



Cragside Church of England Primary School

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

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Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Joanne Parker
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Bilton



5th February 2021

Dear Cragside Family

Newsletter 22: 5th February 2021

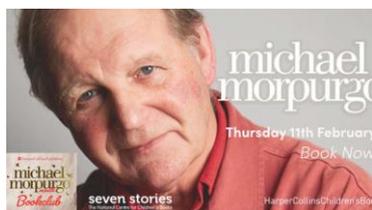
Many thanks for all your help throughout this week. We are still awaiting any specific information about when schools can reopen for all pupils. As you are aware from the news, the Government have identified Monday 8th March as the earliest date that this might happen. As soon as we hear any information we will share this with parents. We are continuing to plan that learning over the next few weeks will be:

- Week commencing **Monday 8th February**-majority of children learning from home as they are at present.
- Week commencing **Monday 15th February**-Half Term-school closed
- Week commencing **Monday 22nd February**-majority of children learning from home as they are at present.
- Week commencing **Monday 1st March**-majority of children learning from home as they are at present.
- Week commencing **Monday 8th March**-school is awaiting information from Government.

Parents' Meetings

You should have received a message on SchoolsBuddy on Thursday about our Parents' Meetings which are planned during the next few weeks. On the SchoolsBuddy app you will be able to see the times and dates of the Parents' Meetings for your child's teacher. These meetings will take place on Zoom like they did in the autumn term. We really do hope these meetings are helpful.

Author Visit for Year 3 - Year 6-A Very Excited Message from Miss Rennison



I am so excited to share with you the news that next Thursday 11th February at 1.30pm we will be taking part in a virtual author event with none other than Michael Morpurgo himself. I can't even begin to contain my excitement for this one. You should have received an email with the link to the event and information on how you can buy signed copies of his book from Seven Stories. Whether you are learning from home or learning in school next week you will be able to join in! Here is the link again for the live event:

<https://youtu.be/peVmO92hi7Y>

Mental Health and Well-being Activities - A Message from Mrs Urwin

Each week we will be providing you with a range of optional well-being activities which you can choose from to do at home. You will find these on your child's home learning platform (either Google Classroom or Tapestry) under the subject, **'Well-being'**. These activities are optional; however, we hope that you find enjoyment in completing one or two of them each week.

Sharing Your 'Well-Being' Activities or any Caring Activities

We would love for you to occasionally share with us any of the well-being activities that have been completed. You can post pictures to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795896960817927/> using #wellbeing or you can email Mrs Urwin at lyndsey.urwin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk and I will share what you have been up to in our weekly newsletter.

Lunar New Year-A Message from Mrs Cowie

Lunar New Year is next week, on **Friday 12th February**. Cragside has a super challenge for you! Try to cook one of the recipes or make one of the crafts added to your Google classroom or Tapestry pages by your teacher and send in one picture to show them your best efforts. One winner in each phase will be announced and they will receive a special Lunar New Year gift. Enjoy all the Lunar activities as we celebrate different cultures and the Year of the Ox.



Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 9th February-A Message from Mrs Parker

Next week, we invite children learning at home, and those in school, to take part in some activities linked to Safer Internet Day. This year, the theme for Safer Internet Day explores the reliability of all of the amazing information online and encourages children to consider how we separate fact from fiction. As many children are currently learning, socialising and playing online, our focus on online safety is as important as ever. The UK Safer Internet Centre, who organise Safer Internet Day, has a wide range of resources for parents and carers to use to help keep children safe online.

By far, the most important thing that we can do, as parents/carers, is to regularly talk to children about their online usage, remind them of safe and unsafe behaviours and what to do if they see or hear anything which makes them feel worried or uncomfortable. We've attached some ideas about how to begin these conversations with children and a second document which helps to signpost you, as parents, towards other sources of advice. More information can be found at: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Half Term Reading Challenge for Children-A Message from Miss Rennison

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of our first half term of 2021. As always, we will be sending home a holiday reading challenge for the half term holidays. I absolutely love seeing how much reading you do at home and hopefully you'll enjoy doing this one. It challenges you to read in lots of different ways! We would love it if you could upload photos to google classroom or tapestry and our school Facebook page to share your wonderful reading.

