



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**



Friday 23rd October 2020

Newsletter 8: 23 October 2020

Dear Cragside Family,

We are so proud of our children. They have worked so hard over these last eight weeks and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning and the progress that they have made during this first half term. I am so conscious of the huge impact that this virus is having on many of our families. Whether this is parents who are working at the front line supporting our local communities or families who have been deeply affected with changes to employment. We continue to try to make things as 'normal' as possible for our children in school but are conscious that we are all living through a period of history that many of our children's children will learn about when they go to school. Thank you so much for all your support and help throughout this first half term. I have a real sense of us all working together for the sake of your children who we all care for so much.

to maintain the sense of balance and normality amidst the unprecedented times we are living in, we have tried to look for positive solutions, for instance with parents' evenings and family worship. We will continue to do this during the next term. I know that one of the highlights of the next half term are all the Christmas activities. We are really keen to ensure that the children, and you, are able to enjoy these...it might just be a little different. Christmas dinner will be served, we will still have our Christmas jumper day and tea towels and dressing gowns will still be on show in our online Christmas services and performances. We know that this is always a special half term and want to try not to lose any of its magic for the sake of our wonderful children.

Thank you very much for completing the Google form which was sent home about Fridays. We really do appreciate your helpful feedback about this. If you have not completed it, please would it be possible to do this over this weekend to help with our planning. We will continually review this and keep you updated.

Thank you for your help completing the Google form about permissions for areas such as Twitter and YouTube. As we cannot gather as a whole school or invite parents into school for performances, we need to use YouTube for our collective worship and Christmas performances. Thank you for your help completing this form to help with our planning. If you have any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mrs Parker.

Northumberland County provided some 'buffs' which we distributed on Thursday to Years 2-6. These can be used by children as face coverings, bandanas or even made into hats. There is no expectation that children below the age of 12 need to wear any form of face covering. Thank you, when we return to school, for your help on the playground with the start and end of the day. Please would it be possible to ask that wherever this is possible that just one adult collects children from school. This will help reduce the number of adults on the yard each day. Thank you very much for reminding your child about the hand sanitising procedures which will continue when they return in November.

Remembrance Day and Cragside Remembrance Garden - A message from Miss McVicar

Over the past week, every child has been busy making a poppy to create a large display near our peace pole to commemorate Remembrance Day when we return next half term. Miss Harris and Miss McVicar would like to thank you for your support by sending in plastic bottles to enable them to do this. We are looking forward to seeing the poppies being brought together to add to our school's main entrance by forming a poppy field with wreaths. The poppies that the children have created look fantastic, we are extremely proud of the work they have put into these for the display. We hope that you have a moment to view the poppy field when at school.

We normally hold a whole school service on 11th November each year and the children and staff come together to observe the silence, with our whole nation, at 11am. We won't be able to gather this year but I will create a short Armistice Day service on our YouTube channel which the children will watch on 11th November which will give us the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by so many and fall silent at 11am. We will add this to our YouTube channel so you can join with us 'remotely' if you would like to do so.

New Learning Resource for our Children-a Message from Mrs Harper

We are all really excited at Cragside to be using our new digital online resource called Busy Things. Busy Things is a multi-award-winning collection of [educational games and activities](#) to help children between the ages of 3 and 11 learn - and to make it fun!

The site has won a number of major awards and all Busy Things activities are directly linked to the curriculum and subjects that your children will be learning in school, including Maths, English, Science, Phonics, History, Geography, Music, Art and even Coding!

It is really simple to access Busy Things: just log in to your child's **School 360 account** using the login details in your child's planner, **select 'resources'** and **click onto the Busy Things image**. **Choose your child's class** and you are ready to explore. Any work that has been set by your child's teacher will be shown as a notification in **'My Assignments'** or it will be 'pinned' to the teacher's page. For more information on how to log in to Busy Things please go to our school website www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk Busy Things can be accessed on a computer, laptop or tablet.

