



# 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 20: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

## Weekend Challenges

Thank you for the pictures that were sent in for the weekend challenge. These included:

- Ethan G (Year 3) who made a beach pebble model on a very cold beach walk.
- Matthew R (Reception Explorers) who went for a wintry 3 mile walk through the countryside into the woods and back along the beach with his mummy and aunty.

## Gymnastics Success-Well done to our Gymnastics Team!

Cragside Year 3 and 4 Gymnastics team won the annual Cramlington and Seaton Valley Gymnastics competition this Thursday at Cramlington Gymnastics Club. This magnificent success means the girls have qualified for the Northumberland School Games Final this summer. There were a total of 9 schools who took part in the tournament and Cragside secured first place by 1.1 points in total. The girls performed spectacularly during their routines and were delighted to come away with their gold medals! Congratulations girls for your wonderful performance. Congratulations also to Layla for being placed second individually for her first routine and third individually in her second routine! The girls' team was made up by: Layla, Jasmine, Sophie, Inez, Ruby, Isobel and Macy. We wish you all the best in the Northumberland School Games Final! Well done to the whole team and a big thank you to Mrs Austin and Mrs Halliday for all the extra coaching and hard work with the team.



## SUPERCLASS

Congratulations to our Reception classes who have been working super hard and absolutely deserve their SUPERCLASS. Reception Explorers enjoyed some pancakes today and Reception Discoverers enjoyed some treats and a disco.



## Reception and Year 3 Family Worship

Well done to all our Year 3 children for such a joyful Family Worship this week about the Lunar New Year. We loved the retelling of the story about how the different animals were chosen for each of the Chinese years. The dragon mask and the whole dragon dance were fantastic as was the singing and instrumental accompaniment. Well done to Year 3 for the wonderful art work you celebrated and your lovely singing and reading. It was a real feast of entertainment. On next Thursday (Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019) we look forward to welcoming our Reception parents, carers and grandparents for our Reception Family Worship which starts at 9am in the main school hall.

## Lunar New Year



We had lots of fun on Tuesday with our Lunar New Year celebrations. We had lantern making, a shadow puppet show and dragon dancing. Well done to all the children for really bringing this whole day alive and a huge thank you to Mrs Cowie who organised the day. A reminder that on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February, events are planned in the Stowell Street area of Newcastle to celebrate Chinese New Year. Information can be

Family Worship



found at <https://www.newcastlelegateshead.com/whats-on/chinese-new-year-2019-p730971>. **Kung hey Fat Choi!**  
**Cragside Church of England Primary wins gold for Northumberland**

We are delighted that we have been awarded a gold award by the Woodland Trust for getting involved in green activities including tree planting, visiting a local woodland, reducing carbon emissions and recycling. The *Green Tree Schools* initiative, which has seen more than 12,000 schools sign up since it was launched in 2008, offers the opportunity to bring the great outdoors, wildlife and green issues into the classroom. Thank you very much to Mr Flynnwood for all his enthusiasm and work in leading our application for this award and to all the children and adults who have helped to make this possible. We are continually looking at how we can further extend our work in this important area.



### Parents' Evenings

## Parents' Evening

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at our Parents' Evening next week on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February between 3.30 and 6.00pm. You should have received booking information via a text. If these dates are inconvenient, or if you have not received a text about how to book, please would it be possible to contact your child's teacher so we can arrange an alternative meeting.

### Messy Church and On Your Marks

It was lovely to welcome Rev Wullie into school on Wednesday to lead our collective worship. A reminder that Messy Church takes place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am at St Nicholas' Church. All are very welcome to attend (children should have an adult who stays with them please). If you have any queries, please contact Susan Ramshaw who is the organiser. Her email is [messychurch.stnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:messychurch.stnicholas@gmail.com)



### Chess Puzzle-A Message from Mr Flynnwood



Well done to all the adults and children who brought in the correct answer to me last week.

White to move! **Checkmate in two moves.**



### Safer Internet Day-A Message from Mrs Parker

Children in our school joined in the global celebrations of Safer Internet Day by taking part in activities linked to how we can all work 'Together for a Better Internet.' Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally each year and is used to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology. This year, the children have been thinking about how consent works in an online context and exploring how as children they may ask, give and receive consent online, including how they take and share photographs and manage their own privacy. The UK Safer Internet Site provides some fantastic resources to use for families to engage with children about their digital lives. These resources can be accessed by the following link: [www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs/activities-parents-and-carers](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/education-packs/activities-parents-and-carers).

