



# 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 14: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

## Weekend Challenges

Thank you for the photographs and information that have been sent in for the Advent festive challenges. These included:

- As part of our on-going healthy challenges, well done to Isla Joyce who passed her Stage 3 swimming badge.
- For our festive challenges, Daniel Robson (Reception Discoverers) made some Christmas tree decorations with his Grandma.
- Isabelle Hudson (1LU) made polar bear cupcakes which were delicious!
- Ashton Burnett (3AD) made some chocolate cupcakes with a Christmas theme which were also yummy!
- Jake Miah (4ER) decorated a Christmas cupcake at the weekend, at the Woodhorn museum's Winter Market.
- Georgia Urwin (3RC) baked and prepared Christmas biscuits for her class. She tied them all up with ribbon and wrote out individual name labels.
- Daniel and Alex Wilks (5HC and 1LU) and Isla and Luke Barber (5JB and 1LU) made some wonderful Christmas wreaths for their house doors.

Well done to all our festive bakers and makers!

## Christmas Arts and Music Concert-A Message from Miss Westgarth

We were all so proud of all our performers on Tuesday this week for putting on such a fantastic display, for all our friends and families. The dancers, singers, musicians and dramatists were all excellent and everyone loved viewing their talents. Performances ranged from cheer leading dance skills to playing 'Feed the World' on the Ukulele. We were also very impressed with an act from our Drama and Dance group of 'Harry Potter's Christmas star'. Thank you to all our performers. It's great to watch all their achievements.

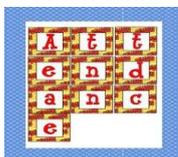


Thank you to all our school friends and families for attending. We really appreciate the support. If your child would like to learn a musical instrument (Penny whistle, Violin, Ukulele or Djembe drums) in the new term, please inform the main office. With thanks.

## Well done Sing-up Club-A Message from Mrs Bilton

I couldn't have been more proud of my wonderful Sing-Up club on Tuesday night. I've been delighted to welcome children from every year group to singing on a Thursday night this half-term-we've certainly filled the school with joyful singing! Well done to all of the children who performed on Tuesday night and thank you so much for your support.

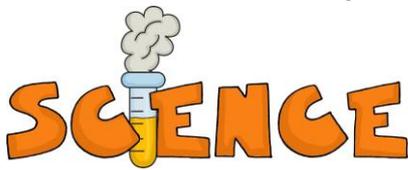
## Attendance



Congratulations to all our classes who achieved the highest attendance last week. These were:

- Early Years- Mrs Pemberton's Explorers class
- Key Stage 1-Miss Grice's Class (1SG) who achieved 98%.
- Key Stage 2- Mrs Cowie's Class (5HC) and Mr Beck's Class (5JB) both with 97% attendance.

## Super Scientist - A Message from Mrs Urwin



The snowy weather earlier this week sparked Ryan Johnson from 3RC into questioning whether a snowman with a coat would melt quicker than a snowman without a coat. Ryan and Mrs Urwin had a chat about how to answer this fabulous scientific question. Ryan then planned his own experiment, which he carried out at home. Ryan filled two plastic cups with water and popped them into the freezer overnight. The next day he removed the 'snowmen' from their cups and placed them both in the same place, after wrapping one of them in material. Ryan predicted that the snowman with the coat would melt quicker than the snowman without the coat. After carrying out his observations over a period time Ryan noticed that the snowman without the coat melted quicker. He talked about the idea of the coat keeping the snowman at the same temperature for longer. This led onto chats about insulation. Well done Ryan! Your class loved hearing about your home learning! I wonder what other amazing scientific discoveries any of our children can make at home!

## Chess Tournament-A Message from Mr Harries-Wood

Wow! I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the parents/grandparents and carers that came to Cragside Chess Club's first tournament. I think it would be fair to say it was a wonderful success (we could have kept playing for much longer). The children truly enjoyed it and it was fantastic to see that so many children have been inspired to play at home as well. Chess is a great game for developing critical thinking and strategy building, and it is fun of course, so it is lovely to see the children engage with it so happily. I will definitely organise at least one more tournament next half term, hopefully, two. Now the moment of truth, we have a tie for the winner of last night's tournament. The joint winners with four wins each are Lewis Notley and Shona's Dad They win the best prize...bragging rights! If I have made a mistake, which would not be uncommon, I am sorry.



## Christingle and Christmas Party Information

Please see below information about the times for Christmas performances and information about Christmas parties.