Acts of Kindness Shared by You-A Message from Mrs Urwin

Thank you for sharing all of your wonderful acts of kindness this week. It had been lovely to hear about how:

- Last weekend Nate, 1EH, was very helpful. He helped look after Polly Kitten, whose owner is in hospital, he sorted out some clothes he has outgrown to give to local a bank in Gateshead, shared his toys with his little sister and even cleaned the oven!
- Iris, 4UC, wanted to bake but didn't have the right sugar at home so she popped to her neighbour's to see if he had any. He didn't but Iris couldn't help notice how sad her neighbour was after losing his mum recently. Iris and her mum improvised and managed to make some cupcakes that turned out really tasty. Iris, after realising the recipe made 6, said she was going to decorate two and take them next door. She dropped them off and then received a lovely message from her neighbour saying how much he had loved his cake.
- Harvey, 2RC, offered to wash up after breakfast and what an amazing job he did!
- Annie, RLP, came in from her bedroom one morning this week and woke her mum up to show her that she had made Robyn's, Jacob's and her own bed and also tidied her room. When asked why she told her mum that she wanted to help her as it's was her first day of being a teacher.
- Evelyn, RLP, asked if she could buy sweets for her friends 'to make them smile' when she went shopping.
- Sophie, 6KH, painted a new garden planter for her mum over the weekend.
- Xavier, 2AW, made a close family friend, who had taken ill, a lovely get well card. He drew a picture on the front and wrote a lovely message inside. She was so pleased with it, she said it really cheered her up.

Daily Mile challenge-A Message from Mr Beck

We are beginning a Daily Mile Challenge to help encourage the children to give their best to their Daily Mile each day. Our challenge will have the children completing an 'around the world' race where the children will visit different countries as they complete various numbers of miles. As the children reach each destination they will add the new country's flag to their journey map and find out some interesting facts about the country they are visiting before moving on towards their next destination. The first class(es) to complete the round the world challenge and arrive back at their starting country (100 Daily Miles) will win certificates and a special mystery prize!

SUPERKIND CLASS REWARD for 4UC- A message from Mrs Urwin and Mrs Clarke

Well done to 4UC for achieving their SUPERKIND reward today. They very much deserve this. We had an extra playtime and enjoyed some mindfulness drawing and colouring. The children have enjoyed recording all of their acts of kindness in their class book and it has been lovely to reflect upon all of these at the end of this busy half term.

Harvest Festival and Hope Centre Donations

Thank you for any donations for our Harvest Festival services. These were collected today and will be used to support the work of the Hope Centre. The Hope Centre food bank is part of the Trussell Trust Foodbank group. I am very conscious, with the financial challenges of Covid-19, that some families might need some extra help from organisations such as this. As a school, if you think we can help, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Parker or myself and we will seek to try to see how we might be able to help. We will, of course, do this confidentially.

Half term reading challenge 🍁 A Message from Miss Rennison

Autumn is one of my absolute favourite times of year. I love how pretty the trees look and how the colours change around us. For our half term reading challenge I would like you to spend some time reading outdoors. Find a spot outside that is full of autumn colours and ask a grown up to take a photograph of you reading there. Please email the photographs to emma.rennison@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk so we can share your wonderful autumn reading pictures with the whole school. Happy reading!

Calendar Overview

A reminder about some dates at the start of half term Autumn (Two).

- **Monday 2nd November**-Start of Autumn Term (Two). Reception 2021 Admissions Portal opens
- **Monday 9th November**-individual photographs
- **Tuesday 10th November** - Nasal flu vaccinations
- **Tuesday 10th November**- Virtual Author Event - Guy Bass - Years 4, 5 and 6
- **Wednesday 11th November**-Armistice Day service-YouTube channel
- **Friday 11th December 2020**-Christmas jumper day

School Dinners

Each week, we will add a reminder of the meals for the next school week to help you with planning. We have made one or two changes to the original menu following some helpful feedback. We keep monitoring the menu and are looking forward to meeting with some groups of children next half term to involve them in helping to share some ideas for the menu. A main meal, sandwich or jacket potato can be ordered on School Buddy-please contact the school office if you have any queries about ordering meals. The menu for the first week back after half term is:

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course	Cheese Melts or Salmon Portion Potato wedges	Roast of the Day, Yorkshire Pudding & Potatoes of the Day	Pie of the Day or Homemade Quiche Potato Waffles	Roast of the Day, Yorkshire Pudding & Potatoes of the Day	Fish Fingers Baked beans Chips
	Choice of Sandwiches Filled Jacket Potatoes	Choice of Sandwiches Filled Jacket Potatoes	Choice of Sandwiches Filled Jacket Potatoes	Choice of Sandwiches Filled Jacket Potatoes	Choice of Sandwiches Filled Jacket Potatoes
Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Baked Beans
Puddings	Cake & Custard	Biscuit & Juice	Choc Mousse Slice	Fruit Whip	Muffin

