



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



Dear Parent/Carer,

Newsletter 13: 7th December 2018

Weekend Challenge

Thank you for the photographs that have been sent in as part of our 'Advent weekend challenge'. These included:

- As part of our Christmas baking challenge, Jake M (Year 5) made some delicious sweet mince pies
- As part of our decorations challenge, Matthew R (Reception-Explorers) made some glittering Christmas decorations with grandma this weekend
- As part of our ongoing healthy living challenge, we say congratulations to Molly A (Year 6) who achieved a certificate from Northumberland Archery Association for scoring a new county archery record in the 'junior ladies short Windsor' category.

Messy Church-A Message from St Nicholas' Church



All our families are invited to Messy Church which is held at St Nicholas' Church on **Saturday 8th December** starting at 10:30am and finishing at 12noon. The session will look at Bible baddies and goodies and the ultimate "goody," Jesus. Messy Church will have a Christmas theme and lots of exciting activities for children and parents/carers to take part in. If you haven't been before, it is a really relaxed and welcoming group who would love to see you on Saturday 8th December at 10:30am.

Christmas Music, Dance and Drama Concert-Tuesday 11th December at 6pm

Any parents of children in Sing up Club, Dance club with Molly, Mrs Cowie or Miss Harris' Drama and Dance club, or any child who plays either a drum, ukulele or violin, please make sure your child attends our Christmas Arts Concert on Tuesday the 11th of December at 5.45pm to begin at 6pm.



Please make sure your child is wearing either a full school uniform, full PE kit or are wearing the costume required for dance and drama. Please can children bring their own instrument if needed too, thank you. We really look forward to seeing lots of friends and family attending the evening. All the children are really looking forward to performing for you.

Year 6 Choir Performance at St Nicholas' Church Christmas Tree Festival



Well done to all the children who performed at St Nicholas' Church last week at their Christmas Tree Festival. We received a lovely card of thanks from Mrs Stewart from the church who said: "The children were very well behaved and entertained everyone by singing...their singing was beautiful and inspirational". Well done to our choir!

Christmas Cards

Thank you for all the Christmas cards that have been posted this week and to our wonderful postmen and postwomen! These can either be handed out in class or placed in our school post box which is in our front entrance near the Christmas tree. If cards are put in our school post box, please would it be possible to check that the name and class of the recipient are on the envelope so that we can ensure the card is delivered to the correct person.



Recycling-A Message from Mr Flynnwood and Miss Rennison



Calling all Eco warriors! As this special time of year is progressing, we would like to take the opportunity to make sure that all the lovely messages that we each write to one another in cards do not end up in landfill once the holidays have passed. When we return to school in January 2019 we will be running a recycling scheme for Christmas cards as the first of a number of recycling events in the New Year which will include crisp packets, batteries, stamps and old mobile phones. We are looking to really do our bit for the environment in 2019! Thank you and God bless.

SUPERCLASS

Congratulations to 6ER who earned superclass this week and voted for a film and snacks.

Christmas Dinner –Friday 14th December 2018



A reminder that this year's Christmas dinner will be next Friday (Friday 14th December). The menu is:

- Roast turkey, Roast potatoes, Creamed potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Chipolata sausages (vegetarian option is also available)
- Christmas tree biscuit OR snowman ice cream OR Christmas pudding with whipped cream
- Choice of orange or apple juice.

The Cost is £2.30 paid either by cash/cheque in a named envelope or online at www.schoolmoney.co.uk.

Christmas Jumper/Elf Day –Friday 14th December 2018

A reminder that we will be celebrating 'Elf Day' on Friday 14th December to raise money for Alzheimer's Society. On this day the children can bring a donation to come to school dressed as an elf, in a Christmas outfit, wearing a Christmas jumper or hat or just in non-uniform. The children will have their Christmas dinner on this day and take part in some Christmas activities.



Attendance

Congratulations to our classes with the highest attendance last week. These were:

In Early Years- Miss Westgarth's Discoverers Class- with a fantastic 100%

In Key Stage 1- Miss Grice's Class with 97%

In Key Stage 2- Miss McVicar's Class and Mrs Cowie's Class, both with 97%

Carol Singing

Our singers are very much looking forward to performing at Procter and Gamble this afternoon. We are very grateful to Mrs Collins for her kind invitation for the children to sing at Procter and Gamble's charity afternoon today. I am sure that the children will bring some joy with their beautiful singing.



