



Cragside Church of England Primary School

Westloch Road
Cramlington
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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



4th March 2021

Dear Cragside Family

Newsletter 25: 4th March 2021

Thank you so much for all your invaluable help with home learning during this term and, in many cases, since March 2020. I am delighted that the government have said that schools can fully open from 8th March. We are so looking forward to seeing all our children back in school on Monday.

We completely understand that some of you, and some of our children, might be feeling a little anxious about this. We are here to help and to support the children in having the best possible day on Monday. The systems and processes that were in place during the autumn term ensured that the children felt safe and that they could enjoy so many of the normal aspects of school life. Where necessary we adapted routines, such as start and end times to support the safety of the children but were still able to do (albeit a bit differently) so many of the things they enjoy such as the Christmas performances.

Our aim for this spring term and the summer term is to build on the structures from the autumn term to ensure strong safety processes and children flourishing with their learning. Our aim, as always is that each child will 'shine' within the learning plans and safety procedures that we have in place.

Apologies for a slightly longer newsletter but we wanted to share information with you to help with the safe starting of all our children back into school from Monday.

General Information-Entry into School

- **It is absolutely essential that no one (adults or children) enter our school grounds if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms.**
- Please would it be possible for **only one adult** to collect or drop off children so we can minimise the number of adults on school premises. It would be helpful if it was possible for some parents of older children to arrange to meet your child just outside school or near the local shops.
- If you need to speak with the teacher, please would you avoid doing this when dropping off your child to help the 'flow' of adults and children around our school grounds. Please do not enter the yellow hatched areas near the children's doors
- Please would everyone **follow the arrows** around the yard and try to walk approximately 2 metres behind the person in front.

- Please can parents/carers collect their child as quickly as possible and avoid assembling in groups, maintaining national social distancing expectations as much as possible. This helps us to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus within our school community.
- Please can we ask each adult who is dropping off or collecting a child to wear a **face covering**, on the school grounds, if they are able to. We understand that some adults may be exempt from this.
- Please can we ask that children leave **bicycles and scooters** at home for next week (week commencing Monday 8th March). We will review this during the week. This is to prevent larger numbers of children/adults assembling at the bicycle and scooter sheds during the first week where we are all back.
- Please would adults collecting children avoid waiting in the yellow boxed area on the cycle path or opposite the green gate which I stand by. If you bring a dog, please would it be possible not to tie up by the school gates. This will all help the flow of adults and children into school and out of school.

Safety Procedures at the start and end of the school day-Staggered start and end times

To support this safer wider reopening of school, we will continue to implement the staggered start and ends to the day which helped us so much during last autumn term. **Our aim is to keep these for the next three weeks until the Easter break and to evaluate them for the start of the summer term.** Our aim is to try to get things back to 'normal' as quickly as possible for the summer term, as long as it is safe to do so.

Having a measured and careful start to our wider reopening of school supports the safety of our children, parents and staff and that approach of 'walking before running' really did help during the autumn term. Our aim on Friday is to finish teaching at 1pm providing planning time for the teachers which will mean that, we can continue to minimise the number of adults coming into each classroom, which subsequently reduces the risks of transmission and minimises the potential of 'bubbles' needing to isolate. We have put in place free child care between 1pm and 3.10pm each Friday in September for families who need this facility. The Out of school club which runs from 3.10pm each day will also be available on Fridays as normal.

We will send out a Google form **on Monday 8th March** for you to let us know if you need your child to remain in school between 1pm and 3.10pm on **Friday 12th, 19th and 26th March** or if you will be picking your child up at 1pm.

The timings for Fridays during the remainder of the spring term will mean that the children have an earlier, and shorter, lunch period on Friday followed by registration and a lesson which will finish at 1pm. Where adults are able to collect children, this will be from their normal exit doors at the time in the table below. A selection of optional well-being activities will be made available for children to choose from for the next three Friday afternoons leading up to Easter.

If children need to stay until 3.10pm, then collection will, again, be from normal exit doors. This worked well during the autumn term and **we will review it for the start of the summer term.** We want to try to do all we can to have a measured and safe start to our wider school reopening and hope that this helps us to achieve that.

The timings of these staggered starts/ends from 8th March onwards are:

	Start of Day Please arrive between	End of Day (M, T, W, Th)	End of Day (Friday)
Reception	8.30am-8.45am	3.00pm	12.55pm
Key stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)	8.40am-8.50am	3.05pm	1.00pm
Key stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)	8.30am-8.40am	3.15pm	1.05pm

We aim to make our Out of School club available from the start of the school year. This includes Breakfast Club and After School Club. These will run each day of the week (including Fridays). Parents can book this through our School Buddy booking system.

