



Cragside Church of England Primary School

Westloch Road
Cramlington
Northumberland
NE23 6LW



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

☎ 01670 714200

✉ admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk

🌐 www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk

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



Saturday 16th May 2020

Parent Update Seventeen

Dear Cragside Family,

I hope that you and your family are well. I am very conscious after watching some of the news today and reading the covers of some of the newspapers that education has been very much in the news. It must be so difficult for many families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who are thinking about the possible reopening of schools in June. Thank you to the families in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who have sent back replies to the recent Google form. The vast majority of responses highlight that sense of uncertainty about what to do. I completely understand this.

As a school, we continue to plan for the possibility of reopening. As I know you will appreciate, within the planning of any event, nobody is ever able to fully eradicate risk. What we are working on is a plan to help manage the risk to your children, who are precious to you and us, and to manage the risk to our staff team who I am proud to be part of. These are difficult moments for you, and indeed for us as a school. I am very minded about the huge responsibility to you, our children and staff in the planning we are doing.

As we move into another new school week, we will share ongoing planning with families as we look towards what any possible phased reopening might look like. In addition to this, we will send out a Google form for feedback and ideas about home learning. We are interested to hear about how we can continue to support and further develop the home learning which you are doing such a wonderful job with.

Learning at Home

Thank you very much for all the letters that have been sent into school this week from the children and all the information that they have shared about their learning at home. Thank you for the painted stones which have been placed near the peace pole. We are very grateful for the delicious biscuits, cakes and tray bakes which have been made. Our week seven activities will be sent out via email and will be on the website. Week seven is a slightly different week in that it is a creative learning week.

When we have creative weeks in school, we continue to concentrate on our phonics, maths and reading activities as normal and try to use the theme from the creative learning week to support our writing tasks. We also find that in our creative learning weeks, we enjoy slightly more of areas such as art, crafting and cooking linked to the topic which we have. Our area for our creative learning week is - **“Our Wonderful World”**. This seeks to celebrate the diversity of the world we live in and our role as global neighbours. Thank you for all your help with this.

Wonderful World Week

Each year, on the last week of the summer (1) half term, we have a creative learning week where we change the timetable and have a special creative focus. Sometimes this has had an environmental theme, sometimes an artistic theme and sometimes a 'global' theme. This year our theme is **'Our Wonderful World'**. The aim is for each year group's learning to centre on a country which will not be familiar to them as well as to think about the wider world that we live in. All these countries have one thing in common-they are, either wholly or partly, French speaking. The countries are:

Reception – France; Year 1 – Canada; Year 2 – Belgium; Year 3 – Luxembourg; Year 4 – Rwanda; Year 5 – Monaco and Year 6 – Seychelles.

We hope you enjoy completing some fun, creative and practical activities and look forward to seeing your work! Passe une bonne semaine! Please feel free to explore other countries and learn about their language, culture and geography. To supplement the weekly sheet of home learning which will be email out to you, there is a sheet for some additional Wonderful World Week activities at the end of this newsletter.

Sharing Together

It is lovely to see some of the learning activities that children are doing which have been posted in our private Facebook group. We now have nearly 190 families in the group. It would be wonderful if we could reach over 200 this week as we celebrate the learning from 'Our Wonderful World' week. If you would like to join the group, the link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795896960817927/>. When you request to join, please would it be possible to answer the questions which you will be given about which class your child is in and the rules for the group. We look forward to welcoming some new families and celebrating some more home learning.

Year 6 Transition

I have met this week (virtually) with Mrs Heslop from Cramlington Learning Village to talk about possible transition to CLV. They are very eager to support our Year 6 children and families with this and are aware of the anxiety that some children will, naturally, be feeling about transition from primary to secondary especially during these very different times that we are living in. Mrs Parker, Miss Rennison, Mrs Harper and I will be continuing these conversations with CLV next week and will seek to update our Year 6 families on this.

Thank you to Year 6 for the photos and information for the year books. Many thanks to Isla's mum, Miss Watson, for all help this year, and each year, with the Year 6 year books.

Thank You

Many thanks to Si King (one of the Hairy Bikers) for kindly sharing some baking tips with some of the children who were in school this week. We managed to link up with Si on a video call whilst making some Red Velvet Cookies. He guided the children throughout the whole of the lesson. We are very grateful to him for giving up his time to support us with this.

