



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
Abilities Children in Education



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



Dear Parent/Carer,

Newsletter 12: 30th November 2018

Weekend Challenge

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

- Jake M (Year 5) who helped to mix all the fruit and nuts into a Christmas cake mixture.
- Lexie A (Year 5) and her sister Georgie A (Reception) who worked together to make a Christmas cake
- Owen R (Year 5) and Lucy R (Year 2) went to St Oswald's Christmas market and enjoyed walking an alpaca and turning on a police car light.

Thank you for all the pictures that were sent in. Well done to all the children who brought lots of tasty homemade bread into school for their 'baking' homework. I was lucky enough to taste some of the home baking and it was delicious!

Christmas Dates

As we move into Advent next week and our Christmas performances become ever closer, I have listed below a copy of events during December. Last week, children were given two tickets for each Christmas performance (four for Reception children). If you have not received these, 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 given out on a 'first come' basis on Thursday 6th December and can be collected from the school office after 8.30am on Thursday 6th December.

- **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 (please 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



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 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.

Robinwood 2019-A Message from Mrs Bilton for parents with children in our current Year 5

Our Robinwood visit for next year's Year 6 is now booked for next year! The dates for this exciting and important residential are Monday the 23rd of September to Wednesday the 25th of September 2019.

The cost per child is £225 which should be paid by the end of the summer term 2019. We will be setting up a payment plan to support the payment of this from January. I have organised a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the visit on **Wednesday the 16th of January at 5.30pm**. This is such an important visit which the children talk about for years and years after they come back. I'm very much looking forward to taking all of our year 6 children again next year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you any questions or queries.



Community News

The 2nd Cramlington Scouts are having a Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 1st December, 10am-12pm, at their HQ at Ann Welfare. All are very welcome to attend.



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 1-2GH, Miss Higgins' Class with 97%

In Key Stage 2-5RD Mr Davison's Class who have achieved a wonderful 100%.

St Nicholas' Church- Christmas Tree Festival

St Nicholas' Church in Cramlington has a Christmas tree festival over this weekend (starting on Friday 30th November). The festival is free to enter and is on during Friday (10am-4pm and 6pm-8pm), Saturday (10am-5pm) and Sunday 12noon-4pm with Christmas carols being sung on Sunday at 4pm. Our school decorated a tree as part of the festival. We decorated it with recycled stars that the children made and it is at the right hand side of the altar. The children have also made a lovely display about Jesus as the light of the world in the main parish room.



Parking-A Message from Northumbria Police

The police have contacted school and asked me to remind families that Gainsborough Place is a resident's only street and no cars, apart from those of residents, are allowed to access this street. The police will be monitoring this area and have said that they will be issuing tickets to cars of non-residents. Thank you very much for all your help with the parking restrictions around Gainsborough Place and surrounding streets and also along streets near Westloch Road.

Music Lessons-A Message from Miss Westgarth

Our Musicians are working really hard for their concert on Tuesday the 11th of December! The drummers are working hard on the piece 'Bolomba' with some super concentration from Ben and Jack H. Our Year 5 and 6 ukulelists are working on the piece 'Early Morning Dew', thank you Charlie James E for super persistence with some tricky notes and the second group of ukulelists are practising the 'Coconut Song', thank you James C for working hard this week! 'War is Over' is the Christmas tune being practised by our violinists this week. Tilly A is a shining example of perseverance each week. Thank you Tilly! Keep practising musician's you're sounding great! We look forward to listening to you all on the 11th December!

Thank You!

We were delighted to receive a cheque this week from Proctor and Gamble for £500 towards our outdoor playground equipment. Thank you very much to all the staff from Proctor and Gamble who helped towards this very kind, and much welcomed, donation which will be used towards the further development of our outdoor areas.



Reception News

We are so proud of all our Reception children for working so hard on their Christmas Nativity this week. The children are sounding great! If your child is a narrator, thank you so much for helping them to know all their lines and speak them with a clear and confident voice. Well done on practising your confident voices narrators!

This week we have been thinking about Sophia C's love of tea parties and reading the story of 'The Tiger who came to tea' to plan and prepare for our own party for the Tiger! Lots of opportunities for writing, crafts and baking! We have also loved visiting the forest to bake pizzas and as part of Kaylah T O's focus week. She has loved sharing news about her pet dogs and crafting lots of pictures of dogs. Please keep working on writing at home Reception. We are working really hard now to be able to spell CVC words using recognisable well-formed letters. Please keep practising!



Key Stage One News

This week Year 1 read the story Harvey Slumfenberger's Christmas present in English. We sequenced the story, predicted what Harvey's present could be and wrote our own ending for the story on how Father Christmas managed to get home from Harvey's house. We had some fabulous ideas like a hot air balloon, a skateboard and a scooter! In Maths we finished off our shape unit by using 2D shapes to make repeating patterns. Then we moved onto looking at numbers 11-20 and finding how many 10s and 1s are in different numbers. We enjoyed a carousel of penguin themed activities in Science, looking at food webs, life-cycles and crafting our own penguins - check them out on Twitter! In RE we talked about how God gave us Baby Jesus as a very special gift which made us think about what we could give our friends in school as a special gift. We thought about giving smiles, hugs, and drawing them a picture. What lovely friends!

