



Cragside Church of England Primary School

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**School Motto:
"Let Your Light
Shine"**

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Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Cragside Family

Newsletter 17: 5th January 2021

It felt very much like the end of the spring term in March 2020 with the announcement of the national lockdown last night. The last lockdown came with a few days' notice which was beneficial to families and was definitely helpful to schools as we prepared for a time where children would be learning from home.

It also meant we could prepare the children more for this. I was so sad last night to think some of our younger children would have gone to bed excited about coming to school and then had to be told in the morning about the new lock down measures. You, and your children, are very much on our minds as we try to do our best to support you with remote learning during this current national lockdown.

Remote Learning

Following the Government's announcement last night, the majority of our children will be learning from home during this half term. Our aim is to build on the remote learning that was available in the summer term 2020. We really appreciate all your help in supporting your child's learning from home and helping to keep numbers in school as low as possible. We know that every child learns differently and many parents are working from home and trying to do an incredible balancing act between their work and home learning. We also know that we have lots of families on the front line in the battle against the virus and are so grateful for all you are doing for our whole community.

We have tried to produce a remote education core offer that caters for as many situations as possible, while allowing for flexibility and essential family relaxation time. The message, 'be kind to yourself' has never felt so important.

Each year group will use a specific tool to access online learning:

- Our main tool for online learning for **Reception and Year 1** is **Tapestry**. Information will be placed on here regarding learning activities for the children.
- Our main tool for online learning for **Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6** is **Google classroom**. Daily Maths and English lessons, videos from teachers and links to all learning will be available through Google classroom.

You will also be able to access links to the other subscription sites we have through Google classroom and Tapestry. Please would it be possible to check you are able to log onto Google classroom or Tapestry. We sent a 'guide to Google classroom' out to all families this afternoon with details about how to log in. If you have any queries, please contact your child's teacher.

For the children who are being taught at home, we are aiming for the following to happen:

- Our aim is that our child's teacher will set up online 'face to face' meetings with small groups of children in the class at the start of each week to check how they are and to go through some of the learning for the week.
- There will be an English and maths lesson for each day. There will be some video teaching from the teacher to support your child with this. These will be uploaded onto Google classroom or Tapestry.
- Further learning activities, covering a range of subject areas and topics, will be available on Tapestry or Google classroom. We appreciate that not all children will be able to access computers/tablets at the same time and have tried to make all learning fluid and flexible in terms of the exact time it needs to be done to help parents who are working from home and also those who are sharing electronic devices.
- Towards the end of the week, our aim is that your child's teacher will set up online 'face to face' meetings with small groups of children to see how the learning has gone through the week.

Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils

On Monday's briefing from the Prime Minister, he moved his core message back to 'stay home, protect the NHS and save lives.'

Although the message from central government is that children of critical workers may attend school, we are very grateful, where it is possible, for children to be taught remotely at home as this keeps the numbers in school at a minimum.

Where it is absolutely necessary to send children to school, please would it be possible to help with the following:

Entrance and Exit Doors

- Reception-entry and exit point is the Reception door
- Year 1 –entry and exit point is the 1EH classroom door
- Year 2-entry and exit point is the KS1 cloakroom
- Year 3 and Year 4 entry and exit point is the Lower KS2 cloakroom
- Year 5 and Year 6 entry and exit point is the Upper KS2 cloakroom

Equipment and General Information

- Please wear normal school uniform and bring a coat each day.
- Please bring school planner and a pair of training shoes in a bag.
- Please bring a packed lunch for this week-we will review this at the end of this week.
- If you are entitled to free school meals, the kitchen will make a packed lunch.

Timings

- Start of the day 8.30am-8.40am
- End of the day 3.10pm (option to collect at either 1pm or at 3.10pm on a Friday)

Collection/Dropping Off

- Please would adults wear a mask whilst on the yard. Only one adult per child please (no older brothers or sisters please).
- Please stand at least 2 metres from other adults on the yard and come forward to collect your child and then move around the painted arrows. Please do not enter the painted yellow boxes.
- Please hold the hand of younger children when coming into the yard and leaving the yard.
- No bikes or scooters please during the first week. We will review this at the end of the first week.
- If Year 5/6 children have permission to walk home alone, we will dismiss them from the school gates.

Teaching

- Children will be taught in groups by teachers and learning support assistants work within the key stage that their child is in. This might not necessarily be your child's normal teacher each week as teachers are involved in remote home learning.

Attendance

- If your child is unable to come to school on one of the days he/she is booked in, or if you are able to remotely teach them on a day they are booked in for, please would you email the school admin email so we can amend our register for that day.

Facebook Home Learning Gallery

Some of you will be aware that we have a private Facebook group for parents to add any pictures of home learning. We established this last year as a chance for parents to celebrate some of the learning successes of the children at home and celebrate some of the other learning that happens such as baking or crafts that children might do at home. It is such a delight to see the pictures of some of the learning. The log in details for this group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/795896960817927/>

If you would like to join this group, please click on the link above. You will be prompted to answer two questions before being admitted to the group by the administrator. Any posts to the group will go through the group administrator before we post them. The rules highlight that the purpose of the group is to celebrate learning at home and to share the joy of learning. We see the group as more of a sharing 'gallery' of the joy of learning. There is no facility in the group to comment upon any of the posts. Please do not comment on any of the posts. The group aims to provide an opportunity for us to come together in a 'virtual environment' and celebrate the joy of learning.

Free School Meals

We are awaiting final information from Northumberland about free school meals vouchers. As soon as we receive this, we will distribute them. If your child is entitled to free school meals and you would like us to make him/her a packed lunch, please would you email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk and let us know whether your child would prefer ham, cheese or tuna. Packed lunches can be collected from school between 9am and 11am.

Accessing Tapestry and Google Classroom

To access **Tapestry**, please go to: <https://tapestryjournal.com/> and enter your user name (this is the email address you provided to school) and the password given to you when your child joined Reception. All Reception logins and passwords are in planners and the Year One Team has been in touch today about login details.

If you have any questions or need any support accessing Tapestry, please contact your class teacher. Many thanks!

Earlier today we sent out a sheet with screen shots about how to access **Google classroom**. This is widely used in remote learning throughout the UK. If you have any queries about accessing Google classroom, please would you contact your child's class teacher or admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk

Breakfast Club and Out of School Club

Due to the new national lockdown arrangements and the majority of our pupils learning from home, we have deleted all previous bookings made for Breakfast Club and Out of School Club up until 12 February 2021 as many of these bookings will no longer be required. If your child is in school this half term and you require Breakfast club or the after school out of school club during this time can you please re book a place for your child on the Schools Buddy system.

Thank You

On Monday, I will send out a collective worship video for the children. I wonder if you might share it with your child on Monday morning. We will be looking to increase the amount of video that are used as part of our home remote learning to support the children whilst they are away from school. I aim to send home a collective worship video for the children each week.

Thank you very much for all your help with Home Learning during this national lockdown. We really do appreciate all your help with this. You will have received information from your child's teacher today which we really hope is helpful.

As always, we are desperate to be able to support you with remote learning. Please contact school if you feel that we can help at all. This national lockdown has again brought us all together to try to do our individual parts to support our neighbours and local community in the face of this global pandemic. Thank you so much for all you are doing as part of this.

Please take care and keep safe,
Paul Rusby