Family Worship

A reminder that the next planned family worship dates for this term are

Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance/Armistice Service
Tuesday 10 November	Year 3 Family Worship
Thursday 12 November	Year 2 Family Worship
Tuesday 17 November	Year 1 Family Worship
Thursday 19 November	Reception Family Worship
Week commencing 7 December	Christmas Nativity performances –all year groups during this week

Reception News-A Message from our Reception Team

Thank you and well done to our Reception superstars! We are so proud of your hard work and loved creating our harvest celebration with you this week. What super confidence and maturity you showed! As well as talking about Harvest, we have also been learning the creation story and made some fabulous chalk pictures of our favourite animals. Well done!

After half-term, we will be changing into PE Kits for PE. Our PE day is Monday - thank you for putting your child's PE kit into their school bag each Monday. Please let Miss Grice or Mrs Pemberton know if you have any questions.

We have seen some lovely acts of kindness in Reception and both classes have worked super hard to achieve SUPER KIND. We celebrated with yummy hot chocolate - a massive well done from Mrs Pemberton and Miss Grice. Thank you for all your support from home and we hope you have a lovely half-term holiday. Remember to keep reading and sharing your news on Tapestry.

Mr Flynnwood's STEM Challenge for this half term

Ever wondered why so many people are scared of bugs? Carry out this week's science challenge to find out. <https://mysteryscience.com/trending/mystery-23/biodiversity/626?r=90997412>

School Partnership with Rwanda-A Message from Mrs Cowie

Dear Families, I would like to officially introduce our partnership School in Rwanda. Mukuge Primary School is going to re-open on the 1st November after a tough time with coronavirus. The school is in a rural area with only a water tank down the track to use for a water source. How lucky we are! During the Year we will be working with the school to develop curriculum ideas and learn from each other how to become global neighbours. An email will be sent with more pictures and a video introducing the school. Jean Paul Rurangwa the Head Teacher would like to say a huge hello from Rwanda and wishes us a lovely half term!



Last Year, they received some of our Christmas shoeboxes and these items were shared between the children as an act of kindness. The Christmas Shoebox appeal will go direct to schools like our partnership school that need supplies. So please start collecting a few items during the half term. We have spare shoe boxes in school so please give what you can :)
Many thanks Mrs Cowie

Operation Christmas Child - Christmas Shoe Box Appeal-A Message from Mrs Pemberton and Mrs Cowie

Thank you for your support with this year's Christmas Shoebox appeal. Please bring your shoebox into school by Friday 6th November. Further information can be found at: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and in line with Covid-19 guidelines, a helpful list of what can be included in boxes can be found at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/> Thank you.

Primary School Admissions-Applications open on 1st November 2020-Closing date 15th January 2021

If you know parents who wish to apply for places for September 2021, please would it be possible to let them know that the Northumberland admission portal to apply for Reception places for September 2021 starts on **1st November 2020**. If you live in North Tyneside, you would apply through the North Tyneside admissions portal for our school. Our online video will be live on our YouTube channel during the first week back after half term.

Half Term Challenges

It was lovely to see some of the pictures linked to last week's challenges. Thank you for this. Please do send in pictures to our admin email address or, alternatively, if you are on our school Facebook group, you could post them there. The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795896960817927/>

Our half term challenges are:

- When we return, we will be preparing for our Armistice service. I wonder if you might be able to make a picture of a poppy or a 3D model for one which we could display inside or outside.
- Make some special cupcakes, biscuit or tray bake. Wrap them up as a gift for a relative or neighbour and leave them on their doorstep with a card or a note to make them smile.
- Take part in Miss Rennison's reading challenge... I wonder how many books you will enjoy reading over half term?
- Take part in Mr Flynnwood's STEM challenge....remember to send him the pictures or add them to Facebook.
- Create a shoe box with your family as part of our Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

Well done to all our children for all their hard work this half term. For our Reception children this was their first full half term in school. Well done to them! It has been a real pleasure to see the excitement in learning that I have felt walking round school each day in every class in our school. What a blessing to have a school filled with children who love to learn!

Many thanks for all your support and help. You, and your families, are in my prayers each day during this global pandemic with the health and economic challenges that we are all facing.

I hope that you and your family have a good half term,

Paul Rusby