



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**



July 2020

Parent Update Twenty Six-End of Term

Dear Cragside Family,

Apologies for sending this out later than I had planned-I managed to hurt my back right at the start of the holidays and have struggled to sit down for sustained periods of time to type -My wife says that I'm getting old! At the end of this strangest of school years, I wanted to say a huge thank you for all your incredible support throughout this whole year. After thirty years of teaching, I can honestly say that it has been a year like no other! I am so grateful for all your help with home learning and the support for our wonderful children. Thank you so much for the kind and caring messages that have come into school to the staff, children and me. Your help, encouragement and support have helped so much during these last few months and I am incredibly grateful for this-thank you!

It was a real delight to share certificates with many of our children in our online celebration services. In the end we had over 12 hours of online certificate presentations. Hopefully the certificates have now arrived home in the post or were collected during the last week of term. I am so proud of all the hard work that the children have shown during this time of 'lock down' and the partial opening of school. We are so excited to see all the children return to school in September.

As we look towards September, I wanted to update you on measures that we have put in place to try to ensure a safe start to the year for all our children and adults. I am minded that there is the possibility of further updates from the government during the summer holiday and will seek to review this in line with our procedures for September.

Covid-19 Safety and School Structures

During the summer term, children who were in school were taught in bubbles of 15 children. The government regulations have changed for September to allow all children to be taught in class groups.

There are two classes in each year group in our school so these will become a bubble. 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. The majority of time, the children will spend in their class group.

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.

All the fixed play equipment and bags of play equipment are cleaned throughout the day as part of our additional cleaning cycle to help keep our children safe. Children also wash/sanitise hands when coming back into the classroom after playtime and regularly throughout the day.

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.

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 and let you know next steps. At present, the guidance talks about a period of isolation at home and testing. We will keep families updated about changes to guidance once schools start in September.

Classrooms have been deep cleaned and decluttered at the end of term and will have cleaning days over the summer holiday. Extra cleaning will continue during the autumn term to support the safety of our children and staff. Building on the summer term model, we will factor into each day time for children to wash hands. Children will have access to soap and warm water in the toilets and soap and cold water in the classrooms. We have purchased hand sanitisers for all classrooms. Children will be expected to wash hands regularly. Children will be allowed to bring into school their own hand sanitisers (named) to keep their own desk.

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.

Current guidance is that face protection should be worn inside buildings such as shops. When bringing children on to the yard, it is an outside space so current guidance from government is that face protection is optional and is not compulsory for parents/carers that bring children to school. We do not expect children to wear face protection in school. We want the school environment to look and feel as close to normal as we can possibly manage for our children whilst supporting the safety of all in school.

When entering and leaving school, children will be encouraged to keep 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 avoiding 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.

Classrooms are set out in separate desks which all face the front. We know that this might feel a little different to some of the children but it is done in line with current guidance to support the safety of children. Again, this is similar to what the Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children were used to in the summer term.

Teachers and teaching assistants will move throughout all the desks to support the children and share the joy of learning with them, which is at the heart of our school. 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 who do care for them all so much.

All the staff understand the anxieties and emotional challenges that returning to school will have for children, especially for those children who have not been in school since March. We all want to do our very best to support and care for them in a loving and caring manner. I saw this every day in the summer term. To me, seeing this loving interaction between staff and children is one of the things which makes our school very special. **This will continue in September-it is at the heart of our school!**

Curriculum and Learning

To help with the transition back to school in September, it would be really helpful if children would be able to read as much as possible over the summer holiday period. Thank you very much for this.

We will differentiate our curriculum, as we normally do, 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. Teachers will plan carefully for the children to ensure that they feel safe and secure on their return to school. We are mindful of supporting the emotional and mental health needs of **all** our children when they return to school in September as well as the academic needs of our children.

We are looking carefully at how we will be able to manage parents' evenings in the autumn term. We will look carefully at any guidance which comes through to schools about this in September. Whether it will be face to face or online, we know the importance of meeting with families in the autumn term and will ensure that this does happen as we really value your input into your child's learning. It is very much a partnership between home and school.

Key dates and safety procedures at the start and end of the school day

Autumn Term 2020 starts on **Wednesday 2nd September 2020**. Monday 31st August is a bank holiday and Tuesday 1st September is a training day for all schools. To support the safety of our children at the start and end of the day, please would it be possible to ask for your help with the safety procedures which worked well during the summer term:

- It is absolutely essential that no one (adults or children) enter our school grounds if they are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms.
- Please would everyone follow the arrows around the yard and try to walk approximately 2 metres behind the person in front.
- 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? Teachers will be able to telephone you or contact you through the day if you need to chat to them.
- 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.

