

Newsletter – Friday 1st May, 2026

Dear Cragside Family,

Following the Easter holidays, we have been incredibly busy in school and it has been wonderful to see the children making the most of our outdoor spaces, especially with the beautiful backdrop of blue skies. Our Celebration Worship this morning felt particularly joyful, with certificates awarded to children who have been shining brightly in many different ways – from creating impressive artwork and writing thoughtful poetry, to making excellent progress in mathematics. I do hope those children who received certificates enjoy sharing their achievements with you at home.

I have also had many proud moments this week while showing new families around our school. What has been overwhelmingly evident is the happiness and excellent manners of our children, with so many of them taking the time to warmly greet our visitors.

During the Easter holidays, Mr Trobe has been working incredibly hard to create a new space for our Nursery and Reception children. This space provides further opportunity for our youngest children to explore nature, go on bug hunts and dig, which they are very much enjoying!



As we progress through the Summer term, I kindly ask that parents and carers take necessary precautions to ensure our children's comfort when we have of hot and sunny weather. Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school and, if necessary, provide them with a suitable sun hat. These measures will enable our children to fully enjoy their time outdoors while remaining protected from the sun's rays.



Bikeability

This week many of our Year 5 children have completed their Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 award. The children have developed a hugely important set of life-long skills which ensure they cycle safely.

I was so proud to receive such glowing feedback from all of the instructors who were involved in delivering these sessions. The instructors shared that all of the children who participated were a pleasure to work with – that they were all polite, respectful, asked relevant and important questions and were keen to show off their skills. Well done to all of the children who completed this training – I am so proud of how well you have represented yourselves and our school whilst doing this.

Kindness Ambassadors - Community Work - A message from Mrs Urwin-Clark

Our Kindness Ambassadors have been thinking about how they can spread a little more positivity beyond school, and they've come up with a lovely idea to support our local community. They have written a collection of positive affirmations, which will be displayed on a tree in the local area for others to read and enjoy.

We would love to invite families to join in this act of kindness by creating a bookmark featuring a positive message or affirmation. These bookmarks will then be donated to Cramlington Library, where they will be hidden inside books for members of the community to discover—a small but meaningful way to brighten someone's day. Please write, 'With love from Cragside C of Primary School' on the back.

Climate Change Challenge – A message from Mrs Beacher

This week we're taking action on PAPER — junk mail, receipts, wrapping paper, using both sides, 'off-white', scrap paper, saving envelopes, toilet roll tubes... and more! In school, our Climate Change Champions will discuss ways we can save and reuse paper.

You are challenged this week to **REDUCE**, **REUSE**, **RECYCLE** and **RETHINK**. Why not create something new from old paper? See some ideas below:

- **Paper beads** – Roll thin strips of paper into beads and turn them into bracelets or necklaces
- **Origami art** – Fold old worksheets into animals, flowers, or decorations
- **Paper collage** – Cut and layer coloured or printed paper into artwork
- **Paper mâché** – Use newspaper to make bowls, masks, or model
- **Mini notebooks** – Staple scrap paper together for jotting notes
- **Bookmarks** – Decorate strips of old paper or card
- **Seed paper** – Mix shredded paper with water and embed seeds (plant it later!)



Taller than houses, able to live longer than humans ...

Trees are used to make paper and card - which can be found in almost every home on the planet ... books, labels, toilet paper, packaging ...

Which actions will you undertake this week? ...

REDUCE - Help banish the junk mail and avoid the packaging.
REUSE - Be creative with the scrap paper, used envelopes and old magazines.
RECYCLE - Rescue the toilet roll tubes and make sure they're recycled.
RETHINK - Talk to your parent/carer/teacher about switching to recycled paper.

NO JUNK MAIL

YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS

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



Let Your Light Shine

St Matthew's Gospel

Attendance matters – An update from Mrs Bilton

Thank you so much for all of your support with attendance at the beginning of this new term. We've maintained our strong attendance at 96.1%. This puts us in the top 20-30% of schools in the country. We also compare very favourably in Northumberland where our attendance is 28th out of 127 schools. This gives our Cragside children such a brilliant start to their education.