Date	Information
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas Nativity-9.15am
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Reception Christmas party (pm)</b> -Please would children come to school in their party clothes
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Services at St Nicholas' Church 9.30am-Reception/Y1 and Y2 11.00am-Year 3 and 4 1.30pm-Year 5 and 6
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas party (pm)</b> On Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December the children in Year 1 and 2 will enjoy their Christmas Party. The party begins after lunch so children are asked to bring their party clothes into school in a named carrier bag please. A list of party foods/drinks will be displayed next week (on cloakroom doors for Y2 and classroom doors for Y1). If you would like to donate we kindly as for you to sign your child's name next to your choice of food/drink.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas party (pm)</b> The children will play a range of games, take part in a disco and have a small party tea. Please could all children bring their party clothes to school in a named bag on the morning of the 20 <sup>th</sup> . We are also asking each child to bring a small amount of food to share. Please can 3RC and 4ER bring savoury food and 3AD and 4JHW bring sweet food.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5/6 Carol singing at Scarborough Court
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas party (pm)</b> Please can we ask that Year 5 and 6 children come into school in their school uniform and bring their party clothes to get changed into later in the day. We would also be very grateful if your child could provide a small amount of food as a contribution towards a party tea. To make this as simple as possible, we only ask that girls bring something savoury and boys something sweet. Thank you so much for your help with this.
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Break up for Christmas holiday-normal end of day timings

## Shining Stars

Please see the names below for those children whose efforts have been rewarded with a Certificate of Achievement this week. Once again, we are so proud of all of the children who have worked extremely hard this week.

Reception Discoverers: Lily-Mae Walker for being amazing in our Nativity- super singing and speaking part. Thank you.

Reception Discoverers: Emily Salam for fantastic progress with phonics. You've worked so hard. Really proud of you!

Reception Explorers: Scarlett Wilson for working so hard every day and being an absolute joy in our class. Thank you.

Reception Explorers: Brianna White for always being a kind and helpful friend. Thank you.

Year 1SG: Oliver Harrison for fabulous ideas on how to look after a kitten in our phonics sessions.

Year 1SG: Charlotte Sutton for trying so hard to get her handwriting neat and tidy.

Year 1LU: Mason Wallace for super reading this week.

Year 1LU: Sonni Williams for super phonics!

Year 2JP: Lacey-Mae Mouzon for trying really hard with her writing!

Year 2JP: Jacob Dickinson for a great last minute performance in our Christmas play.

Year 2EA: Kayleigh Cochrane for a fabulous independent Wow Write about Mog the cat.

Year 2EA: Teegan Antwiss for always trying her very best and having a wonderful love of learning.

Year 3RC: Nixon Allwood for being a kind friend and having a positive attitude.

Year 3RC: Harley Connell for working hard to follow school rules.

Year 3RC: Eva- May Smith for working hard in all lessons.

Year 3AD: David Newton for always being a shining example to others around him.

Year 3AD: Lily Flynn for working really hard to improve her reading.

Year 4ER: Connor Young for a phenomenal attitude to reading.

Year 4ER: Alexandra Irving for creating a unique mosaic during our Roman Day.

Year 4JHW: Owen Robertson for a fantastic feat of memory in the Christmas production and portraying Mr Rusby so well!

Year 4JHW: Lewis Notley for working hard in lessons and perseverance.

Year 5HC: Leon Maddison chosen by the whole class for being a great friend to all.

Year 5HC: Eddie Mason for quietly raising his standards, speed and effort in all lessons.

Year 5JB: Seth Townsley for being a kind, caring and considerate friend.

Year 5JB: Grace Barnard for superb multiplication skills.

Year 6 CB: Charlie Kelk for having such confidence and enthusiasm in all aspects of school.

Year 6CB: Ruby Whitwell for being a wonderful help with younger children.

Year 6RD: Aaron Wilson for his starring role as Saint Nicholas in our Christmas performance.

Year 6RD: Tian Tian Zhu for always giving her best and setting a perfect example to others.

## SUPERCLASS

- Well done to the Discoverers for earning their SUPER CLASS. They had hot chocolate with marshmallows to celebrate!
- Congratulations to 2JP who achieved superclass this week they celebrated with a movie and hot chocolate afternoon.
- Well done to 1SG who enjoyed a special Christmas SUPERCLASS this afternoon - a Polar Express treat!
- Well done to 6RD who earned their SUPERCLASS reward this week. The children voted for which reward they would like to receive and the most popular outcome was to have a bikes, scooters and roller-skates afternoon which they enjoyed today.

Well done to all our SUPERCLASSES for their hard work this term.

## Reception News



Well done Reception- what a fantastic performance of 'The Nativity'. You all sang so well and worked really hard to deliver some clear speaking parts. Some super dancers too! Thank you to all who came. We look forward to our second Nativity performance on Monday the 18th of December at 9.15am. **Please come on that day wearing party clothes.** Reception's Christmas party will also be on that day- thank you in advance for bring in a donation of something sweet if your child is in Discoverers or something savoury if your child is in Explorers.

This week we have had a busy time making Christmas crafts, singing Christmas songs and checking and revisiting our learning.

Next Tuesday, the 19th of December, we have the Christingle service at St Nicholas's Church in Cramlington. Thank you to the Reception parents who have volunteered to accompany us there on the bus. We look forward to seeing all the remaining parents at the Church for 9.30am. Thank you for all your support in Receptions last few weeks of their first term. We're really proud of them!

