



Cragside Church of England Primary School

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**“Let Your Light
Shine”**

Headteacher: Joanne Parker

Deputy Headteacher: Caroline Bilton

Assistant Headteacher: Roz Cant



Thursday 21st October – Newsletter 6 2021-2022

Dear Cragside Family,

Time has flown by and amazingly we are already at October half term! We've had an extremely positive half term and I am so proud of our children (and staff!) who have worked so hard during the past seven weeks. It has been wonderful to see the children's joy of learning, their enthusiasm for all that they do and to see the impressive progress that they have made during this first half term. We are striving to make things as 'normal' as possible for our children in school and ensure that they experience the very best provision that we can offer. It's been delightful to see our Year 6 children enjoy their residential visit to Robinwood this half term, our new Reception children visiting Alexandra Park and to welcome Year 7 students from the CLV into school and see them reading with some of our younger children. Thank you so much for all of your support and help throughout this first half term. There is a real sense of us all working together for the sake of your children, who we all want the very best for. As we look ahead to the next half term, we look forward to what I'm sure is one of the children's favourite times of the year. Our Christmas dinner is already planned, nativities are being discussed and the search for costumes commences! The coming half term is always a magical half term and being in a primary school during December is a truly unique and delightful time!

Family Worship

We really enjoyed watching the Year 5 and Year 4 Family worship which have now premiered. Thank you to all of the children and staff who have been involved in creating these and sharing with you some of the learning which has been happening in individual year groups during the past half term. We hope that you treasure these recordings as much as we do.

Personalised Christmas Cards – message from Miss McVicar

Your child's Christmas card designs are being sent home this week. If you would like to order products with your children's design on, please follow the instructions on the sheet. If you are having any problems please let your child's class teacher know. Please return the design to school before Wednesday 3rd November. Thank you!

Nursery Update

From 1st November the transfer of the Nursery will be complete and the Nursery provision will become part of our school provision. This is a very exciting development for our school and we are grateful to Fiona, Emma and the whole of the Nursery staff team for the happy memories which they have given to so many of our children over the years. We look forward to welcoming all of the children and families of

Cragside Nursery into our Cragside family and offer a warm welcome to Amy, Emma, Lauren and Paula to our school staff team.

As we work towards ensuring a smooth and positive transition for the Nursery children, Lynsey Clarke will take on the role of the class teacher within the Nursery and will be part of the Early Years Foundation Stage team, leading the Nursery staff team, as we manage the changeover between the current structure and our desired provision. Lyndsey Urwin-Clark will be increasing her time in school to teach 4UC on a full-time basis whilst Lynsey Clarke is teaching in the Nursery class. This ensures continuity for the children in 4UC.

Diary Dates

Fri 22 nd October	Teacher Training Day – School closed to children
Mon 1 st November	Portal for Reception 2022 places open
Mon 1 st November	Nursery staff induction day – Nursery closed to children
Tues 2 nd November	Welcome to Nursery children, staff and families to our Cragside family
Mon 8 th November	Tempest Individual School Photos
Fri 12 th November	Children in Need Day
Mon 15 th November	Beginning of Road Safety Week and Friendship Week
Mon 22 nd November	Beginning of Interfaith Week
Thurs 25 th November	Nasal Flu Programme in school
Weds 8 th December	9.30am Reception Christmas Performance – details to follow
Fri 10 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Fri 10 th December	9.30am Reception Christmas Performance – details to follow
Mon 13 th December	Christmas Church Services at St Nicholas' Church – further information will be provided at a later date
Mon 13 th December	Reception Christmas Party
Tues 14 th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Weds 15 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
Thurs 16 th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Thurs 16 th December	Reception Christmas Party
Fri 17 th December	End of Term, school closes 3.10pm
Tues 4 th January 2022	Teacher Training Day – School closed to children
Weds 5 th January 2022	Children return to school for the beginning of Spring term 2022

Primary School Admissions

Over the past couple of weeks, we have warmly welcomed a number of prospective parents and children into our school to show them around our school. This has given us a great opportunity to meet with some of our Nursery families already and the feedback from these Open mornings has been extremely positive. Parents looking around our school have particularly noted how welcoming our children and staff are, how brilliantly polite and hard-working our children are and all of the parents have commented upon the bright and spacious learning environment which we are fortunate to have at Cragside. The portal to apply for Reception places for September 2022 opens on 1st November 2021.

Harvest Services and food donations

Many thanks to Reverend David Gray came into school yesterday to lead our Harvest Services for children. In addition to this, we hope that you and your extended family have enjoyed the Harvest Celebration which was emailed out to you earlier today. Thank you to Mrs Cant for organising both of these events. Thank you also for all of your kind donations for our Harvest Festival services. These will be used to support the work of the Hope Centre, based in Cramlington. We are conscious 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 myself and we will seek to try to see how we might be able to help. We will, of course, do this confidentially.

Dave Draws...

We are delighted with our new entrance area which has been drawn by a Manchester based artist who visited our school earlier this month. The children love looking at this design and pointing out all of the places which they go to. We really love how it gives the children a sense of belonging and fitting into a wider community, one which has our school at the heart of it.



Half Term Reading Challenge

Our reading challenge this half term holiday is to read five different books to five different people, in five different places. You could choose to read picture books or newspaper articles or chapters from longer books if you wish. Everyone who takes part will get a bookmark for completing the challenge! Please record all your reading in your reading journal. We are looking forward to seeing how much reading you have done.

And finally...

As we end this first half term, I wanted to share something special with you, which I hope makes you feel as proud as I do...please make sure that you have the sound on..... <https://bit.ly/3psqX2H>

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 1st November and our Nursery children on Tuesday 2nd November.

Kind regards,
Joanne Parker