The reading is most definitely the most important part of this challenge, but this half term we have added something a little different. We would love it if your child could help us raise much-needed funds for our partner school in Rwanda. If you are able to (we completely understand this may not be possible) please would it be possible to encourage your child to do the reading challenge, and, if possible, consider if you might be able to help with the small fund raising we are doing linked to this. We will collect any sponsorship money using our JustGiving page which I will email out along with the reading challenge and a sponsorship form **next week**.

To get everyone involved we will also send home a reading challenge to get the adults involved! I hope you will all join us in this wonderful challenge and help us all to keep reading for pleasure, especially when it so important to look after our wellbeing - reading is the perfect escape!

Computer Devices

A reminder that if your child is still not able to access the online learning because he/she does not have access to a computer, please would it be possible to let your child's teacher know or email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk so we can see how we can help you. If your child is only able to access home learning on a smart phone, again, please would you let your child's teacher know or email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk. We really do want to try to help.

Reading for Rwanda Challenge for Staff and Parents-A Message from Mrs Cowie

We are very excited to introduce a completely voluntary 'Reading for Rwanda' challenge for our Cragside staff and parents which will run alongside the challenge the children are invited to take part in. Cragside children, adults and staff are invited to read everything on the reading bingo sheets that will be sent home next week and try to raise some sponsorship money for our partnership school in Rwanda.

Our next goal for our partner school in Rwanda is to help them buy a water tank for their school with a tap on it. The school does not have their own water source but they have one big bottle that they walk down to the nearest water tank to fill at the other side of the village many times a day. The JustGiving page information will be sent out next week. Anything you can give is much appreciated but we do really appreciate that this might not be possible and hope that you enjoy the reading activities.

World Book Day 2021-A Message from Miss Rennison

World Book Day 2021 is creeping up on us and I'm sure you've already heard whispers of it coming up on **March 4th**. Obviously this will be during the partial school closure but we are determined that it will not stop our celebrations. **Please do not rush onto Amazon to buy costumes.** If you already have a costume in the house and your child would like to dress up we would still love to see them.

Last year we did a design-a-story in a jar competition. This year I would love it if your child was able to design a book character using a potato and then send your photos in to share with everyone. There will be a prize for one entry from each year group. Here are some examples to get you started. There are lots more ideas online. World Book Day vouchers will be emailed electronically to you on World Book Day this year and Amazon is stocking the £1 books if you wish to buy them online. We will still have lots of amazing activities to join in with on the day whether you are learning from home or in school and can't wait to celebrate the joy of reading with you all.



Free School Meals

All families eligible for free school meals, whose children are learning at home, should have received free school meals vouchers. **Vouchers will be sent out for February half term.** If you feel that your child might be eligible for free school meals and you don't currently receive them, you might wish to complete the attached form: https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=FREE_SCHOOL_MEALS

Thank You

I am so very grateful for all your ongoing help with teaching at home and the incredible balancing act with this and work. Thank you very much for all your help with this. As a school we continue to be very minded about how difficult these times are for all in our community including our children. There will be days when the learning at home might not feel as productive as might have been hoped. Please do be kind to yourself on these times. We will do all we can to build on the wonderful work that you have been doing at home to help the children when they return to school. As you can see, from the information in the newsletter about half term reading, author visits and world book day, we are desperately trying to keep including activities that the children would normally do to try to keep a sense of 'normality' within these very uncertain time for our children. We hope in doing this that it supports their own good mental health and well-being as they continue with events familiar to them.

If you, or your children, are struggling and feel that we might be able to help a little, please send a message to admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk or ring on 01670 714200 to speak to Mrs Parker, myself or one of the adults in school who you know. We do want to try and help, even if it is just someone to talk to. We really are looking forward to the day when we are told it is safe for school to open to all our pupils.

Please take care and keep safe,

Paul Rusby

BE KIND TO
yourself