



# 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Parent Update Twenty Three

Dear Cragside Family,

I hope that you are well and have had a good week. Thank you, and well done, to all the children who have been working so hard at home and in school during this very warm week. Like you, I have followed the updates from the Government regarding schools and the wider community. The latest update that we have received says that there is no change in what schools can do over the next few weeks in terms of bubble sizes. All schools have to keep children in groups of 15 which we have been doing since we were allowed to open to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

I am so sorry that this will mean that extra year groups will still not be able to be in school at the end of term. With the increased staffing needed to create these smaller groups and practical measures that need to be in place, we will need to continue to operate as we have over the last few weeks. We will continue to do all we can to try to support our wonderful children who are continuing to learn at home

We will continue to try to support critical worker children. We are finding that these groups are now heading close to a maximum size. We will continue to send out the Google booking form for this group each week but will now send this out on a Monday with the request to complete this by 9am on the Tuesday to help us with the organisation of our critical worker groups. To ensure we meet the current guidelines on size of groups, it maybe that we need to have reserve lists for these groups if numbers do increase. If this was the case, we would need to continue to prioritise NHS workers. Thank you very much for your understanding of the organisational challenges which comes with setting up these groups within current guidelines.

Thank you so much for the ongoing work of teaching your children at home. I know, especially during this warm weather, how difficult this can be at some times and do hugely appreciate all you are doing teaching your child at home. I am so conscious of the amazing balance that this takes-Thank you!

School has been open every single day since 20<sup>th</sup> March to try to support critical workers. I am so grateful to all the staff that have helped with this and hope that it has helped our critical worker families. We will not be opening over the summer holiday period. Our aim is to reopen school to all our children on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September as long as the Government say that it is safe for schools to do so. Free school meals vouchers will continue over the summer and we will ensure that these are ordered by school to try to support families.

It is wonderful that the Government are planning for all children to be able to return to school in September. This is the best possible news. We are continuing to work to prepare for this and the very happy day when we can all come back together again.

## Celebration Services

One of the highlights of the year for me are the end of term celebration services which we hold in July each year and the 'leavers' service' which we hold for our Year 6 children. Many of the Year 6 children have been in our school since Reception and some since being part of Cragside Nursery which means they have been coming to our school for 7 or 8 years. This current Year 6 started at Cragside on exactly the same day as I did and it has been a real pleasure journeying with them together for the last 7 years. We are looking carefully at what we can do at the end of term to celebrate our Year 6 children as they move towards their new secondary school and will share this at the start of next week.

The Government have confirmed that the current restrictions that schools are working under (no more than 15 children in any one bubble) will continue for the rest of this half term. This means that, sadly, we will not be able to meet as we would normally do for our celebration services. We are desperate to mark the end of this year with our children and will be setting up online meetings that the children (and you) will be invited to. Each class will have their own individual meeting where we will present certificates which will be posted home to you with your child's annual report. The time and date of these services are below. They will last approximately 45 minutes.

To support children with transition, your child's new teacher will also be present during the online meeting to say hello to the children. The online meetings are completely optional and we understand that the date and time might not be convenient for everyone. Where some year groups are in school such as Year 1 and Reception, we have tried to put these out of school time so children who are learning at home and children who are learning at school can be together. The times and dates of the celebration online sessions are:

| Current Class                        | Date   | Time    |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------|
| Reception Explorers-Mrs Pemberton    | Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July                                      | 4.00pm  |
| Reception Discoverers-Miss Westgarth | Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | 4.00pm  |
| 1EH                                  | Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July                                     | 4.00pm  |
| 1SG                                  | Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | 1.15pm  |
| 2RC                                  | Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July                                     | 11.00am |
| 2JB                                  | Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July                                     | 10.00am |
| 3JF                                  | Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July                                    | 9.30am  |
| 3UC                                  | Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | 10.00am |
| 4HC                                  | Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | 10.00am |
| 4JM                                  | Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | 1.30pm  |
| 5KH                                  | Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | 10.00am |
| 5LA                                  | Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July                                       | 2.30pm  |
| 6ER                                  | We will be sending out separate information for our school leavers |         |
| 6RH                                  | We will be sending out separate information for our school leavers |         |

## Staffing Update

At the end of this term, we say farewell and thank you to Miss Appleby who is leaving Cragside after her time with us. We are grateful for all she has done since arriving in September and wish her well for the future. In September, we welcome two new teachers to Cragside, Miss Oliver and Miss McGuiness. They have both written a short paragraph which I have copied below.

### A Welcome Message from Miss Oliver

Hello, my name is Miss Oliver and I am really looking forward to joining the Year 1 team at Cragside. I have a real passion for education whilst making it fun, exciting and creative! I am really looking forward to beginning my new adventure as a teacher at Cragside. I will be in school during the last three weeks of term and will hopefully meet some of you then. When I am not at school, I enjoy going for long walks with my Chihuahua Holly, as I love nature and the outdoors. If you see me in school, please come and say hello. I can't wait to meet you all and begin our exciting learning journey together in September!



## A Welcome Message from Miss McGuinness



Hello, my name is Miss McGuinness and I will be joining Year 3 come September. I am absolutely delighted to meet you all and be a part of the Cragside family! I can't wait to share with you all my love of singing and to create some music together. I'm a very keen Makaton signer, which is a type of sign language, and I would love to teach you all some signs if you would like. I hope for our classroom to be full of curiosity and kindness. A place we can all learn together and share ideas. Please feel free to come and see me anytime. I am in school during the next three weeks and am very much looking forward to meeting you all in September.