## Key Stage 1 News

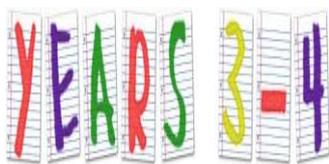


In Year 1 this week we have watched the heart-warming Sainsbury's advert, The Greatest Gift. The children thought about the gifts which their families give to them, not just at Christmas but all year round. The children then wrote thank you letters for their families, showing their appreciation. The children's ideas included saying thank you for hugs and kisses, warm meals, making them happy and stories at bedtimes. In Maths this week we have been measuring heights of various objects. We measured ourselves and

pictures of Christmas trees and Rudolf! In Science we managed to get out into the snow where we enjoyed a scavenger hunt in the Forest Classroom. We found frost on the leaves, icicles hanging from branches and we even spotted some animal tracks in the snow! In RE we have been thinking about giving and receiving gifts. We have been working hard on making our own special gifts to give away at Christmas time.

In English this week the Year 2 children have been exploring the story of Mog's Calamity and we came up with our own alternative events which have been great fun to hear about and read. In Maths we have been continuing to practise our 2s, 5s and 10 times tables. In Science we have been finishing off our work on habitats and talking about food chains. We would appreciate any shoe boxes or cereal boxes for next week to make habitat scenes out of. We are looking forward to Christingle and the Christmas party on Tuesday. Please ask if you have any questions regarding either.

## Lower Key Stage 2 News



We were incredibly proud of all our year 3 and 4 children this week during our performances of Tinsel and Tea-towels. We were so impressed with their beautiful singing and amazing acting skills. They all worked so hard to learn their lines and put on such a wonderful performance. Thank you for all the support you have given the children at home- we couldn't do it without you!

The children are now busy rehearsing for our Christingle service which will take place on Tuesday 19th at 11 am in St Nicholas Church. All are very welcome to attend.

Party Reminder: The Year 3 and 4 Christmas party will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. The children will play a range of games, take part in a disco and have a small party tea. Please could all children bring their party clothes to school in a named bag on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. We are also asking each child to bring a small amount of food to share. Please can 3RC and 4ER bring savoury food and 3AD and 4JHW bring sweet food.

In Year 3 this week the children have enjoyed our topic work on extreme earth. We have found out about what to do in an earthquake, how to spot a tsunami and thought about whether we would like to live next to a volcano.

In Year 4 we have spent time thinking about our topic on Romans and were lucky enough to spend the day with some historians from Durham University. They brought in lots of artefacts that we got to handle and investigate.

## Upper Key Stage 2 News



What a busy and incredibly productive week Year 5 and 6 have had this week! I'm sure you'll agree that their performances on Wednesday and Thursday were wonderful. We were so proud of the children for performing at the highest level with such confidence and ability. As I said at the performances, the children took responsibility for everything you saw from programmes and costumes, to the sound system and the props. Well done Years 5 and 6 for putting together such enjoyable and professional standard performances. We're now looking forward to our Christingle service at St Nicholas church next week.

As well as working on their performances, Year 6 children have planned, designed and made the games enjoyed by the whole school today. The games were all great fun and the children very much enjoyed playing them as part of their enjoyment of Christmas Jumper Day. Year 5 have been enjoying their penultimate week before the Christmas break by watching some of Blue Planet 2 and discussing how people are having an impact on the oceans as well as things we could do to prevent damaging the oceans. We have been discussing the Man on the Moon Christmas advert and used the emotions portrayed in the video to write descriptions.

## Date for the Diary



We have just been informed that the Gregg's Cancer Run is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018. We have entered this as a school over the last 5 years and look forward to even more children, parents and grandparents running again in 2018!. We will send out details about how to enter in the New Year but please save the date in your diary! There are three distances that you can choose from so the event is suitable for children from Nursery all the way to the end of secondary school (and beyond!).

## Christmas Jumper Day-A Message from the Pupil Voice Charity Group

The children all looked great on Friday in their Christmas jumpers. They really enjoyed playing the games which year 6 kindly created. It was a great, fun way to raise money to support Save the Children. Thank you for all your support and donations.



## Christmas Performances



It was wonderful to see so many families at our nativity performances this week. I know that the children loved being able to perform in front of such encouraging audiences. Thank you so much for all your support during this busy Christmas production week. Thank you for help with costumes, learning lines and sharing the nativity performances with our children. Well done to all the children for all their hard work. We look forward to seeing families next Monday for the final Reception nativity performance and at St Nicholas' church on Tuesday for our Christingle services.

## Christingle Services

Our Christingle services are held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at St Nicholas' Church in Cramlington. We organise buses for the children from school to the church. Please would it be possible for parents to avoid parking near the letter box at the top of Westloch Road as the buses park there. The services last approximately 30 minutes.



## Weekend Challenge

As we move ever closer to Christmas, our weekend challenges continue our festive theme. Please send in picture of your children:

- Making and baking some Christmas treats...Christmas cakes, biscuits and sweets
- Create a decoration for the Christmas tree or for the house...snow globes, candles, wreaths...
- Visit an elderly relative-share some Christmas snacks and read to them a Christmas story.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing the children on Monday as we move towards the last week of this term.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby  
Headteacher

