



Cragside Church of England Primary School

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School Motto:
**“Let Your Light
Shine”**

Headteacher: Mr Paul W Rusby
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Joanne Parker
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Bilton



nace
National Association for
Able Children in Education



Challenge Award

FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROVISION FOR
ABLE, GIFTED & TALENTED PUPILS
JANUARY 2016



Dear Parent/Carer,

Newsletter 1: 8th September 2017

Welcome back to the start of this new school year. I do hope that you have had a wonderful summer. A special welcome to all our new Reception parents and carers, we look forward to working closely with you to help your children shine during their time at Cragside. We also welcome the 10 new pupils, and their families, who have moved into different year groups throughout our school—we are delighted that you have joined our school and look forward to seeing them flourish throughout this year.

One of the real joys of my job is being outside in the morning, after school and at lunchtimes and being in classrooms throughout each day. It is wonderful to see the children looking so smart in their uniform. I have been extremely impressed by the politeness, and the calm, hardworking atmospheres that have been so evident throughout the school. We are blessed with such wonderful children well done to them all for making such a positive start to this new school year.

Well done to all our past pupils on the excellent GCSE and A level grades which I have heard about. We wish all our past pupils all the very best in their future studies at school, college, university and in the world of work. It has been lovely to hear such positive feedback about the excellent start that our 2017 Year 6 leavers have made at Cramlington Learning Village this week. We look forward to hearing about all their achievements during the next few years!

Welcome

At the start of this new school year we welcome some new staff into the Cragside team. They are:

Mrs Cowie who is teaching in Year 5; Mr Harries-Wood who is teaching in Year 4 and Mrs Pemberton who is teaching in Reception Mrs Irving who is working in our KS1 team and Miss Bowman who is working in our Reception team.

We look forward to all that they will bring to our wonderful school.

A Welcome Message from Mrs Cowie

It has been a pleasure to meet class 5HC and I am extremely excited about this coming year. It is also a big change for me as prior to Cragside Church of England Primary; I worked in Key Stage 1 and taught in schools in Vietnam for 6 years. I have a particular interest in dance and drama so I hope to get more children enjoying the performing arts. I would love to have a chat with you all so please come and introduce yourself. I promise I won't make you do dance and drama 😊 Thank you for making me feel very welcome at Cragside.

A Welcome Message from Mrs Pemberton

Hello, I am Mrs Pemberton. I spent a lot of time at Cragside last year and I'm thrilled to be joining the Reception team here at Cragside. We have had a lovely first week in Explorers this week. When I'm not at school, I like spending time with my family and taking our dog for walks. I also enjoy reading, baking and keeping up with my German and French language skills. I am really looking forward to working with the children and being part of the team here at Cragside. Please come and say hello if you see me in school.

A Welcome Message from Mr Harries-Wood

My name is Mr Harries-Wood and I am the new teacher in 4JH. I have worked with many of your children before over the last few years. My Grandmother is deaf and I regularly attend the Cramlington Deaf club. If your children have gone home signing then that was probably me. I am from Derby and moved up here several years ago to study at Newcastle University. I love art and all things creative, if you see someone pottering around in the school vegetable garden it might well be me. As a child I use to love playing chess and I believe it is a great game for developing strategic thinking and planning skills. I am planning on starting a school chess club next half term for children in KS2. Hopefully, in the winter term, I would also like to run a debating club for children. If you see me, please come and say hello, I really want to get to know everybody and become part of the school community.

Summer Holiday Works

During the summer holidays we have added some new outdoor play equipment into the larger playground. Year after year we have added new equipment for the children to enjoy and look forward to adding to this even further over the next few years. It is lovely to see the way that the children enjoy all the outdoor play equipment at break and lunchtimes. I am grateful to the children for all their suggestions about new equipment and ideas to make our school even better.