### September 2020

It is such a relief to hear from the Government that their aim is to have all children back to school in September, provided the virus situation continues to improve. We have been planning carefully for this.

Although it will not be possible to have a transition day in the same way that we would normally have one, we are planning some online meetings and also information to go home to support children with transition. Government regulations remain that, until September, children can only be taught in groups of no more than 15 and should remain in these bubbles. This prevents us doing what we would normally want to do with transition. We will do all that we can to support children with the transition to the class they will be in for September.

We sometimes mix Year 5 classes as they move into Year 6 but felt that with the disruption the children have faced this year with Covid-19, then it was important to give the children as much emotional security as we can so they will remain as they are. Class groups for September 2020 are:

- Some of our new starter Nursery children will become RLP (Mrs Pemberton's Class)
- Some of our new starter Nursery children will become RSG (Miss Grice's Class)
- Miss Westgarth's current class (Discovers) will become 1EO (Miss Oliver's Class)
- Mrs Pemberton's current class (Explorers) will become 1EH (Miss Harris' Class)
- Miss Grice's current class will become 2AW (Mrs Wade's Class)
- Miss Harris' current class will become 2RC (Mrs Cant's Class)
- Mrs Cant's current class will become 3JF (Mr Flynnwood's Class)
- Mr Beck's current class will become 3SM (Miss McGuinness' Class)
- Mrs Urwin and Mrs Clarke's current class will become 4JB (Mr Beck's Class)
- Mr Flynnwood's current class will become 4UC (Mrs Urwin and Mrs Clarke's Class)
- Miss McVicar's current class will become 5JM (Miss McVicar's Class)
- Mrs Cowie's current class will become 5HC (Mrs Cowie's Class)
- Miss Hebdon's current class will become 6KH (Miss Hebdon's Class)
- Miss Appleby's current class will become 6ER (Miss Rennison's Class)
- Miss Rennison's current class will start September in their new secondary school
- Mrs Harper's current class will start September in their new secondary school

Over the next three weeks we will seek to try to support the children with their transition into their new class. We are very conscious that many children find transition difficult and this might be increased for some with the partial closure of schools. We very much want to reach out to our children and try to support them in the best ways that we can. If you do feel that your child is particularly anxious, please would you let your child's current class teacher know so we can work together to support our children. As a staff team we all really do care for our children and are thinking carefully about how to support all the children when they return to school so they can have the best possible start to September.

This weekend, we are contacting our new Reception families to update them with the transition activities and meetings that have been planned for them before the children start in September.

If you do know any families who are moving into our local area or are looking for a Primary school place for September 2020, please would it be possible to give them our school details so we can contact them. We are full in some year groups.

## School Day

A reminder that to support the safety of children, staff and families, the start and end of the day are staggered to help with the safe flow of children at the start and end of the day. Timings are:

|                              | <b>Start of Day<br/>Please arrive between</b> | <b>End of Day<br/>(M, T, W, Th)</b> | <b>End of Day<br/>(Friday)</b>   |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Reception</b>             | 8.45am-8.55am                                 | <b>3.00pm</b>                       | <b>12.30pm</b>   |
| <b>Year 1</b>                | 8.45am-8.55am                                 | <b>3.00pm</b>                       | <b>12.30pm</b>   |
| <b>Year 6</b>                | 8.30am-8.45am                                 | <b>3.10pm</b>                       | <b>12.30pm</b>   |
| <b>Critical Worker Group</b> | 8.30am-8.45am                                 | <b>3.10pm</b>                       | <b>3.10pm</b> (Children can also be picked up at 12.30pm if you want to do this) |

Each Friday, the end of the school day for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children will be **12.30pm**, just after the children have had their lunch. To support the safety of our children and staff, we will be using Friday afternoon as additional cleaning time to help prepare the room for the next week and also staff planning time.

To continue to support critical workers, the children in the Critical Worker Group will continue until 3.10pm although parents can collect at 12.30pm if you wish to do so. The main school gates and Reception gates will be open on Fridays just before 12.30pm. As we need to keep children in their bubbles, children cannot move from Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 into the key worker group for Friday afternoons. Thank you for your understanding with this.

## Uniform, Equipment and Lunches

A reminder that children in school should wear their school uniform together with training shoes as we aim to spend some time outside each day.

Please would it be possible for children to only bring the following items into school:

- Packed lunch, water bottle, small packet of tissues and a small hand sanitiser (optional).
- On sunny days, please would children apply sun cream before coming to school and consider bringing a hat into school.

Children do not need to bring PE kits or bags into school. We are trying to minimise what children bring into school.

If your child is in Year 1 or Reception and need school to make a packed lunch, please would it be possible to email in school over this weekend and we will provide them with a packed lunch each day.

## Home Learning

Thank you so much for all your help with next week's home learning. The grids will be on the website and emailed out over the weekend. It is wonderful to see all the Epic books which are being read and all the maths work which is being done on Mathletics, My Maths and White Rose Hub. It is a real joy to see all the creative learning which is taking place. Thank you to all our amazing parent home learning teachers who are balancing so much. We really do appreciate all that you are doing!

## Weekend Challenges and Thank You

This weekend would normally have seen the start of Wimbledon. Our voluntary weekend home learning challenges are:

- Create the Wimbledon favourite, Eton Mess, with strawberries and meringues.
- Have a family competition as to who can bounce a tennis ball on a racket the most or some other family tennis challenges that you can think of.

Well done to all our children who are learning at home or at school. We are so proud of all their hard work. I will write to the children again on Monday morning as we move into another new week.

I hope that you have a good weekend and the sun continues to shine as brightly as our children do!

Take care,  
Paul Rusby