, so additional snacks for these ages may not be required. Following the advice outlined in the 'School food standards practical guide', a healthy snack idea may include any of the following:

- Vegetable sticks – such as celery, cucumber, peppers or carrot
- A piece of cheddar cheese or babybel, crackers
- A piece of fresh or dried fruit is also a great snack
- Bread sticks, plain pretzels, banana bread, malt loaf, oat/rice cakes and small pitta breads are also good snacks, providing children with carbohydrate to sustain them in-between meals.





## Whole school attendance

Whole school attendance has remained at 95.8%, which keeps us in the top 20-30% of schools nationally. Well done again 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 98.57%  
RNH 98.1%  
1LT 100%  
1KB 93.6%  
2JF 96.47%  
2RC 100%  
3EO 96.25%  
3DF 96.54%  
4UC 97.2%  
4SG 100%  
5KR 97.67%  
5HC 97.14%  
6ER 99.13%  
6JB 96.09%

It's fantastic to see 100% attendance in three of our classes. And, every class above 93%. Well done!

## Attendance Ambassadors

Our amazing Year 6 Attendance Ambassadors gave out postcards and stickers today. We chose children who have really worked hard to be in school on time every day. What a wonderful thing to celebrate!

## Easter Services at St Nicholas' Church

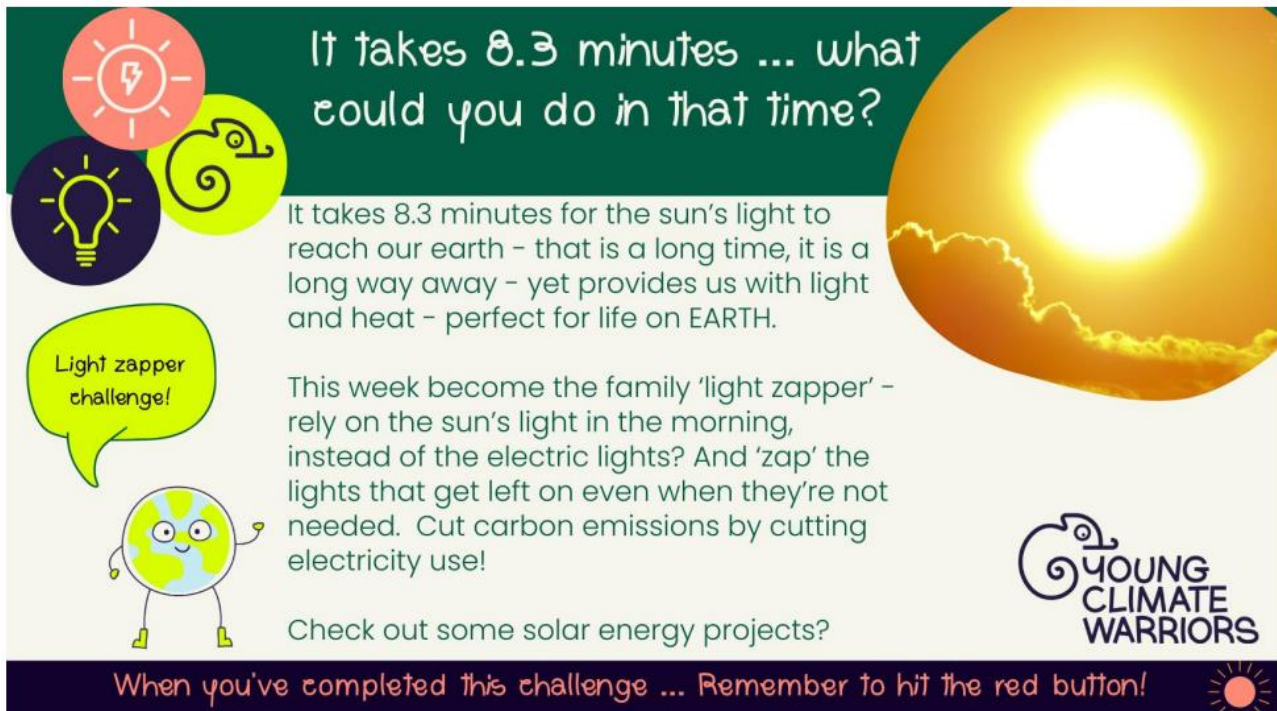
As we move towards the final weeks of the Spring term, our children and staff are looking forward to sharing with our Easter Celebration services on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at St Nicholas' Church in Cramlington. There will be three different services, which will be held at the following times:

- 9.30am onwards – Year 5 and Year 6
- 11.00am onwards – Year 1 and Year 2
- 2.00pm onwards – Year 3 and Year 4

We would love to see you there and hope as many parents, carers and families can attend as possible. Please can we ask that you are mindful of parking restrictions around the Church. This helps to ensure everyone stays safe, the traffic can flow freely and the coaches are able to transport the children safely to Church.

## Young Climate Warriors Challenge – A message from Mrs Beacher

Electric lighting is fundamental to our way of living today, and we are enormously grateful for Edison's perseverance, but could we use it more sparingly? This week's Young Climate Warriors challenge encourages children to 'zap the lights' at home – relying on the sun's light when they wake up, switching off unnecessary lights – and reducing our electricity-related carbon emissions. Our Climate Change Champions will also be tackling this in school, making sure we only have the lights on if needed.



**It takes 8.3 minutes ... what could you do in that time?**

It takes 8.3 minutes for the sun's light to reach our earth – that is a long time, it is a long way away – yet provides us with light and heat – perfect for life on EARTH.

This week become the family 'light zapper' – rely on the sun's light in the morning, instead of the electric lights? And 'zap' the lights that get left on even when they're not needed. Cut carbon emissions by cutting electricity use!

Check out some solar energy projects?

Light zapper challenge!

When you've completed this challenge ... Remember to hit the red button!

**YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS**

## Dates for your diary – Spring term 2026

During the Spring term, we would like to welcome you into school to give you the opportunity to come and see teaching and learning in our school and to actively participate in a learning activity with your child. These sessions will be held in the school hall and will begin at 9.00am. They will last approximately 45 minutes, but this may vary depending on the content and age of the children.

Wednesday 18th March	Year 4 Curriculum Workshop
Thursday 19th March	Year 1 Curriculum Workshop
Thursday 26th March	<b>Easter Church Services at St Nicholas' Church</b> 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11.00am Year 1 & Year 2 2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4
Wednesday 1st April	Judging Day – Decorate an Easter egg competition
Thursday 2nd April	3.15pm – End of Spring Term
Monday 20th April	8.45am – Children return to school for beginning of Summer term
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	– Year 6 SATs
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	– Year 4 Multiplication Check
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June to Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	– Year 1 Phonics Screening Check





With warm regards,

Joanne Parker

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**Let Your  
Light Shine**

*St Matthew's Gospel*