



Cragside Church of England Primary School

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

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



16th March 2021

Dear Cragside Family

Newsletter 27: 16th March 2021

I am so sorry that we have had to close our school today as a preventative measure in light of a number of positive Covid cases in our school and also in the private Nursery which shares the site with us.

We have had reports of a number of staff and pupil cases since the weekend and are doing all we can to prevent increased transmission throughout school. The procedures which we have to stagger playtimes etc. have worked so well in the past but, with the increase in positive cases which we have seen this week, we have had to take even more action.

We have closed bubbles where either staff or children have had a positive test but are very minded of the potential for further possible community transmission once cases are identified. The decision to close the school today was seen as part of a ‘firewall’ to prevent the further transmission of the virus through our school. I am sorry about the inconvenience that this will have caused you but we needed to act decisively to try to deal with this.

Today we have organised for a deep cleaning team to come into school. They are currently working systematically through each room cleaning them and then using a disinfectant fogging machine to ensure that the rooms are suitably prepared. With the size of our school and number of classrooms, the work is expected to go into Wednesday as well. I have asked them not to rush the work but to be as absolutely thorough in each room as they can.

Once the cleaning is finished, our aim is to leave the school empty for a further 48 hour period. The aim is that will act as a complete break from any possible further transmission within the school, supporting the safety of our children and staff.

I am very aware that this causes many of you further inconvenience but the acceleration of cases through the school at the start of the week has meant that we have needed to take very decisive action. I will contact you on Friday to confirm the arrangements for reopening the school on **Monday 22nd March**. The dates for Year 3 and Year 4 classes returning to school remain the same as the letters which were distributed on Monday of this week.

At present there are a number of staff, including Mrs Parker and myself, who are isolating due to positive tests. Having a short period of school closure for the rest of this week also helps with our operational planning for school to ensure that all areas of school are covered whilst we are both isolating.

During the time of closure, teachers will continue to be in touch with remote learning to help children learn from home. I, like many of you, and the rest of the country was so excited about the return to school the other week and am so upset that we have had to go back to a short period of closure. Our aim is that this break and the deep clean will help to halt this current rise in cases. Nobody ever wants to close a school and I am so sorry that this has had to happen.

If you have any queries, please contact our school via admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk If any of your children do test positive during the rest of this week, please would it be possible to forward the test result information to our admin email address. My thoughts and prayers are with any staff and children who are unwell at the moment and hope they all make a speedy recovery.

If your child is struggling with access to an electronic device for home learning this week, please contact admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk and we will try to help.

I will contact you on Friday about the reopening of school on Monday. We will also keep in contact with our Year 3 and Year 4 children who are isolating at present. I understand, first hand, how difficult this is and hope that this decisive action we have taken this week that we will help stop any further transmission. Thank you very much for your understanding during this difficult time. We really do appreciate your help and support as we try to work together to defeat the impact of this pandemic on us all.

Many thanks,
Paul Rusby