To support the safe entry of our children into the school, please would it be possible for children to use the following entry and exit points:

Class	Entrance and Exit point
Reception-RLP	Reception entrance and exit
Reception-RSG	Reception entrance and main school door exit
1EO and 1EH	Miss Harris' classroom door
2RC and 2AW	Key Stage 1 cloakroom door
3JF and 3SM	Mr Flynnwood's classroom door
4UC and 4JB	Year 3/4 cloakroom door
5HC and 5JM	Year 5/6 cloakroom door
6ER and 6KH	Miss Rennison's classroom door

If you are dropping off children for the Year 5/6 doors, please would it be possible to drop them off at the main school gates, or beside the barriers near where Mrs Parker stands. Children will then walk the short path to their Year 5 or Year 6 entrance point. This will help with the safe 'flow' of children and adults around the playground at the start of the school day.

If collecting at the end of the school day, please avoid standing too close to another adult. If possible, please would parents of children in Y5/6 arrange to meet them off site.

Equipment for School

We continue to request that children minimise the amount of equipment that comes into school and goes home from school. Again, we will keep reviewing this in line with government advice. Please would child be able to bring into school:

- Water bottle (named)
- Small packet of tissues and small hand sanitiser (optional)
- Optional healthy snack for morning break. This might be a piece of fruit or healthy snack bar. **Please do not send in crisps, chocolate bars or sweets** (the fruit for school scheme for Reception and KS1 continues to be operational).
- If your child does not have school dinners, packed lunch (in easily wipe able bag or box)
- Named old shirt or apron (to stay in school) for art/technology lessons.
- To avoid extra equipment coming into school, please would it be possible to ask that children do not bring pencil cases from home. Children will be given their own pencil/pens.

PE and Forest School Days

For the next three weeks, each class have been allocated a PE and forest school day. This will maximise PE time and reduce additional items brought into school. On that day, please would you child wear his/her PE kit to school rather than uniform. Again, we will evaluate this at just before we break for Easter.

On their PE day, please would children wear:

1. Trainers
2. Socks
3. Shorts/skort or plain black leggings/tracksuit bottoms,
4. Plain white t-shirt,
5. Plain black sweatshirt/PE hoody or red school jumper

Year Group	PE and Forest School Day	Year Group	PE and Forest School Day	Year Group	PE and Forest School Day
Rec	Monday	3	Wednesday	6	Thursday
1	Tuesday	4	Wednesday		
2	Thursday	5	Friday		

Covid-19 Safety and General School Structures

There are two classes in each year group in our school so these will continue to be a 'bubble'. For the majority of time, the children will be in their class group, especially when they are learning inside the school building. This means we can identify close contacts if we do have a positive Covid case.

There will be some cross over times with other classes in their phase (EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2) as there are some shared facilities e.g. Key Stage 1 toilets. However these times are managed to reduce numbers of children in the same space and with all of our preventative measures in place.

At playtimes, the children will be on separate areas of the yard with children in their year group. We are incredibly blessed with large areas of outdoor space and will maximise the use of the outdoor space. Just like the summer term, each year group of children will have separate bags of playground equipment to play with and be able to use the fixed equipment in their areas of the yard.

Children wash/sanitise hands when coming back into the classroom after playtime and regularly throughout the day. We have purchased large supplies of hand cleaning soap and sanitiser.

To support our school safety procedures, **please do not send any child into school if they have any possible Covid-19 symptoms** e.g. a new cough or temperature. Please arrange for a test for your child and do not send him/her into school until you have the negative test result. Information about testing centres can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

If any child is showing signs through the day, they will go to a well ventilated area or outside if possible, for their safety and for the safety of others. An adult from school will stay with them until the adult from home comes to collect them. As always, we will show the same high levels of care and consideration towards our children who are poorly-we really do care for all our children's emotional wellbeing as well as their physical wellbeing and the safety of all in our school. If any child or staff member is tested positive, we will contact the families of the children in the bubble to keep you informed if your child is/is not identified as a close contact of the positive case and let you know next steps.

School Safety Equipment and Information

Classrooms continue to be deep cleaned with additional cleaning taking place during the school day to support the safety of our children and staff. Continuing from our autumn term model, we will factor into each day time for children to wash and sanitise their hands. Children will have access to soap and warm water in the toilets and soap and cold water in the classrooms. There are hand sanitisers in all classrooms. Good hand hygiene will be stressed throughout the day. Children will be allowed to bring into school their own hand sanitisers (named) to keep their own desk if you wish them to do so.

