



Cragside Church of England Primary School

Westloch Road
Cramlington
Northumberland
NE23 6LW

☎ 01670 714200
✉ admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk
🌐 www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk

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

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



Dear Parent/Carer,

Newsletter 11: 23rd November 2018

Weekend Challenge

Thank you for all the pictures and information about last week's author visit. It was lovely to see some gingerbread men that Jake M (Year 5) baked. He was inspired to create a gingerbread version of Alan Taylor (who is, in actual fact a gingerbread man) from the Mr Gum books which are written by Andy Stanton who is the author who visited us last week.



You may have seen on Twitter some really positive comments that Andy made about his visit to our school and how wonderful the children were who he met.

On Your Marks-A Message from Cramlington Parish



On Your Marks is a club for children in years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 which is run by volunteers from the Church of England churches in Cramlington. The next session is on Sunday 25th November between 5pm - 7pm and is held at Beaconhill Community Centre. Any children from Y1-Y6 at Cragside are very welcome to go to this week's session. There will be sport and games, crafts (Christmas decorations), cooking, a Bible story DVD and a cooked meal. The cost is £1.00 which goes towards the cost of the meal. All children will receive a warm welcome and a great evening of fun.

Year 1 Family Worship



Congratulations to our Year 1 children for their wonderful family worship this week. They shared lots of learning about the story behind Bonfire Night and Guy Fawkes and then sang and danced to the song Firework. We also heard all about their friendship work and the story of Naomi and Ruth from the Bible followed by some lovely singing. Thank you to Mr Savage for his excellent banjo playing for our songs and to all the families who were able to be with Year 1. Well done, Year 1, for such a confident and joyful family worship.

Attendance

Congratulations to our classes with the highest attendance last week. These were:
In Early Years- Mrs Pemberton's Class-Reception Explorers
In Key Stage 1-1SG, Miss Grice's Class with an excellent 99%
In Key Stage 2-4HC (Mrs Cowie's Class) who have achieved a wonderful 100% two weeks in a row!



Shoebbox Appeal

Many thanks for all the shoe boxes which were filled for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes have now been collected and are being processed ready to be sent off abroad to bring some Christmas joy to children throughout the world.

SUPERCLASS

Congratulations to all our classes who have achieved SUPERCLASS this week:

- 2GH (Miss Higgins' Class) achieved SUPERCLASS and enjoyed watching a film with a soft toy. Well done 2GH!
- Reception Discoverers (Miss Westgarth's Class) achieved SUPERCLASS this week. They enjoyed a picnic in the forest to celebrate! Well done Discoverers!



Christmas Dinner –Friday 14th December 2018

A reminder that this year's Christmas dinner will be on Friday 14th December. The menu is as follows:-

- 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 the 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.

Music Lessons

Great work in Music this week! Our drummers have been working on drumming with an accompaniment using percussion. Well done to Daniel R for all your enthusiasm in drumming, your love of the lesson clearly stands out. Our Violinists have been working together on their Christmas songs- playing Happy Christmas in parts. Miss Geldart particularly noted Molly A this week for working hard on her bowing and Molly G for super concentration and persistence. Our Ukulelists continued their work on 'Stop the Cavalry' and 'My Dog has Fleas'. Well done to Georgina B and Freya T for always trying their best- you're making progress girls. Keep it up! Well done to all our instrumentalists. We're proud of you!

Reception News

Another busy week! Reception have been reading the story of the Christmas Nativity in Literacy and have been very busy singing in preparation for their own Nativity which is at the start of December. Please remember no costumes are needed unless we have texted you to ask for any extras. We look forward to seeing you on Friday the 7th and Monday the 10th of December at 9.15am. In Numeracy we have been thinking about doubling. Can your child recall any doubling facts or use their fingers to tell you a double?



Both classes have visited the forest to toast marshmallows on the fire and made hedgehogs, Amorie's favourite animal! This week Amorie A has loved helping us to learn about nocturnal animals, dinosaurs and crafting a rainbow maker! Thank you very much for all your help reading the school reading books with your child at least four times weekly. Thank you, also, for helping your child to complete writing homework which is issued on a Thursday and should be returned by the following Tuesday. Thank you for all your continued support.

Key Stage One News



The Year 1 team were thrilled with the children in our collective worship yesterday! We had beautiful singers and confident speakers - well done everyone! Now we head into our Christmas performance preparations, such a busy time. In Maths this week we have been exploring 2d and 3d shapes. We can name and describe lots of these shapes using vocabulary such as faces, edges and vertices. In English we have enjoyed reading Frog and Toad stories, and finding out more about these unusual friends. We sequenced the story then described the characters of Frog and Toad, discussing their similarities and differences. In PSHE we read the story Ruby's Worry again. We talked about how best to deal with our worries and came up with the qualities of a good friend.

Year 2 have explored the world of news reports this week. The children have been looking at how newspapers report on events and how they answer the 6 big questions (who, what, when, where, why and how) that give the reader all the information they want to know about an event. The children have been thinking of questions that they could ask based on a text and had practice answering questions from a reporter. In Maths this week we have begun to study our multiplication and division unit. We have been grouping items into equal groups and counting how many we have in total. We have also been comparing groups of numbers and seeing which are larger, smaller or the same. We have found that, for multiplication, if you have the same numbers you will get the same result, even if they have swapped around (2 groups of 3 is equal to 3 groups of 2). We continued our China topic and have created some amazing 3D maps. We have been working in Science to separate items and animals into 3 groups: Alive, Was Once Alive or Never Alive. The children have also begun to learn their songs and words for the Christmas performance and we are all very excited to share it with you on the 10th and 11th of December.