Reception News

Both Reception classes have worked so hard this week on the Receptions Nativity and loved performing their dress rehearsal for the rest of the school. Everyone agreed their singing, dancing and readings are great and loved their costumes on the stage. If you haven't managed to attend today's performance, please make sure you come along to our next performance on Monday the 10th of December at 9.15am in the main hall. A nativity photo from our performance will be published in the News Post Leader either this weekend or next, so please look out for this!



Christmas came to the Early Years this week and the children have loved spending time in the Christmas workshop writing Christmas and nice lists for Santa and our Naughty elf! The Reception children continue to work hard on their writing and reading. The children are now a third of the way through their school year. Please keep making sure they read school reading books at least four times weekly and always complete writing homework which is handed in on a Tuesday.

Receptions dates for diaries are Monday the 17th Reception's Christmas Party and Tuesday the 18th of December is our visit to St Nicholas's Church for our Christingle Service. Reception staff will inform Reception parents of any requests via text after our Christmas Nativity performances are complete.

Key Stage One News



This week in Year 1 we have continued our work on Harvey Slumfenberger in English. We described how Father Christmas looks using lots of interesting adjectives and made our own 'stair poems' using words related to Christmas. In Maths we have been concentrating on the numbers 11-20 this week. We can find them on a 100 square, give one more and one less, use the greater than and less signs to compare them and identify how many tens and ones are in these numbers! In RE we looked at the events which led up to baby Jesus being born and in Science we finished off our brilliant penguin challenge. We've been practising for the KS1 Christmas performance next week - we can't wait to see you there on Monday at 2pm and Tuesday at 9.15am! A reminder that the KS1 Christmas party is on Thursday 13th December. Please could any further donations for party plates be handed in as soon as possible. Thank you!

Year 2 have had a very exciting week preparing for our Christmas performances on Monday and Tuesday. The children have been amazing in their practice and look wonderful in their costumes. In English this week the children have been using adjectives and expanded noun phrases to describe settings and characters. They have been using some very challenging vocabulary to describe things they feel, see, hear, smell and taste. The children thought hard about which adjectives are used to describe how a character acts and feels and which adjectives best describe their appearance. We used some inspiring pictures to write about different settings and used a wide range of exciting words to describe them.

In Maths we have looked more at dividing numbers in the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. The children have practised separating numbers into equal groups using circles and dots then counting how many dots are in each circle to find the answer. The children have also made times tables posters to show off their knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We were very lucky this Thursday to be visited by a tutor from Swire Chinese Language Centre Newcastle called Ms Chang. The children were taught Tai Chi, the story and the animals of the Chinese Zodiac and even how to use chop sticks. The children had a great time as you may have seen on twitter and learned a lot from Ms Chang. We are very grateful to Ms Chang for coming in to share her exciting lessons.

News from Lower Key Stage 2

Lower Key Stage 2 have been rehearsing our Christmas play this week. Tickets for our performances and costume information have been sent home. Thanks for all the costumes which have been sent in so far. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.



This week, Year 3 have been learning about poetry. We read a range of poems by Roger McGough and analysed the language. In Maths we have continued to learn our times tables the children rehearsed multiplying and dividing by 3, 4 and 8. In Science the children have been finding out about Mary Anning. They researched her life and they wrote her biography. In topic the children have continued to find out about volcanoes and considered the pros and cons of living near to one.

Year 4 have reflected on their literacy books and have written fabulous book reviews. In Maths, the children have enjoyed working with shapes and finding the perimeter of missing lengths. Year 4, continue this week to spend some time speaking French with Mrs Cowie and African drumming with Mr Flynnwood. At the forefront of the week has been sessions on conflict and working on strategies to overcome them. Valuable life lessons for all.