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

Thank you for your helpful feedback in the recent questionnaire about this. To support the safe start to this term, we will continue to adopt some of the staggered start and ends to the day which helped us so much during the summer term. Our aim is to keep these for the month of September and evaluate them, with your help, during September. Our aim is to try to get things back to 'normal' as quickly as possible and build on the safe summer term when we had three year groups in school.

Having a measured and careful start to September supports the safety of our children, parents and staff and that approach of 'walking before running' really did help during the summer term. Our aim on Friday is to finish at 1pm allowing a deeper clean of the school and also providing planning time for the teachers which will mean that, at the start of the year, we minimise the number of adults coming into each classroom. In the questionnaire that went out in July, some of you mentioned that some 'free childcare' for Friday afternoons would help you with work commitments. We have put this in place for families who need this facility.

We will send out a Google form before the start of the school year for you to let us know if you need your child to remain in school between 1pm and 3.10pm on Fridays. A reminder to our new Reception families that children are in either morning or afternoon groups for Wednesday 2nd September and Thursday 3rd September. All Reception children are in school from 8.45am on Friday 4th September.

The timings for Fridays during September will be 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 1pm. If children need to stay until 3.10pm, then collection will, again, be from normal exit doors. This worked well during the summer term and **we will review it midway through September** as we reflect on how the first few weeks of term have been.

The timings for the month of September are:

	Start of Day Please arrive between	End of Day (M, T, W, Th)	End of Day (Friday)
Reception	8.45am-8.55am	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). We are in the process of setting up a new booking form for these and will send out details of this before the start of the new school year. Alternatively, if you email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk with the requested dates for breakfast club or after school club we will organise this. Please include your child's name and class in the email as well as the dates required.

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 and RSG	Reception entrance
1EO	Stripped wooded gate leading to Miss Oliver's classroom door
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 unsure about which door this is, all the teachers will be on the doors on the first day of term to direct your child safely into the building. Mrs Parker and I will also be on the yard to help. Please would Reception parents use the Westloch Road entrance if possible and then walk to the green Reception gate.

Mrs Parker will be standing near the corner of the yard close to the Year 1 and Year 2 entrances. If you are dropping off children for the Year 5/6 doors, please would it be possible to drop them off near where Mrs Parker is standing. The children will then walk the short path to their Year 5 or Year 6 entrance point. This will help with the safe 'flow' of adults around the playground at the start of the school day. Thank you very much for your help with this.

Equipment for School

At the start of the new school year, our aim is to minimise equipment that comes into school and goes home from school. Again, we will keep reviewing this in line with government advice. Some of the areas which would help with this include:

- To avoid extra bags in school, please would children **not** bring separate PE kit bags during September. Please would children have a pair of trainers or plimsolls, together with a pair of black shorts and white t-shirt in their normal school bag.
- Water bottle (named which will stay in school)
- Small packet of tissues
- 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 (we are still awaiting to see whether the fruit for school scheme for Reception and KS1 will be operational for all schools for September).
- 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 lessons.
- We will share information in September about how we will send home reading books and school planners.
- I know that often children enjoy getting new stationery for the start of a school year. To avoid extra equipment coming into school, please would it be possible to ask that children do not bring pencil cases from home during September. They will be given their own pencil/pen which is just for them to use at the start of September. Again, we will review once we have come to the end of September.

School Uniform

Thank you very much for all your help with school uniform. We understand with the financial challenge that has come with the pandemic that uniform is costly and we want to try to be supportive of our families at this time so if there need to be some variations e.g. jumper with no logo etc. then that is absolutely fine- we want to work with you during this current time and not add any extra anxieties or financial worries.

Jumpers and cardigans with the school logo on them can be purchased from Cloud Nine and Aark. All other items of uniform can be sourced from any shop. A lot of local shops and supermarkets sell the charcoal grey skirts and trousers and plain white t-shirts, red cardigans and jumpers. Freema Chambers (one of our parents), who many of you will know, has large supplies of preloved school uniform through the Community School Clothing Scheme. The Hope Centre in Cramlington also has supplies of preloved uniform. I have listed the contact details below:

Aark: <https://www.aarkshop.co.uk/crag-side-primary-school>

Cloud 9: <https://www.cloud9leisure.co.uk/crag-side-primary>

Community School Clothing : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CommunitySchoolClothingScheme/>

Hope Centre: <https://www.facebook.com/Hope-Centre-Uniform-Bank-120300189365324/>

Please would it be possible for children to wear plain black shoes to school. Please would children bring plimsolls/training shoes in their school bag for PE lessons together with a plain white t-shirt and black shorts. Please avoid sending in PE bags during September to help reduce the amount of additional bags and items that come into school. We will review this during September but want to try to make September a very settled month where we can get all the basic routines established first to support the safety of all our children.