Why Does Good Attendance Matter?

Reminders from the Department for Education:

Higher Attainment: Year 6 pupils with 95–100% attendance have a 30% higher chance of reaching expected standards compared to those with 90–95% attendance.

Future Earnings: Persistent absence in secondary school is linked to lower earnings, with potential losses of up to £10,000 by age 28.

Well-being and Safety: Attending school is a key protective factor that supports development, wellbeing, and safety.

Building Routine: Consistent attendance fosters resilience, better engagement, and positive long-term learning habits.



Class Attendance this week:

Alongside individual attendance, we monitor class attendance:

RLC 99.05%

RNH 97.7%

1LT 100%

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St Matthew's Gospel



1KB 95.88%
2RC 94%
2JF 98.89%
3EO 97.5%
3DF 98.15%
4UC 95.77%
4SG 92.69%
5KR 98.39%
5HC 93.4%
6ER 97.92%
6JB 93.66%

Well done 1LT, 100% attendance! Great achievement. Lots of classes are very close too.

Daily attendance this week:

I also thought you might be interested to see our daily attendance for a week. We work really hard to support every child to be in school every day. Some days might be harder than others for your child. If there's anything at all that you think will help, and you've spotted a day of the week pattern, please don't hesitate to be in touch. I'm really keen to support with any aspect which helps your child.

Monday - 96.3%

Tuesday - 97.21%

Wednesday - 96.26%

Thursday - 97.21%

Friday - 93.68%

Thank you very much for all of your support.

Dates for your diary

As we begin this Summer term, to help you plan ahead, please see the last page detailing some of the events which will be happening in school during this term. These will be updated as the term progresses.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Joanne Parker





Monday 4th May	Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATs Tests – English - Grammar and Punctuation Papers 1 and 2
Monday 11th May	Year 5 Geography Fieldwork trip Valley Park
Tuesday 12 th May	Year 6 SATs Tests – English - Reading
Wednesday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs Tests – Maths Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs Tests – Maths Paper 3
Friday 15th May	Year 3 Valley Park geography field trip.
Thursday 21st May	Friends of Cragside hosting a school disco
Friday 22nd May	School closes for Summer half term holiday
Monday 1st June	Children return to school for Summer Term 2 Child Safety Week begins Year 4 Multiplication Check period begins (ends 12th June)
Wednesday 3rd May	RNLI Water Safety talk for Key Stage 2 children
Thursday 4th June	Parent Induction Evening at Cramlington Learning Village
Monday 8th June - Friday 12th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks and Re-screening check for some children in Year 2
Monday 15th June	Kielder Observatory visit for children in Space Club
Tuesday 16th June	Year 6 Leavers Service at St Nicholas' Cathedral (children and staff only)
Thursday 18th June	Class photos being taken
Wednesday 10 th June	5.00pm - New to Reception Parents evening (for children joining Reception in September 2025)
Wednesday 24 th June	Year 4 to Beamish
Thursday 25th June	Year 6 children to JLV for the full day and Cragside transition day
Thursday 25th June	Year 3 at Vindolanda (a different plan will be arranged for transition to accommodate the visit)
Friday 26th June	Year 6 PE transition session at the JLV
Thursday 2nd July	9.15am – Y3/4 Sports Morning 2.00pm – Y5/6 Sports Afternoon
Friday 3rd July	Reception trip to Whitehouse farm
Tuesday 7 th July	9.15am Reception Celebration Assembly and Sports morning
Thursday 9th July	Friends of Cragside hosting a Circus/Summer Fayre (3.15pm onwards)
Thursday 9 th July	9.15am Year 1 Celebration Assembly
Friday 10 th July	9.15am Year 2 Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 14 th July	9.15am Year 4 Celebration Assembly
Wednesday 15 th July	9.15am Year 5 Celebration Assembly
Thursday 16 th July	9.15am Year 3 Celebration Assembly
Friday 17 th July	9.15am Year 6 Leavers Assembly 3.15pm End of Summer term
Tuesday 1 st September	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday 2 nd September	Start of Autumn term