Newsletters, Texts, Calendar and Twitter

Each Friday we will send out a newsletter. The vast majority of our parents have asked to receive this via email. We have a list of parents who have asked to receive a paper copy of the newsletter and will continue to send this out during this year. I have added a reply slip to the bottom of this newsletter for any new parents who would prefer to receive the newsletter in a paper form.

In addition to our newsletters we use a text messaging service and a private Twitter account to send messages and celebrate achievements. Our Reception classes also use a program called Tapestry to share the learning of our youngest children. Please would it be possible to let the office know if you change your email address or mobile telephone number so we can ensure we have the correct contact details to ensure you receive texts and newsletters. Information about how to register with Twitter is included in this newsletter and information about how to access Tapestry will be shared at the Reception information afternoon on Wednesday 20th September at 1.30pm

Our school website can be accessed at www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk We aim to update the website with information throughout the year including areas such as school dinner menus and the calendar of events section. The Google calendar which can be accessed on the school website can be downloaded onto a tablet or smartphone. We are in the process of updating the parent section of our Google calendar so you have a list of many of the key dates for the whole school year. We will send an overview of this out during next week.

Start and End of the School Day

Thank you for your help with the start and end of the school day. A reminder for our new parents that the school doors open each morning at 8.40am for children to come into school and start their morning maths activities whilst the register is being taken. If the doors are closed (i.e. after 8.50am) please would you bring your child to the main school Office to be signed into school. The external gate on the school yard, Reception gates and the garden gates are all locked just after 8.50am so the site is secure through the day. To help with safety, please would it be possible to mention at the start of the year:

- Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds.
- Parking restrictions are in place in the streets closest to the school. On Westloch Road this is between 8.30am-9.30am and 2.45pm-3.45pm. Other streets such as Gainsborough Place are designated residents only streets. The whole estate is a 20mph zone.
- The whole site, including near the school gates, is a non-smoking area (this includes e-cigarettes).
- Mobile phones should not be used to photograph or record in the school grounds.
- Children should dismount from scooters and bicycles before coming into the school grounds.
- If children play on the play equipment at the start and end of the day, please would parents supervise them to check they are safe.

Thank you so much for all your help in ensuring the children are safe at the start and end of the school day.

Family Worship

Each year group will lead whole school worship during the Autumn and Spring terms. These take place on a Thursday and aim to start close to 9am. Families are very welcome to attend these. In the Summer term we celebrate the individual achievements of each child with a special end of year celebration service where we hand our special certificates. In addition to this there are three services a year at church which, again, families are very welcome to attend. All the dates for the family worship will be sent home next week and are available on the school website in the Google calendar section.

Weekend House point Challenge

Each week we set a completely voluntary 'housepoint challenge' for children and families to do at home. Children who send in a picture of this are awarded two housepoints. Thank you for the pictures summer holiday challenge pictures. These included:

- As part of our 'extreme reading challenge', Alex Irving (4ER) took a break, to do some reading, whilst climbing the 936 steps to the top of the Olympic Ski jump in Lillehammer, Norway
- As part of our healthy activities challenge, Alex Irving (4ER), Will Irving (Explorers) and Ryan Johnson (3RC) climbed 4 miles up and around Simonside-with lots of encouragement from parents!
- As part of our extreme summer reading challenge, Brogan Cairns (2JP) has completed the Animal Agents Summer Reading Challenge with Cramlington
- As part of the holiday extreme reading challenge, Grayson Rogers (2JP) sent in pictures of his reading antics during his summer holiday back in California where he lived for many years.
- As part of our kindness and extreme reading challenge, Alex Furness (5HC) and Isla Furness (1SG) did some extreme reading on the bus and visited their friend in hospital, taking in lots of treats to cheer him up

Reception News-A Message from Miss Westgarth

A super start for all our Reception children in their first week of school. They have been busy baking chocolate crispy cakes, painting versions of their faces and have enjoyed counting. They have all made super relationships with friends and adults. Staff have been very impressed with their maturity and enthusiasm.