We have purchased large volumes of hand sanitisers, liquid soap, hand towels, boxes of tissues, disposable gloves, disposable aprons and face covers which might be used if first aid needs to be administered. Where some of our younger children might need additional support with self-care, for instance with a toileting accident, adults may choose to wear face and eye protection but this will not be normal practice through the day to day work.

The guidance from the Local Authority, scientists and the government is that **face coverings are not required for primary age children**. We do not expect children to need to wear face coverings in school. We want the school environment to look and feel as close to normal as we can possibly manage for our children whilst actively supporting the safety of all in school.

Please would it be possible for parents and carers to avoid, if possible, coming into the main office. It would be really helpful if messages and information could be shared on the phone or via email. If you do need to come to the school office, please would it be possible for adults to wear a face covering.

When entering and leaving school, children will be encouraged to keep a suitable distance from each other but, as I am sure you will appreciate with younger children, we cannot guarantee that children will remain 2m from each other. **For younger children, it would be helpful if parents/grandparents would consider holding their hands when entering/leaving school to assist us with social distancing measures.**

There are yellow painted grids near the doors that children enter school. **Please would it be possible to help with distancing by not going into the yellow grids.** If you need to drop off anything at the school office, please would it be possible for just one adult at a time to be in the office reception area.

Just as we had in the autumn term, classrooms are set out in separate desks which all face the front. We know that the children are now familiar with this arrangement and it is in place to support the safety of children. Teachers and teaching assistants will move throughout all the desks to support the children with their learning. At all times we want to get the balance between the safety of all our children and the emotional needs of all our children and their need for caring interaction with our staff.

All the staff continue to understand the anxieties and emotional challenges that returning to school might have for some children. We all want to do our very best to support and care for them in a safe, loving and caring manner. **This high level of care and support will continue from Monday 8th March and beyond-it is at the heart of our school!**

Curriculum and Learning

We are proud that in each year group, our children have completed so much of the work which has been planned for them remotely by their teachers, much of which has been delivered by our wonderful parents balancing this with their own work commitments...Thank you! We also know that some children may not have been able to do this and, as we always do, we will differentiate our curriculum to support the range of different abilities in each class so children will learn at the level appropriate to them so they can make maximum progress from their unique starting point.

We are mindful of supporting the emotional and mental health needs of **all** our children when they return to school as well as the academic needs of our children.

As we continue through our spring and summer terms we will seek to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. We will continue to prioritise identifying gaps and re-establishing good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics). We will identify opportunities across the curriculum so children can read widely, and developing their knowledge and vocabulary. We will share each day with the children our passion that they 'keep reading.' Thank you very much for helping your child with reading at home each evening.

School Uniform

As I mentioned last week, we are very conscious that children may well have grown since the lockdown period which started at the end of December. We are also conscious of the financial challenges that many families are facing and the practicalities that many shops selling shoes and clothing are not open yet. **To try to help our families, we will use the three weeks between 8th March and the start of the Easter break as a transitional period.** If your child's shoes do not fit or you cannot get a specific item of uniform for the three remaining weeks of this school term, please don't worry.

An alternative such as training shoes or similar coloured trousers etc. will be absolutely fine if needed for this three week period. Summer, red checked gingham dresses can also be worn from 8th March. Our uniform suppliers include:

- Aark: <https://www.aarkshop.co.uk/crag-side-primary-school>
- Cloud 9: <https://www.cloud9leisure.co.uk/crag-side-primary>
- Hope Centre: <https://www.facebook.com/Hope-Centre-Uniform-Bank-120300189365324/>
- Community School Clothing : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CommunitySchoolClothingScheme/>

Optional Lateral Flow testing for school staff and families of school aged children

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect our loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, the government asks that we all play our part to help protect each other. Primary school staff and parents/adult bubbles of primary aged children are being given access to regular **lateral flow testing** opportunities. These tests are for adults and not for primary aged children. Secondary school students will receive information about testing from their school. Tests for parents/carers and household bubbles can be obtained:

- By collecting a home test kit from a test site. You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point, with each pack containing 7 tests. Anyone over the age of 18 can collect these. You can also check online if the location is busy before you go [Find your nearest home test kit collection point](#).
- If you are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. The Government asks that tests are only ordered online if you cannot get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)
- Using a lateral flow testing kit, you will be asked to:
 - take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
 - report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test
 - Report your test result online or by calling 119.
- If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:
 - self-isolate immediately
 - get a PCR test to confirm the result
 - follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection
- A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. This does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all coronavirus advice including regular hand cleaning

To clarify, these tests should be aimed at identifying asymptomatic people. If you are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus, please contact a testing centre for a PCR Covid-19 test.