Phonics and Reading

Our phonics books are available each day in the main entrance area for Year 1 and any Year 2 children who need these. Reception phonics folders are also available for Mrs Pemberton and Mrs Wade's classes.

Thank you for wearing gloves to change books and carefully cleaning the covers with antiseptic wipes when you get them home and return them. It is wonderful to see how many families are enjoying using Epic Books to read. If you need a log in, please contact your child's class teacher next week who will be able to let you know the log in details. There are lots of Epic Books which have a global theme which might support 'Our Wonderful World' week.

School Next Week

Thank you for the information that has been sent in about school for next week. If you are a critical worker and your child needs a place in school next week, please would you email school on admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk with your child's name/class and the days that they need to be in school.

Children's Cancer Run

This Sunday (17th May) should have been the Children's Cancer Run which I know that many families and staff have enjoyed running in over the last seven years. I know that many of you have been training hard for the 1mile, 3 mile or 5 mile courses. I had managed to get some training in and was hoping to run it instead of taking pictures at the end...honestly!

Mrs Gillooly remains in contact with the organisers and we hope to hear more from them about the rescheduled event later in 2020. Well done for the jogging and walking which is still going on each day. If anyone completes a 5mile, 3 mile or 1mile run this week, please email in the pictures to your teacher so we can celebrate your healthy efforts. Maybe before you go out, you can bake your own sausage roll and gingerbread snack which are normally handed out at the finish line. You might also be able to make your own medal out of ribbon, cardboard and tin foil!

Home Learning Challenges

I have attached a separate sheet to this newsletter with some additional home learning ideas to supplement our Wonderful World Week. These are all completely optional.

Thank you so very much for all your amazing work in all that you are doing. I am so minded about the huge challenges of balancing your own work with teaching your children and home. I will seek to update you throughout this new week as we continue our planning and very much seek to involve you in plans. As I mentioned in Friday's update, whatever decisions Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 families make, we will completely respect them. As a parent and grandparent myself, I fully understand how difficult this is. As a school we will keep you updated as we have tried to do over these last few months. **We continue to look carefully, and in a very measured way, at the possibilities of what a phased return might look like. The priority in any planning will continue to be the safety of our wonderful children and staff.**

Please look after yourself and your children who we all miss so much.

You are all very much in my thoughts and prayers,

Paul Rusby



Some Additional Home Learning Ideas

France, Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg, Rwanda, Monaco and Seychelles.

- Explore the website <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/>
It has lots of information about all the different countries and some great learning ideas.
- If you are in Key Stage 2, can you enter the Kid's World Travel Guide competition for 2020? The closing date is November 2020 so there is lots of time. Information can be found at <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/writing-competition.html>
- Can you make a list of countries using each letter of the alphabet from A to Z. Explore our wonderful world on the National Geographic website for children. You can find this at <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/teacher-category/primary-resources/>
- Can you try to sing the song 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong?
- Draw, paint or colour the flag of each of the seven countries. Can you join them together to make some bunting?
- Design your own passport. Can you make a new design for the cover of a passport and create what your ID page would look like. You will need to draw a picture of yourself.
- Bake or cook some food which is popular in some of the countries we are looking at this week.
- Find out about a famous person or character from one of the countries. Can you write a short fact sheet about him or her? It might also be a fictional character such as Tintin from Belgium.
- Can you paint a picture in the style of an artist from one of the countries for instance Claude Monet's The Waterlilies?
- Can you find out about the national animal from all of the countries? I wonder if you can draw a picture of them. For instance, Canada's national animal is the North American Beaver.
- Can you design an information booklet or make a picture about how countries are dealing with climate change. Last week was Christian Aid week. Their website has some really interesting ideas about how different countries are dealing with the challenge of Climate Change.
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/window-world>

Healthy Challenge for this week

- On Sunday many families were running in the Gregg's Cancer Run. At the end of the run, children are always given a picnic of a sausage roll and gingerbread person. Can you:
 - Make your own sausage roll and gingerbread person picnic
 - Make your own finisher's medal
 - Go on a 1 mile, 3 mile or 5 mile jog or walk with an adult
 - Present everyone who finishes with a homemade medal and picnic bag
 - Send in a picture of your presentation celebrations to school