Letters have gone home in bags to invite parents to the EYFS Early Reading, Writing and Number meeting. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th of September- 1.30pm**. The meeting will be highly valuable when supporting your child with their learning. Please do your upmost to attend. If you cannot attend personally, please try to send a representative i.e. a grandparent, child minder or relative who can sign agreements and receive important information such as passwords and login details. Thank you.

You have all been fantastic so far Reception children and all our staff are really proud of you. We are very pleased to have you as new members of Craggside School!

Key Stage One News-A Message from Mrs Urwin

What a fantastic start to the new school year! We are delighted with how well the children in Key Stage One have settled into their new classes, showing their eagerness to learn!

In Year 1 the children have enjoyed exploring their new classroom environments. In Maths they have been counting forwards and backwards from a given number and have impressed us with their careful counting of shells, play dinosaurs, conkers and pompoms. In English we have enjoyed reading the story Class Two At The Zoo. The children have thought and written about their favourite zoo animals, describing what they look like and what they do. We also went on a word hunt to search for words with the oo sound. In Art we have explored colours and pattern to create some fabulous snail paintings, which followed some research about them. Did you know that a snail produces slime to protect its body from the ground as it slides and that the sun can dry the slime up? We also enjoyed shaping snails from play dough, using a marble as its shell. We can't wait for all of the fun learning ahead of us, especially finding out about famous scientists and inventors!

This week in English, the children in Year 2 have enjoyed using adjectives to describe a very bizarre washing machine! They created some wonderful descriptions and used some very adventurous vocabulary. In Maths this week we have been dusting off any cobwebs we had and working on adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers. The children worked so well and have some fabulous, neat work in their new Maths books. We also began our new topic The Great Fire of London this week. The children are very excited to learn more and are looking forward to some real historians from Durham University visiting to tell us more later in the half term.

News from Lower Key Stage 2-A Message from Mrs Cant

The children in Lower Key Stage Two have made a great start to the term. It was great to see all the children arrive full of enthusiasm and ready to start learning on Tuesday morning.

Year three have enjoyed beginning their work on Tutankhamun. They're all ready to help the Ancient Crime Squad solve the mystery of what happened to him. They have also started their topic on Movement and Feeding in Science. They enjoyed looking at food labels and thinking about healthy diets.

Year four have been making an impressive friendship tree which is going to be filled with their good deeds throughout the year. They have also started learning about Dangers to Living Things in Science. This week they enjoyed playing games about food chains. Well done all of Lower Key Stage Two for a great start.

News from Upper Key Stage 2-A Message from Mrs Bilton

Upper Key Stage 2 children have made the most wonderful start to the year! Mr Beck, Mrs Cowie, Mrs Bilton and Mr Davison have been so impressed with the children's behaviour and attitude in all lessons.

In Year 5 the children have thrown themselves into the time of Anglo Saxons this week: designing Anglo Saxon Art and maps of the kingdoms from that time. They have already shown they can work collaboratively to plan a creative story and are looking forward to writing in their Wow books. In science Year 5 have proved they understand the force of gravity and shown this by fantastic scientific diagrams. What a great start!

In Year 6 English lessons, the children have used their Reciprocal Reading roles very well when reading the Eye of the Wolf by Daniel Pennac. Why not ask your child to talk to you about these Reading Detective roles when they are reading with you at home, they'll be very excited to show off! Year 6 have also worked hard with 6 and 7-digit numbers and mastered multiplying integers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. There's also been time to start our Raging Rivers and Living Things topics. Well done Year 6, you've certainly made a hard working start to the year!

School Direct Trainee-A Message from Mrs Bilton

We are delighted to welcome Mr Jay Fawcett to the Year 6 team. Mr Fawcett has a degree in English and a Masters in English Literature so will certainly bring even more of a love of reading to our school. Mr Fawcett will spend most of this academic year working with Mrs Bilton in 6CB as part of the School Direct training for primary teachers. The children are already thrilled that he is working in our school and are certainly looking forward to him teaching in Year 6 and joining us on our Robinwood visit.