The Year 3 and 4 Christmas party will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 19th December in the hall. The children will play a range of games, take part in a disco and have a small party plate of snacks. Please would all children bring their party clothes to school in a named bag on the morning of the 19th. Thank you very much for all the donations that have been sent in towards the Christmas party. A reminder that instead of bringing in food, we are asking each child to bring a small donation (suggested donation of £1) which will be used to buy food. Please can this money be sent to school by Wednesday 12th December to give us enough time to buy food.

News from Upper Key Stage 2

What an exciting and busy week it's been for Year 5 and 6 this week. We've spent lots of time rehearsing for our Christmas performance and designing and making props. Every child who wanted a speaking part has been given one, and they've certainly proved themselves worthy by learning their lines so quickly and with lots of character! We're very grateful for all the help you've given us with our costumes which look great. Beyond rehearsals, Year 6 have started reading *The Night I Met Father Christmas* by Ben Miller. This is such a beautiful novel which has really hooked the children and given lots of opportunities to develop our reading comprehension. We've also revised use of prepositions and worked on spellings with unstressed letters. In science, we have continued to learn about great scientists. This week we focused on Edward Jenner and the work he did to develop vaccinations.



Year 5 have continued to read Orange's In No Man's Land in our English lessons. We have planned and written a newspaper report based on one of the key events from the book and revised the use of direct and report speech. In our Maths lessons, we have been revising the written method of division for 3 and 4 digit numbers. The children have also sat their end of unit assessment papers in Maths and showed great resilience and determination when completing these. In Science, we have continued to learn about space and why we have different seasons, whilst in History we have been learning about the Ancient Mayan Gods. Well done, Year 5!

Year 5 and 6 Christingle and Party Reminders

Our party is on Thursday the 20th of December and we would like to remind you that the children should bring in £1 to allow us to buy party food this year. Please can children bring their clothes in the morning and they will be given time to change after lunch. Our Christingle service is at 1.30pm on Tuesday the 18th of December please join us at St Nicholas Church.

Christmas Dates

Well done to our Reception children for such a wonderful first Nativity performance today. It was such a joy to see our youngest children telling the story of the first Christmas and reminding us all of what this time of year is really about. Next week we have a full week of Christmas performances which we do hope to see you at. I have copied the full list again below.

- **Monday 10th December at 9.15am**-Reception Christmas Performance
- **Monday 10th December at 2.00pm**-Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
- **Tuesday 11th December at 9.15am**-Year 1/2 Christmas Performance
- **Tuesday 11th December at 2.00pm**-Year 3/4 Christmas Performance
- **Tuesday 11th December at 6.00pm**-Christmas Music, Dance and Drama evening-no tickets needed.
- **Wednesday 12th December at 9.15am**-Year 3/4 Christmas Performance
- **Wednesday 12th December at 2.00pm**-Year 5/6 Christmas Performance
- **Thursday 13th December at 9.15am**-Year 5/6 Christmas Performance
- **Thursday 13th December**-Key Stage 1 Christmas Party (pm)
- **Friday 14th December**-Christmas Dinner (please see information in the newsletter)
- **Friday 14th December**-Christmas non uniform day (Christmas jumper, Elf, Christmas hat or non-uniform towards Alzheimer's)
- **Monday 17th December**-Reception Christmas Party (pm)
- **Tuesday 18th December**- Rec/Y1/2 Christingle (9.30am); Y3/4 Christingle (11.00am); Y5/6 Christingle (1.30pm) at Church
- **Wednesday 19th December**-Year 3/4 Christmas Party (pm)
- **Thursday 20th December**-Year 5/6 Christmas Party (pm)
- **Friday 21st December**-Break up at 3.10pm for Christmas
- **Monday 7th January 2019**-Training Day
- **Tuesday 8th January 2019**-Start of Spring Term 2019



Weekend Challenges:

As we are now well into the season of Advent, our weekend challenges have a very Christmassy theme to them:

- Create a Christmas stocking using material or paper.
- Create a Christmas snack or biscuits which are from a different country to our country. This might be a Christmas chocolate log, some Italian Christmas bread or any other Christmas treats inspired by another country.
- Decorate some Christmas biscuits-maybe make them in the shape of a tree, snowman or bauble.
- Complete some of the activities from the Advent calendar of kindness
- Send in some 'extreme reading' with a Christmas theme.



I hope that you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas performances next week.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby
Headteacher