



Newsletter 1 - Friday 4th September, 2026

Dear Cragside families,

It has been so lovely to welcome everyone back to Cragside this week and to see the school busy and full of children again.

A particularly warm welcome goes to all of the new children and families who have joined our Cragside family this term. Our youngest children in Nursery and Reception are settling in beautifully, getting to know their new teachers and friends and becoming familiar with all of the routines that make up their school day. We have also welcomed a number of new children into classes across school, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly they are beginning to feel part of Cragside.

There is always lots to remember at the beginning of a new school year – new classrooms, new teachers, new routines and, for some, lots of new faces! I have been really proud of how well the children have settled back into school life and how they are already showing us that they understand what it means to Be Ready, Be Safe and Be Respectful.

Thank you, as always, to our families for your support in helping us to have such a positive start to the new school year. There is lots to look forward to over the coming weeks and months, and I am excited to see what the year ahead brings for our children.

Attendance Matters – A message from Mrs Bilton

I am delighted that we have made a great start with our attendance, strong attendance from day one builds the foundation for your child's success, confidence, and happiness this school year. When children start the term with regular attendance, they quickly settle into routines, catch up with friends, and feel excited about learning. Every single school day counts, and building this habit early sets them up for a fantastic year ahead. Let's work together to make this year their best one yet!

Whole School Attendance is 97.01%

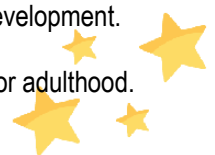
This is our class breakdown for attendance.

RLC 100%	RNH 100%	1LT 98.55%	1KB 94.7%
2RC 92.31%	2JF 97.22%	3DF 93.94%	3CG 96.67%
4UC 95.24%	4SG 100%	5KR 100%	5JD 96%
	6ER 96.55%	6JB 96.55%	

I'm looking forward to seeing lots more classes achieve 100% attendance this year. There's a special postcard for the classroom to show off this amazing achievement when they do.

Just to remind you, the Department for Education states- School attendance is vital because it directly links to academic attainment; near-perfect attendance makes pupils significantly more likely to achieve strong results in core subjects like English and maths. Beyond academics, school provides essential opportunities for social and emotional development.

Regular attendance is key to developing social skills, building positive relationships, and preparing pupils for adulthood.





Healthy Snacks and Drinks

Thank you to all of those families who have supported us this week by sending your child to school with a healthy snack. We have seen much fewer children arriving at school with sweets, crisps and chocolate for their snack and lots of children enjoying fruit and other healthier snacks.

A reminder that children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with fruit, so families do not need to send an additional snack for these children – these children simply need to bring their water bottle to school.

Dates for your Diary

As we begin another busy term at Cragside, there is already lots to look forward to! Please take a moment to make a note of the key dates for the term ahead. We will continue to share reminders and further information about individual events as they get closer, and any additional dates will be added to future newsletters, which for our new families, are circulated fortnightly.

Saturday 12 th September	Northumberland County Council Online Admissions portal opens for Year 6 parents/carers to complete Secondary school applications
Wednesday 23 rd September-Friday 25 th September	Year 6 Residential visit to Robinwood
Thursday 24 th September	Vision Screening for Reception children
Friday 2 nd October	2.00-3.00pm – Reception Meeting with families
Wednesday 7 th October	Nursery Stay and Play sessions – further information to follow
Wednesday 7 th October	3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings in school
Thursday 8 th October	Harvest Festival Church Services at St Nicholas' Church 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11am Year 1 & Year 2 2pm Year 3 & Year 4
Wednesday 14 th October	3.30-6.00pm Parent consultation meetings in school
Thursday 22 nd October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children
Friday 23 rd October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children and half term begins
Saturday 31 st October	Online Admissions portal for secondary school applications closes
Sunday 1 st November	Northumberland County Council Online Admissions portal opens for September 2027 Reception intake – please note that parents/carers of children in Nursery need to complete this for a place in our Reception class
Monday 2 nd November	Children return to school following Autumn half term
Monday 7 th December	9.00 am Nursery Christmas songs and family crafts
Monday 7 th December	2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 8 th December	9.15am Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 8 th December	2.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 9 th December	9.15am Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 9 th December	2.00pm Reception Nativity
Thursday 10 th December	9.15am Reception Nativity
Thursday 10 th December	2.00pm Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Friday 11 th December	9.15am Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Monday 14 th December	Am - Nursery and Reception Christmas Party
Wednesday 16 th December	Am - Whole School Pantomime gifted by the PTFA 1.30pm Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Church Services at St Nicholas' Church 9.30am Year 5 & Year 6 11am Year 1 & Year 2



	2pm Year 3 & Year 4
	1.30pm Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party
Friday 18 th December	1.30pm Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party End of Autumn term – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 4 th January 2027	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 5 th January 2027	Start of Spring term – children return to school

Have a lovely weekend.
Joanne Parker