Safety Week-A Message from Mrs Parker

Every Autumn term, we hold a Safety week in school which helps to inform and remind our children about the different ways in which they can help themselves to stay safe, people who can help them stay safe and how to stay safe in different situations. In previous years, we have enjoyed visits from the RNLI, enjoyed practicing CPR on a dummy and have had the chance to explore a Fire Engine!

As the children in school always love to welcome visitors into school and hear about different jobs and experiences, we would be interested to hear from any parents, family members or friends of families who would like to share with groups of children how they help others to stay safe in their jobs, in the community or on-line. Perhaps you or someone you know has experience of First Aid, works on public transport, in an office or volunteers with charity work which helps others to stay safe. If you would like to come into school and share your experiences with our children, our Safety Week will begin on **Monday 25th September**, please could you contact Mrs Parker on 01670 714200 or email the school office using the admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk address.

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done for all of the wonderful reading that happened during the holidays. I've been delighted to receive lots of 'extreme reading' photos and records of amazing summer reading. As usual, we will celebrate our holiday reading on the Friday after each of the holidays with a special celebration assembly. In this assembly, we will award a High Flying Holiday Reading Challenge Balloon to the child who has impressed their teacher with lots of holiday reading. Well done to the first High Flying Reading winners:

1SG Thomas Irvine	1LU Sara Grzegorzak	2EA Alfie Carr	2JP Brogan Cairns	3RC Bailey Hogg	3AD Sophie Simpson
4JHW Shona Ellis	4ER Rachel Black	5HC Benji Sutton	5JB Lily Hall	6CB Jack Radcliffe	6RD Layla Chalder

Our overall winner is Grayson Rogers (2JP) who read an incredible amount of David Walliams books during his holidays.

After the October half-term holiday, we will include reception children in our 'Holiday Reading Challenge'. So make sure you keeeeeeep reading! We have also had a new delivery of books for Reading Challenge so please remember to sign your child's planner when they read and he/she will be one step closer to completing the challenge and earning a book mark and then a book. Keeeeeeep reading!

Robinwood-A Message from Mrs Bilton

On **Wednesday the 13th of September at 6pm**, we will hold a final Robinwood information evening. This will be a short meeting for parents and carers to answer any questions about our exciting visit to Robinwood Residential Centre. If you are unable to attend the meeting please don't worry as I'm available on the Year 5 and 6 door at the beginning and end of each day to answer any questions.

General School Information-A Message from the Office Team

A reminder that pupils from Reception to Y2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. For pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, school lunches cost £11.50 per week. Please would it be possible to pay this on a Monday, payment can be made online or via the school office. If you require a password to pay online please contact the school office and they will happily help you with this.

A leaflet is available from the school office for information on the Out of School Club. This runs before and after school to try and support families where after school care is needed. Information about payments and times can be accessed from the main school office or information is also available on the school website.

If your child is going to be absent from school please contact the school office each morning before 9.30am. An answer phone is available for any messages that need to be left before 8.30am. If you need a leave of absence form for your child, please would you collect one from the school office. School is unable to authorise any term time holiday requests.

All information including holidays, school clubs, menus and newsletters can be found on the school website www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk.

The Great North Run

Best wishes to all the parents and children who are running in the Junior Great North Run on Saturday and the Great North Run on Sunday. Best wishes to staff from Cragside who are running on Sunday-we will be cheering on Mrs Cant, Mrs Urwin, Mr Davidson and Mrs Taylor!

Class Photographs

Class photographs will be taken on **Tuesday 12th September**. Thank you for your help in ensuring children look really smart for the class photograph. Children will have the picture taken in their full school uniform although they will not wear their shoes as they stand on a special white backdrop to help create the picture. The pictures will be available for families to purchase and will be displayed in our main entrance throughout the year. Individual and family photographs will be taken later on this term. Individual and family photographs will take place on Tuesday 14th November 2017.