### Vivian French author visit for Key Stage 2-A Message from Mrs Bilton

What an exciting afternoon Key Stage 2 children had with Viv French yesterday. Viv talked about what inspires her to write and her beautiful new book *The Steam Whistle Theatre Company*. Viv also spent lots of time signing copies of her book and chatting to children about their love of reading. I am delighted to say that Viv told me, at the very end of her visit, that our children were the most polite she'd ever worked with. She also said that we were the only school she'd been to where every child said please and thank you. WOW Cragside children, we're so proud of you! Thank you so much for your support with this exciting visit.



### Tynemouth Lifeboat Visitors

Thank you very much to Miss Higgins for organising the Tynemouth Lifeboat crew to come into school to speak to our Year 2 children. The team shared lots and lots of really interesting information about what they do and how they help to keep people safe at sea. Well done to the children for excellent behaviour and all the interesting questions. Thank you very much to the Lifeboat crew for coming into our school. We really appreciated this and all the work that they do, often in really bad weather, to keep our coastlines safe.



### Sponsored Walk

Two of our children (Flynn S-Year 5 and Marni S-Year 3) are taking part in a sponsored walk to help raise funds for the Toby Henderson Trust. If you would like to support them, please follow the link below. Well done to Flynn and Marni.  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-stephenson30>

## Instrumental Lessons-A Message from Miss Westgarth

Well done to all our schools instrumentalists for their performance this Friday. We loved listening to all our Violinists, Ukulelists and Drummers perform. Exciting tunes such as Apache by The Shadows and Sponge Bob Square Pants were played and we were all impressed and proud to hear them. If your child is interested in learning an instrument with either Mr Doyle or Miss Geldart next term, please let Miss Westgarth know via the school office or email [admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk) Thank you.



## A Message from the Reception Team

Great work Reception. We have had a very busy week. This week has been Finley McC's and Ben O's focus week. They have been learning about fast cars and superheroes. Thank you too, to both boys for making our classes a Chinese stir fry. We loved celebrating Chinese New Year with Mrs Cowie and joining in with a dragon dance! Kung hei fat choy Reception!



In Literacy this week, we have been reading the story of Room on the Broom and in Numeracy we have been making number bonds to ten. Reception children have been very busy practising for their family worship on **Thursday the 14th of February**. Reception friends and family are welcome to join us from 9am next Thursday morning, in the main school hall.

To end our week, Reception loved their visit to the Theatre to see 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. The children absolutely loved the whole performance- particularly the bears wiggle and getting wet in the audience. Thank you to all the parents who accompanied us. The Explorers and Discoverers earned SUPER CLASS this week. Well done to both classes with the Explorers enjoying pancakes and the Discoverers enjoying treats and a Disco! A little reminder- please can you encourage children not to bring toys, jewellery etc. in from home, because they get lost and broken etc. Many thanks. We look forward to meeting Reception parents next Tuesday and Wednesday evening to discuss their fantastic learning and seeing lots of friendly faces to share in our family worship on Thursday. Thanks again to parents for all of their support and see you soon!

## A Message from the Key Stage 1 Team

This week in Year 1 we have had a very noisy, colourful week celebrating the Lunar New Year. We loved our session with Mrs Cowie - watching the shadow puppet show, and doing a dragon dance.

In class we tasted prawn crackers and dips, and made a vegetable stir-fry. Some of us made fantastic Chinese drums - have a look on Twitter! In Maths we practised finding doubles up to 10 then used these to help us add three small numbers. In English we continued our story 'The Best of Friends'. We wrote the story using interesting vocabulary, and then acted it out. We enjoyed a super singing session with Mr Savage this week - we are loving singing songs like There's a hole in my bucket, The Blaydon Races and Puff the Magic Dragon. In Computing we learned how to control a character in our Maze Explorers unit. Soon we'll be able to create our own mazes!



Year 2 have had a busy, investigative week that has been lots of fun! In Maths we explored symmetry, learning that the two sides have to be exactly the same for them to be symmetrical. We folded paper shapes to see if they have a line of symmetry and found that some had lots! Then we looked at 3D shapes and their properties such as number of faces, edges, vertices and whether these were straight or curved. We noticed that flat faces of 3D shapes are 2D shapes, like a cube having six square faces. We also looked for examples of these shapes in everyday objects such as the cylindrical glue stick and cuboid-shaped iPad box. In English we have started exploring poetry and identifying poetic features including rhyme, descriptive language and comparisons. We created our own class poems by replacing adjectives, verbs and comparisons of an existing poem, and kept a log of all the wonderful language we used and saw. We also acted out and presented poems in different ways, and illustrated a poem based off the imagery used within it. In topic we have continued our explorer's topic using art and drama to further our learning of famous explorers and their voyages. We retold some key highlights of Ibn Battuta's exploration using skits alongside dramatic readings of his diary. In science we continued looking at changing shape, this time looking at how food can change shape and whether they can be changed back again. On Tuesday for safer internet day we learnt about asking for and giving consent online, how it is important to say both yes and no to requests depending on what you think is right. We also learnt that it is important to check regularly with an adult for their advice and consent about what to do online. Also on Tuesday Mrs Cowie organised a fun Lunar New Year activity for us where we learnt about the Zodiac, practiced some Vietnamese greetings, played the drums, were the parade dragon, both listened to and told stories using shadow puppets. Thank you Mrs Cowie! On Friday we had a visit from the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade who taught us all about being safe at the beach and in the sea, and what to do if someone is in trouble there. We got to see all of their equipment, and practice rescuing each other too which was lots of fun!

