

Newsletter 16 – Friday 19th June 2026

Dear Cragside Family,

It has been another busy and exciting two weeks at Cragside, filled with opportunities to celebrate our school community and look ahead to the future. One of the highlights has been welcoming our new Reception families into school and meeting some of the newest members of our Cragside family. Last Saturday morning, we opened our doors to our brand-new children and their grown-ups, inviting them to explore both our indoor and outdoor Early Years learning environments. It was wonderful to see so many excited faces as families began their transition journey into Reception, and we look forward to welcoming them officially in September.

This week, we welcomed the Director of Education for the Diocese into school. As always, our children were fantastic ambassadors for Cragside, demonstrating their beautiful manners, positive attitudes towards learning and respectful behaviour. During the visit, we had the opportunity to join an RE lesson in Mrs Clarke's class, where the children impressed us with their thoughtful discussions and engagement with their learning.

Our Year 6 children have also begun taking their first steps towards the next stage of their education. They are approaching their transition events with great confidence, including attending the Leavers' Service at Newcastle Cathedral earlier this week. It has been lovely to see them reflecting on their time at Cragside while looking forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

A message to Year 1 children

We are incredibly proud of our Year 1 children and all they have achieved in phonics this year. They have worked so hard every day, showing determination, enthusiasm, and a real love of learning. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, and we were delighted with how well they completed their Phonics Screening Check. They should all feel very proud of themselves – we certainly are! Their success is a Testament to their hard work and dedication, and we would also like to thank families for their continued support throughout the year.

Trading Cards

We have recently noticed an increase in children bringing trading cards into school, including football cards, Pokémon cards and similar collectible items. Whilst we understand that children enjoy sharing their collections and interests with their friends, we kindly ask that trading cards are not brought into school.

These items are often very special and valuable to the children who own them. Unfortunately, when cards are lost, damaged, swapped, or taken by other children, this can cause significant upset and can lead to disagreements between children. Resolving disputes about ownership and trading can also take valuable time away from learning. To help avoid disappointment and ensure that everyone can focus on enjoying their time at school, we ask parents and carers to support us by keeping trading cards at home.

Cricket Summer Camps

Northumberland Cricket is running a series of free Girls Dynamos Cricket Camps over the summer holidays for girls aged 8-11. These are two-day softball cricket events running from 10:00-15:00. All participants will receive a personalised Dynamos t-shirt for attending. Parents are very welcome to sign up for more than one camp. Please see attached posters with QR codes which provide further details.

Full information for parents can be found on the [Northumberland Cricket Board Website](#).

Attendance Information- An update from Mrs Bilton

Holidays during term time

I'd like to start this attendance update with some guidance from the DfE about taking holidays during term time, especially in September.

September is the time to set good intentions for the year ahead. Children re-establish vital friendships and routines during this important time in the school year. National data shows that pupils who miss school early in the year are much more likely to struggle with attendance later. More than half of pupils who miss time in September, even one day, went on to be persistently absent. DfE

What is persistent absence and why do we monitor it closely?

Persistent absence is an official government measure for any child who misses 10% or more of their schooling across the academic year. In primary schools, this equates to roughly 19 days off (or about one day every two weeks). Missing this much learning can significantly impact a child's academic progress and social development.

We closely monitor attendance to ensure all students reach their full potential. The 10% threshold applies to all absences, including illness, medical appointments and unauthorised leave of absence.

Whole school attendance

We're still doing well with whole school attendance; currently whole school attendance is 95.8%.

This maintains our place in the top 20-30% of schools. The national average is 94.89%.

Persistent absence at Cragside is 8.1%. We're still much lower than the National figure for this, which is 13.18%.

Class attendance

RLC 100%	RNH 85.91%
1LT 93.85%	1KB 100%
2RC 82.5%	2JF 89.89%
3EO 95.42%	3DF 89.26%
4UC 93.7%	4SG 93.2%
5HC 91.72%	5KR 94.84%
6ER 84.58%	6JB 90%

Well done to RLC and 1KB...100% attendance is amazing! The children in these classes will come home with stickers, and proudly display a 100% attendance postcard in their classroom windows! If there are any matters at all in relation to attendance you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to be in touch with me. Thank you very much for all of your support.

Young Climate Warriors – A message from Mrs Beacher

This week Young Climate Warriors are challenged to play some games, and start a conversation about our WORLD, in addition to talking about the World Cup. There are options for 'egg box Mancala', football with a 'homemade ball', or trying their luck at Climate Change snakes and ladders.



Let Your Light Shine

St Matthew's Gospel



Our WORLD ... and the World Cup.

The 2026 World Cup is uniting our world through football. Climate change unites us too, because it effects every one of us.

World Cup #ShowYourStripes challenge!

This week play some games, and start conversations about our world ... in addition to talking about the World Cup. #ShowYourStripes ... as well as football strips!

Play 'egg box' Mancala, football with a 'homemade ball', or try your luck at Climate Change snakes and ladders?

#ShowYourStripes

YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS

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

Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.
Joanne Parker