KS1 Christmas Party

On Thursday 13th December it is Key Stage 1's Christmas Party. This year instead of the children each bringing in a different item of party food, we have decided to provide each of the children with a 'Christmas party plate' which will include a cake, crisps, fruit etc. Our children with allergies will be carefully catered for. We hope that this will help us not only to encourage healthy snacking but reduce the amount of food waste, and kindly ask for a £1 donation to enable us to put the plates together. Thank you.



News from Lower Key Stage 2



This week Year 3 have started learning about multiplication. They counted groups of objects and wrote the corresponding calculation and have begun learning their 3x table.

In English the children have been writing their autobiographies. They planned their texts using key facts and then wrote their biographies using a range of exciting vocabulary and organised their writing using paragraphs. In our Science lessons the children observed a range of rocks. They tested rocks to see if

they were permeable or impermeable and also created careful drawings of a range of different rocks and fossils.

Following on from our visit last week, Year 4 have had a blast learning more about Africa. We have created mixed media artworks inspired by African culture. We have also been learning how to play the Djembe drum which originated in West Africa. In our French lessons we have been creating menus and eating tasty French food, this has been a great chance to practice our French! The Year 4 team would love to say a big thank you for all the great homework that has been coming in already this half term. It all looks fantastic!

Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party

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 could all children bring their party clothes to school in a named bag on the morning of the 19th. Instead of bringing in food, we are asking each child to bring a small donation (suggested donation £1) which will be used to buy food. We will then buy in the food for the party. 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

Yet another hard-working, busy and exciting week in Year 5 and 6! I was particularly proud of Andy Stanton's tweet earlier this week which mentioned what a privilege it was to work with our children when he visited last week. Well done Cragside children for being such shining examples in all you do!

In Year 6, we have continued to focus on fiction genres in our English lessons. Having read so many different stories, we are now in the middle of writing our own. We've enjoyed the scary stories most of all so that's what we have decided to write ourselves. Once they're finished, we're very excited about sharing them with Chris Priestley, the author of Tales of Terror, so he can see how much we've learned from his work. In maths, we've worked hard to revise for the maths SATs papers we've completed. The children are showing real confidence and ability when completing the arithmetic and reasoning papers. In science, we've continued to monitor the decay process and find out more about the microorganisms which cause decay. We've also started to learn the songs for our Christmas play, they're so catchy and so much fun, I'm sure the children will already be singing them for you at home.

Year 5 have had a super week of hard work and high standards of work. Following the recent Centenary, the children have watched the 2014 Sainsbury's advert about the Christmas Truce. We have written beautiful letters home from the perspective of a British soldier to describe the events that took place in the trenches and on no man's land. Year 5 have mastered finding the perimeter and area of shapes including those which are compound. In Science, our classes have been learning about Earth and Space and can even explain how night and day occurs. Our Christmas performance is underway and the children have been trying their hardest to learn a new set of wonderful songs!



Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party

This year, we are asking if it would be possible to kindly donate £1 towards 'Food Party Bags' for the children. We will provide children with a bag of a few treats and a drink for them to enjoy (crisps, cake, fruit, etc.) in order to avoid the large amount of food waste that can often accumulate at Christmas parties. Please send your £1 donation in an envelope labelled 'Christmas Party Food'. We thank you in advance for this.

Cramlington and Seaton Valley Annual Sports Awards Evening

On Wednesday night, five members of Cragside's Year 6 were invited to represent the school at the annual Cramlington and Seaton Valley Sports Awards 2018 at Astley High School. Thank you to Jake, Kye, Paige, Grace and Isla for being excellent ambassadors for our school. We are delighted that we secured our Gold School Games Award Mark for the 4th consecutive year due to our participation in such a wide range of inter and intra-school sporting activities in the last academic year. The School Games Award is designed to reward schools and other educational establishments for their commitment to and development of competition, school sport, physical education and physical activity. To gain the award, schools need to offer a broad and balanced sporting activity programme which actively encourages all young people, including aiming for those that aren't currently engaged in or who are engaged less often in physical activity. The award isn't about provision for a small cohort of young people but needs to consider ALL the school's population.



We were also delighted to be the recipient of the Excellence in Competition award in recognition of all our success in competitions. In 2017-2018 we were fortunate enough to be able to celebrate the most successful year for any of the schools in the Cramlington and Seaton Valley area by representing Cramlington and Seaton Valley in 5 different competitions: Year 3/4 Gymnastics, Year 5 Boys Football, Year 5/6 Girls Football, Year 3/4 Boys Rugby and Year 5/6 Girls Netball. The children really embraced the event of the school games finals and were delighted to be part of it, maintaining their positive attitudes in all games, win, lose or draw. As a school we are very proud of the talented athletes that represented the area in the finals and how they conducted themselves in a positive and respectful manner.

Christmas Performances

Today, all the children have been given two tickets for each Christmas performance (Four for Reception children) together with a note. Please would it be possible to check children's bags for these. If you do not need all the tickets, please would it be possible to return any unwanted tickets so these can be reallocated. Any spare tickets will be allocated on a 'first come' basis on Thursday 6th December and can be collected from the school office after 8.30am on Thursday 6th December.

Christmas Dates

A reminder of some of the key dates between now and the end of term:

- Wednesday 28th November-Nasal flu vaccination (Reception, Y1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Friday 7th December at 9.15am-Reception Christmas Performance
- 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
- 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:

In the church, this weekend is informally known as 'stir up' Sunday. In history it was often the Sunday where Christmas cakes and puddings were made. Our weekend challenge gives a modern twist on this:

- Make some Christmas themed biscuits or small cakes which can be stored away for Christmas.
- Help an adult 'stir' the ingredients for Christmas cake or Christmas pudding.
- The Christmas lights are turned on in Cramlington this weekend; please send in a picture of your child creating a picture or 3D model of some Christmas lights.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Paul Rusby
Headteacher