**FEBRUARY  
HALF TERM**

## Calendar Reminder

We break up at 3.10pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February for the spring half term holiday. Spring Term Two starts at 8.40am on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## A Message from the Year 3 and 4 Team



Year 3 have had a very exciting week with Chinese New Year and working hard for our family worship. Thank you so much for all the help that you have given in getting the children ready for this and for all those who came to share the special time with us. We have also been learning how to keep safe on the internet. We wrote a pledge to how we will keep ourselves safe and who they can ask for help. In mathematics, we have been continuing to learn about money. This week we have been subtracting money and finding out which is more or less.

In English, we have written Wow write which is a non-chronological report to answer the question 'Where would I rather live?' We have been comparing different countries covering the different ways they have school and the different games they play. Children have compared seven countries and chosen which country they would prefer to live in and explained why. In art, we have been drawing insects, paying close attention to detail and using a variety of different mediums to re create what we see.

In Maths Year 4 have been learning how to find the area of rectilinear shapes. We have been measuring the area of objects in our classroom and abstract rectangles in books using multiplication. In English both classes have continued to do work based on their stories including summarizing sections and empathizing with the characters. We had a wonderful author visiting this week and we have read the first chapter of her new book about a crime on a stream train.

Year four were lucky enough to have a parent come in and teach us about how Northumbria Water filter and clean the water that comes out our taps. It was really interesting and the children loved making their own filters out of sand and gravel. Thank you so much. We have also had a fantastic start to our Chinese New Year! The children have cooked up their own Chinese banquet. It was super tasty!

## A Message from the Year 5 and 6 Team



It's been another exciting and productive week in Year 5 and 6. I've been particularly delighted to see so many wonderful peer mentors supporting younger children in their lessons. Well done Year 5 and 6 for being shining examples in all you do!

In English lessons, Year 6 have started their new novel studies: 6CB are reading Street Child and 6ER are reading Goodnight Mr Tom. These novels have the children absolutely gripped and the work produced in response has been of the highest standard. We have also completed reading comprehension tests and worked hard to revise our Grammar, Punctuation and spelling. In maths, we have continued to reason and problem solve with fractions and decimals. We have also worked hard to keep our mental maths knowledge and confidence on the boil! In science lessons, we have been learning more about the effects of exercise on our bodies; we completed fitness tests and took our pulse to measure this carefully. In art and topic, we have continued to sketch Saxon artefacts including Saxon helmets and jewellery.

Year 5 have had an incredibly exciting week this week. We began our English lessons in the role of 'Mr Tushman' from Wonder, writing an incident report. The children were challenged to write using formal language - a challenge they absolutely stepped up to! The tone of their writing, along with their vocabulary used - such as 'According to' and 'acting impulsively' - was outstanding. In Maths, Year 5 have continued to show stamina and resilience within their fraction work. We have worked so hard to order fractions, whilst still recalling our previous knowledge of equivalent fractions and converting improper fractions and mixed numbers. Tuesday was an extra-special day for Year 5. Some of our children had a visit from the wonderful artist and graphic designer, Daniel Weatheritt. He was really thrilled to be able to work with such enthusiastic children and together they created some fabulous elephant and mammoth sculptures using recycled materials. Other Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to learn about enterprise and show their skills as budding entrepreneurs. They planned, designed and created some origami products which they then marketed and sold to their peers. Well done to the winning team - 'Paperland' who made an excellent profit of £27.50! Watch out Alan Sugar!

## Weekend Challenge

Our Weekend challenges continue to be inspired by our Lunar New Year celebrations

- Draw or build a dragon at home-send in a picture of your amazing creative skills.
- Use noodles and vegetables to help make a stir fry for the whole family to enjoy (maybe using chopsticks)
- Make a paper origami model of an animal
- Thursday of next week is Valentine's Day-make some special cupcakes for someone in your family
- As part of our ongoing healthy challenges, go on a long walk by the coast-see if you can spot anything in any of the rock pools or any early signs of spring in the countryside or woodland.

Thank you for all your help this week. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at our parent evenings. I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby  
Headteacher