World Book Day Book Vouchers

We really enjoyed World Book Day this year and seeing people who were learning both at home and in school taking part. Every year children are given a book voucher with £1 to spend on either World book day books at a price of £1 or £1 off the price of another book. We will send home the vouchers on Monday 8th March when everyone has returned to school. We hope the children enjoyed the 'Masked Reader' video.

Computers for School

We have been able to purchase 90 additional Chromebooks to use in school. This is a wonderful additional resource for the children to use and will especially help our Key Stage 2 children with the transition to Cramlington Learning Village as they are used in the secondary school.

School Meals

School meals for the week commencing Monday 8th March 2021 onwards can be booked on SchoolsBuddy. The three week menu is on our website. The menu for week beginning Monday 8th March is:

Week commencing 25.01.21 15.02.21 08.03.21 29.03.21					
Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main Course	Spaghetti Bolognese or Fish Cake Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken with Yorkshire Pudding & Potatoes of the Day	Chicken/Cheese Wrap Potato Wedges	Roast of the Day, Yorkshire Pudding & Potatoes of the Day	Homemade Pizza 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	Fruit Whip	Biscuit & Juice	Cake & Custard	Mousse Slice	Cheesecake

Parent Governor

We are extremely grateful to Mrs Helen Whitwell whose time as parent governor has come up after the four years she has served on our governing body. There are now two vacancies for parent governors for our school. The role would involve being able to attend one full governing body meeting each term which take place from 5.30pm one day a term. In addition to this we have two governing body committee meetings each half term which are normally held in an afternoon from 1pm.

If you feel that you might like to apply to be a parent governor, please would you email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk by **4pm on Wednesday 10th March**. To apply, you will need to be a parent/carer of a child on our roll and have a parent/carer propose you and another parent/carer second your appointment. Please would you include these details in your email. If there were more than two applications we would look at having an election. If you are thinking of applying and would like to discuss anything before applying, please would you ring school or email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk and I will try to answer questions you might have.

Monday 8th March 2021-Works on Cycle Path

We have just been informed by Northumberland Council that there are planned resurfacing works scheduled for **Monday 8th March** on the cycle path which leads to the school gate which I stand by each morning.

I have contacted them to see if they could change the date but it appears that it is set. I have had confirmation that the **works will not start until 9am** so the children who use the cycle path to come to school will still be able to.

I have also had confirmation that their planned finish time should be **before** the children leave school at the end of the day.

Any machinery used will either be supervised by one of the workers or have barriers around them whilst children are moving to and from school. I have emphasised the need for no machinery to be moving whilst children are walking to and from school. It is frustrating that this could not have been done at a different time but the person overseeing the works is clear about the important of the safety measures on Monday morning and afternoon. The works will not go beyond Monday and should mean that the surface is better for all users.

Some Events in the Calendar for Spring Term 2021

Monday 8 th March	All children return to school. Friday Google form available from today.
Tuesday 9 th	
Wednesday 10 th	
Thursday 11 th	
Friday 12 th	Mothering Sunday is on Sunday 14 th March
Monday 15 th	
Tuesday 16 th	
Wednesday 17 th	Cragside Science Day- Ocean Discovery Day
Thursday 18 th	
Friday 19 th	Comic Relief Day-children invited to wear non-school uniform (it would be great if they might be able to include something red)
Monday 22 nd	Easter egg competition during this week-details to follow
Tuesday 23 rd	
Wednesday 24 th	Easter service (online) during this week
Thursday 25 th	World Book Day (part two)-children welcome to come to school dressed as a character from a book or in non-school uniform
Friday 26 th	Break up for Easter

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child back to school on Monday 8th March. We will do all that we can to support your child to have a safe and happy return to school and support term through these three weeks of the spring term and throughout the busy summer term.

Thank you very much for helping with the smooth movement of children into their entrance doors each day and the safe movement around the arrows on the yard as you leave the yard via the exit gates. Thank you for your help, when waiting at the end of the day, in keeping a 2m distance from other parents and carers and following the arrows around the yard.

We are, as I mentioned earlier, aware that some children will be anxious about returning to school. We will do all we can to support them with love and care that will hopefully let them know how valued they are as all our children return.

Apologies for the longer newsletter, I was really keen to try to get as much information as possible out to you.

All the staff at Cragside and I look forward to welcoming you, and your child, back to school on Monday. We can't wait to see all the children again. We are looking forward to planning for a spring and summer term of exciting learning in the classroom, outside and in the forest area.

We are looking forward to a summer, which will hopefully also include clubs, team sporting competitions, sport days and all that we normally enjoy in the summer term. Some of this might need to be slightly modified but we look forward to enjoying these next three weeks of the spring term and a full summer term of exciting learning at Cragside where all our precious children can 'SHINE BRIGHT'.

Many thanks,

Paul Rusby