Year 2 have continued to show their superb work ethic again this week and have produced their first newspaper report following the exciting space satellite crash that happened on Tuesday night! Thank you for sharing in conversations with the children about the crash as it has helped them to maintain great enthusiasm and write some excellent news reports. The children have worked superbly over the last couple of weeks on newspaper reports and it has shown with their detailed reports and their use of exciting adverbs and adjectives. In Maths the children have been learning to multiply using arrays and began to use their knowledge to solve missing number problems. The children have developed their knowledge well over the last week. It would be really helpful for the children to log on and play with Times Tables Rockstars over the next few weeks as it will help to develop their multiplication and division skills and will also cross off one of their Bingo homework squares.

The children have worked so hard this week to learn their words and songs for the Christmas performances which take place on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th December.



Year 2 Writing Challenge-A Message from Miss Higgins

Year 2 investigated a mysterious, shocking satellite crash on the field this week! We watched the CCTV video carefully, interviewed witnesses and came up with different theories for why it may have crashed. Miss Rennison came in to tell us what she had seen and we asked questions such as 'How did you feel?', 'Did it surprise you?' and 'Where did the scrap metal go?' We used her answers to help us write our newspaper reports; here are some snippets from some of the children's reports.

Elliot: 'A satellite zoomed down to my school, it made a big bang on the ground as it exploded right next to my school. It scared the daylights out of me. I think it was an alien.'

Charlotte L: 'It was heading to our classroom but luckily it landed on the school field! Mrs Rennison was the first one to see it. She was going to look closer but she didn't want to get hurt so she ran and got Mr Brennan to help.'

Charlotte S: 'It sparkled like fireworks and it shot down with a woosh! It started with a shadow then sounded like an airplane and got louder and louder. Mr Brennan put red tape around it so now no one can go on that area.'

Leo: 'I think that it was an asteroid that shot a laser beam and fire then it fell zooming through the sky... It smashed and crashed down on our field it was so close to our classroom!'

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.

Year 3 have been learning about different types of punctuation. We found out when to use full stops, question marks and exclamation marks and practiced using them in a range of sentences. In Maths we have continued to learn our times table the children rehearsed multiplying and dividing by 3 and 4.

Year 4 have been learning about Africa. We researched life in Africa using iPads and made detailed notes about what we found out. In art we created African landscapes using a range of colours and thinking carefully about the research we had done. In Maths the children have been learning about measurement. We looked at maps to see how far a kilometre was then converted between meters and kilometres using our multiplication and division skills.



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. Instead of bringing in food, we are asking each child to bring a small donation which will be used to buy food. (Suggested donation £1). Please can this money be sent to school by Wednesday 12th December to give us enough time to buy food. Thank you for your help with this.

News from Upper Key Stage 2

This week, Year 6 have been working exceptionally hard on creating mood and atmosphere in our spooky tales of terror in the style of Chris Priestly. We spent time editing our work to ensure we created suspense and effective imagery before creating our final piece of Wow writing. In our Maths lessons, we have been focusing on adding and subtracting fractions including simplifying fractions to their simplest forms and looking for common denominators.

We have put a lot of effort into our Christmas production rehearsals; both learning our lines and perfecting our singing of the songs. We have also enjoyed preparing for our visits to the church and Harwood Court to sing for our community to bring about some fabulous Christmas Spirit.

Year 5 have begun reading a new book in their English lessons: the award-winning Oranges in No Man's Land by Elizabeth Laird. We have written a summary of the opening chapters, analysed the main character and identified the emotive language used by the author. In our Maths lessons, we have been practising the written methods for short and long multiplication. The children have shown great resilience, particularly with long multiplication, to perfect these methods. A lot of time this week has been dedicated to practising for our Christmas performance, but we have also managed to squeeze in a bit of art based on the Christmas Truce that we enjoyed learning about in English last week. Well done, Year 5.



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.



Advent Calendar of Kindness



This Sunday is Advent Sunday and sees the start of the season of Advent. Attached is our annual 'Advent Calendar of Kindness' which we encourage our children to take part in each day of Advent. If you have any pictures or information about your child doing any of the Advent calendar challenges, please would you send in any information or pictures to your child's class teacher so these can be celebrated in class. An electronic copy is attached to the newsletter and all the children have been given a paper copy today to take home.

Christmas Cards

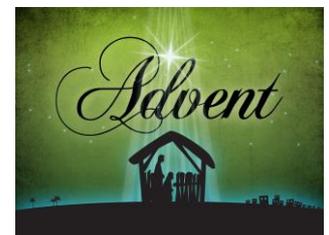
With Advent starting next week, many of the children enjoy writing and sending Christmas cards to their friends and teachers. These can either be handed out in class or placed in our school post box which is in our front entrance near the Christmas tree. If cards are put in our school post box, please 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.



Weekend Challenges:

As we start this season of Advent, our weekend challenges have a Christmas theme:

- Make some Christmas mince pies or Christmas themed shortbread (Maybe a Christmas tree or snowman). You might then share these Christmas treats with a relative or someone you know who would really appreciate your kindness.
- Make some decorations for the Christmas tree.
- With an adult's help, create your own advent candle or design your own Advent calendar.



I hope that you have a lovely weekend as we say farewell to November and welcome in December and the start of this special season of Advent.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby
Headteacher