Newsletter 4 - Friday 16th October, 2026

Dear Cragside families,

It has been lovely to see so many of our families at school events over the past couple of weeks. These opportunities to come together are such a special part of life at Cragside. Our Harvest services last Thursday were truly joyful, and it was wonderful to see the church so full of families and friends celebrating alongside our children. Thank you for the kind donations sent into school to support families within our Cramlington community. Your generosity will make a real difference to others.

We also enjoyed welcoming families of our youngest children into Nursery last week to share in their learning and play. It was lovely to see the children exploring the setting with you and enjoying the different areas and opportunities our Nursery offers.

Thank you, too, to everyone who has been able to meet with their child's class teacher over the past fortnight. I hope you enjoyed spending time in your child's classroom, hearing how they are settling into their new class and discussing their progress. If you have not been able to meet with your child's class teacher yet, please contact the school office and we will find a mutually convenient time to meet.

European Day of Languages – A message from Mrs Dowson

On Friday 25th September our pupils took part in a special assembly where we learned about European Day of Languages celebrations and thought about the importance of language learning and linguistic and cultural diversity, not just in Europe but throughout the whole world! We thought about how language learning can improve our understanding of our own language and about what benefits being able to speak another language can bring. We also celebrated the fact that in our school we have some children who speak another language at home with their families - very impressive! Year 5 also recited our school prayer in French for the whole school to enjoy.
On Monday 28th September many pupils took part in a competition where they were given their own Cragside Passport. Throughout the day they filled in ways of saying 'hello' in different languages, they designed their own T-shirts for European Day of Languages and some pupils took part in lunchtime activities such as a quiz, matching the food dishes to the country, finding the correct flags or finding where the European countries are on a map.
Mrs Dowson would like to say a big 'thank you' (or 'merci' or 'gracias' or 'grazie' or 'danke'!) to all pupils who showed such enthusiasm, and to her Year 5 helpers who helped to make the lunchtime activities so engaging!

Primary Science Quality Mark
We are delighted to share that Cragside has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark, joining 227 schools recognised for their commitment to developing excellent science education. This nationally recognised award follows a year-long programme of reflection and development, celebrating our work to further strengthen science teaching and inspire children's curiosity about the world around them. A huge thank you to Mr Flynnwood for leading this work and to the wider staff team for their ongoing support of this, and to our children for the enthusiasm and inquisitiveness they bring to their learning. We are very proud of this achievement!

PSQM
Primary Science Quality Mark
PSQM Gilt
Valid 2026 – 2029

Attendance Matters- A message from Mrs Bilton

Why does good attendance matter?
The Department for Education (DfE) states 'School attendance is important for equipping your child with skills for life' and that 'Every day at school counts' because even a few days of missed school can significantly impact a child's education and future. Good attendance is linked to social and mental wellbeing, academic success, and helping a child achieve their full potential.

Postcards
I'm delighted to be writing so many postcards home at the moment. Postcards to children with 100% attendance will be landing on lots of doorsteps during the half term holiday. This is such an amazing achievement, and something to really try to keep up for the whole school year. In fact, last year, 21 of our children received a special award for 100% attendance for the whole school year. With some families showing that great attendance runs in the family!

Whole School and Class Attendance
Our whole school attendance is currently 97%. That keeps us above the national average attendance of 95.68%, and in the top 20-30% of schools nationally. Well done Cragside families!

Class attendance this week-

RLC 96.67%	R NH 99.27%	1LT 95.22%	1KB 98.26%
2RC 96.15%	2JF 94.17%	3DF 100%	3CG 96%
4SG 99.26%	4UC 99.29%	5KR 98.8%	5JD 90%
6ER 96%	6JB 97.86%		

Well done 3DF, that's a 100% postcard for your classroom door!

Attendance workshops
Michelle Clapperton, one of our Education Welfare Officers, has been in school over the last two weeks delivering workshops to each of our Key Stage 2 classes. She has talked to the children about the importance of good attendance. The children have responded very well to these workshops, and as usual, have been a credit to us as shining examples when listening and talking about the importance of good attendance.

Supporting Good Attendance
Mrs Gillooly and I have been working with teachers to develop reward systems to encourage good attendance. If you hear your child say I 'Mustn't Miss a Monday' or, 'I Mustn't Miss a Day', that's because we are working on encouraging brilliant attendance for the full week, starting with an amazing Monday! We've also been working with some of our Upper Key Stage 2 girls to reward their great attendance. These reward charts give children lots of incentives to be in school every day. The children are so keen to fill their reward charts and have amazing attendance. Thank you for your support to encourage this

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Community Engagement Event – An invitation from Northumbria Police

Families are invited to a community engagement event at Alexandra Park, Cramlington, on Friday 23rd October from 4pm**.** This is an opportunity to meet local teams, including the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, Cramlington Town Council, Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project and Air Cadets. Come along to discuss anti-social behaviour, fire safety and other local issues, ask questions and have your voice heard. Everyone is welcome! Please see the attached poster for further details.

School Open Days

If you have a child who will be joining Reception in September 2027, a reminder that we would love to welcome you to Cragside to meet our team, explore our school and see school life in action. Visits will take place on Monday 19th October, Wednesday 4th November and Tuesday 10th November, with sessions at 9.30am or 4.30pm on each date. To register for a visit, please contact the school office on 01670 714200 or email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk. We look forward to meeting you and sharing what makes our Cragside family so special! We also have some 15 hour and 30 hour spaces available in our Nursery provision. Children are able to join our Nursery from their 3rd birthday.

Dates for your Diary

Please take a moment to make a note of the key dates for the term ahead. Additional dates which have been added to the diary are shown in yellow.

Monday 19th October	9.30am Open morning and afternoon (4.30pm) for families who have children joining Reception in September 2027
Thursday 22nd October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children
Friday 23rd October	Teacher Training Day-school closed to children and half term begins
Saturday 31st October	Online Admissions portal for secondary school applications closes
Sunday 1st 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 2nd November	Children return to school following Autumn half term
Wednesday 4th November	9.30am Open morning and afternoon (4.30pm) for families who have children joining Reception in September 2027
Tuesday 10th November	9.30am Open morning and afternoon (4.30pm) for families who have children joining Reception in September 2027
Thursday 12th November	9.00am-10.00am Year 1 Phonics Curriculum Morning for families
Thursday 3rd December	Flu Immunisations in school (Rec-Year 6)
Friday 4th December	Christmas lunch and wear something Christmassy day (for example a Christmas jumper or accessory)
Monday 7th December	9.00 am Nursery Christmas songs and family crafts
Monday 7th December	2.00pm Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 8th December	9.15am Year 3 & Year 4 Nativity
Tuesday 8th December	2.00pm Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 9th December	9.15am Year 5 & Year 6 Nativity
Wednesday 9th December	2.00pm Reception Nativity
Thursday 10th December	9.15am Reception Nativity

Thursday 10th December	2.00pm Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Friday 11th December	9.15am Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity
Monday 14th December	Am - Nursery and Reception Christmas Party
Wednesday 16th December	Am - Whole School Pantomime - gifted by the PTFA 1.30pm Year 3 & Year 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th 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 18h December	1.30pm Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party End of Autumn term – school closes at 3.15pm
Monday 4th January 2027	Teacher Training Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 5th January 2027	Start of Spring term – children return to school

Have a lovely weekend.
Joanne Parker