Twitter

As many of you will be aware, we have a private Twitter account on which we share pictures and information about school. This is accessible to parents and carers or current pupils. A sheet explaining how to access our Twitter pages is attached to this newsletter. Our address is **@cragsideprimary**. If you do not yet follow us, please log in to Twitter and follow us so you can see some of the day to day work and celebrations that happen at Cragside.



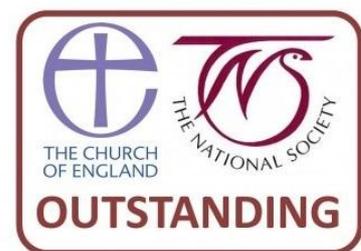
International School Award

In the summer holidays we received notification that our school has been awarded the full international school award. This is fantastic news and celebrates all the 'international' work that we do. I am very grateful to Mrs Pringle for all she does in co-ordinating the international work that goes on in school and to all who helped us achieve this prestigious award. Excellent news at the start of the new year!



SIAMS Inspection

At the end of the summer term, our school had its SIAMS inspection. This is the Church of England's inspection as we are a church school and is very similar to the structure of an Ofsted inspection. I have attached a copy of the final inspection report to this newsletter. I am delighted that our school was judged to be outstanding in all areas of the inspection report. This is a fantastic achievement as only a very small number of schools nationally achieve 'outstanding' in all areas. I would like to thank the staff, parents and carers, members of our local church who visit our school, our governors and of course our wonderful, wonderful children for all the hard work that went into this excellent inspection report.



Diary Dates and Learning Websites

Next week we will send out an overview of diary dates for the whole school year and also reminder information about how to log onto the many different subscription websites that the school buys each year to help children with their learning.

Pearl of Africa Choir, Drum and Dance Group UK Tour 2017

On **Tuesday 26th September**, we are very fortunate to have the Pearl of Africa choir from Uganda visiting our school as part of their tour of England which will see them perform in many towns and cities in Northumberland and as far south as Cornwall. This is their annual tour of the UK which supports their work to support orphaned children in Uganda. The choir will spend time in each class during the day. The choir will bring some handmade jewellery and models to sell. If you would like your child to purchase something through the day, please would you send any monies in a small named envelope. Most items cost between £2 and £5 but there is absolutely no obligation at all to buy anything. A larger 'market' of handmade items will be available to purchase in the interval during the evening concert.



The choir will perform a concert of dance, drumming and singing in the evening from **6.30pm** (due to finish at 8.00pm). **Tickets** are free and are now available to collect from our main Reception (01670 714200). Alternatively, we can email tickets if you email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk. Please would you let neighbours and friends know so they have the opportunity to attend what I know will be a very uplifting evening. More information about the choir can be found at: www.pearlofafrica.org.uk. We hope you are able to join us.

Weekend House Point Challenge

All children are invited to take part each weekend in our Housepoint Challenges. These are fun opportunities to learn together at home. Please send in photographs and information to our school admin email address: admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk or to our Twitter page.

Our weekend challenge this week is inspired by the Great North Run and that it is the anniversary of Roald Dahl's birthday next Tuesday. Please send in pictures of your child:

- Taking part in the Junior Great North Run or supporting a family member on the Great North Run
- Creating a picture or 3D art of their favourite Roald Dahl character
- Baking and decorating a cup cake or biscuit with one of the characters or scenes from a Roald Dahl book.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend. Well done to all our children for such a wonderful start to the new year at Cragside.

Yours sincerely

Paul Rusby
Headteacher

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Newsletters

We have sent home a paper copy of the newsletter this week as it is the first week of term. From next week we will continue our normal practice of emailing out the newsletter and sending a paper copy to those parents who would like to receive a paper copy. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the school newsletter, please would you complete the slip below.

Name of Child _____ Class _____

I would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter _____ (signed parent/carer)