School Meals and School Buddy payment system

School meals will be available every day from September. The menu will be available on our school website. During the summer term our admin team have been looking at a new system to help parents pay for school items such as school dinners and school visits.

If you feel that your circumstances have changed and you might be eligible for free school meals, please would you contact Northumberland Council's free school meals team. All the details can be found at <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Meals.aspx>

School buddy will be an app which families will be able to download onto smartphones and tablets. Our aim is to have a single app to help families with everything that needs to be booked for school. It has a number of features which we hope you will find helpful including:

- Request for meal of the day, sandwich or jacket potato each day
- One place payment for all school items such as meals, trips, residential visit etc.
- Booking form and online payment form for breakfast club and after school club
- Booking form for all school clubs when these start again
- Booking form for all parents' evening meetings
- Calendar to show forthcoming events
- Emails and 'push notifications' (similar to that used by apps such as WhatsApp) sent out by school

Our admin team will send out details about how parents can join School Buddy. It is a system used in many schools and has had excellent reviews although we do know that there are always initial teething challenges with any new system and will do all we can too support families with this. The app will be available to be downloaded onto iOS and android devices as well as a direct link onto a PC, tablet or laptop. We do hope that once we have all got used to the new system that it will be really helpful having all the booking and information tools on one app and will hopefully reduce many of the paper letters which sometimes get lost in the bottom of school bags.

Admissions

Towards the end of term we had had a number of requests for places at Cragside. If you know any families who might be interested in applying for a place in our school, please would you ask them to email admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk so we can talk to them about the admissions process. Thank you for your help with this.

Summer Reading Challenge

At the end of this newsletter is a 'summer reading challenge' bingo sheet. It would be wonderful if any of our children might be able to take on this challenge. At the start of the autumn term we will award our high flying balloons as we celebrate the joy of reading. Thank you so much for helping your child with reading over the summer holiday.

Robinwood

A reminder that the Year 6 Robinwood trip has been moved from September 2020 to **Monday 22nd March until Wednesday 24th March**. Please contact Miss Rennison and Mrs Nesbitt for further information.

Summer Holiday Challenge

Active Northumberland have created a series of challenges for the summer holiday period. I have attached the challenge sheet to the email with this newsletter. Please send in any pictures of your child taking part in some of the activities or post them to our school Facebook group which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795896960817927/>. If you are not a member of the group you will be asked some questions before joining, thank you for helping by answering these.

Summer Home Learning Creative Challenge

Inspired by some of the recent art work we have shared, I wonder if any of the children might try to create some 3D models, paintings, collage or pictures over the summer which express our school drive to enable all to **'Shine bright in all your colours'** and **'Let your light shine'**. We would love to put all the work on display around school to celebrate the creative skills of all at Cragside.



Year 6 School Leavers

We were all incredibly proud of our school leavers who left Year 6 at the end of the summer term. It was lovely to see them share memories on our online Leavers' service which I hope families enjoyed watching. I found it incredibly moving. Thank you to all who helped make this possible. Thank you to Nicky Watson for all the help with the leavers' books. I really enjoyed reading the children's memories and seeing how they had changed from arriving at Cragside to the point where they left at the end of Year 6.

We wish all our Year 6 children all the very best for September where they will join secondary school. We hope that they take with them the many happy memories and also a sense of being loved for and cared for whilst in our school. We can't wait to hear about all their future achievements at secondary school, college, university and the world of work. We look forward to hearing about how they really will **'shine bright'**.

Thank you, again, for all your help during the summer term. The sense of our parents being 'super hero' home teachers is one which I will never forget. Thank you so much for all your incredible work during last school year. Please would it also be possible for me to thank the amazing staff team at Cragside who show so much love and care to the children. It is such a blessing and privilege to work as part of this staff team and to work alongside such a wonderful group of parents and carers...working together to help all our children shine.

I hope that you have a lovely summer. I look forward to seeing all our children return to school on Wednesday 2nd September. It will be such a joy to see all the children back again.

With very best wishes and sincere thanks,

Paul Rusby