



# Cragside Church of England Primary School

Westloch Road  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 6LW

☎ 01670 714200  
✉ [admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk)  
🌐 [www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk)

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

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



Dear Parent/Carer,

## Newsletter 19: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

Where did January go? What a start to February with snow falling this morning. I have attached to the newsletter information about what we do on snowy days. Hopefully you received a text this morning and were able to see the Twitter update. If you did not receive a text message or have changed your number recently, please would it be possible to let the office team know your new number. If you are not on our Twitter list and would like to be, please send a request via Twitter and we will set you up on this.

### Weekend Challenges

Congratulations to all the children who took part in some of the healthy and environmental challenges that we set last week. These included:

- As part of the Burns night challenge, Lucas W (Year 4) enjoyed helping cook haggis, neeps and tatties for burns night. He didn't enjoy eating the haggis!!
- Jake M (Year 5) made some delicious shortbread to mark Burns Night
- Freya T (Year 1) and Jacob T (Year 5) enjoyed a Burns Night meal with their family.
- Daniel W (Year 6) and Alex W (Year 2) went on an icy cold walk along the sand dunes at Blyth Beach with their family and their dog Shadow. They were all blasted with hail and sleet most of the way!
- Hope H (Year 2) braved the cold, wind, rain and a bit of sleet, and ran 1 mile. Then went on her bike to practice riding on 2 wheels before going to the park.
- Eva K (Year 1) went for a winter walk on her scooter with her cousins at Blyth beach.
- Georgia U (Year 4) enjoyed swimming with her baby sister. Georgia swam 32 lengths
- Katharine B (Reception) enjoyed a windy walk around Northumberlandia with family and friends up visiting from London.

### Year 3 and 4 Family Worship



Family Worship Thank you to our Year 4 children for their singing, reading, dance, technology display and use of sign language throughout our family worship this week which was inspired by their work on rivers and their recent visit to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle. As part of the worship, the children showed off their 3D models of some local landmarks such as the Sage, the swing bridge and Tynemouth Priory. Thank you very much to all the families who were able to join us this week. Next Thursday (Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019) we look forward to welcoming our Year 3 parents, carers and grandparents for our Year 3 Family Worship which starts at 9am.

### Lunar New Year



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February is the Lunar New Year. We are looking forward to celebrating this with some workshops throughout the day including some puppet work, stir fry making and tasting, lantern making and learning a dragon dance. Thank you to Mrs Cowie for helping to organise this. **Chuc Mung Nam Moi!** On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February, events are planned in the Stowell Street area of Newcastle to celebrate Chinese New Year. Information can be found at <https://www.newcastlegateshead.com/whats-on/chinese-new-year-2019-p730971>.

**Kung hey Fat Choi!**

## Parents' Evenings

A reminder that our Spring Term Parent Evenings are held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February between 3.30pm and 6.00pm. Bookings will open next week. Parents will receive a text when bookings are available via the online booking system. If these dates are inconvenient, please would it be possible to contact your child's teacher so we can arrange an alternative meeting. We look forward to seeing you on 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Parents'  
Evening

## Messy Church and On Your Marks

A reminder that Messy Church takes place each second Saturday of the month at 10.30am in St Nicholas' Church. All are always welcome. The next session is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am. If you have any queries, please contact Susan Ramshaw who is the organiser. Her email is [messychurch.stnicholas@gmail.com](mailto:messychurch.stnicholas@gmail.com)



On Your Marks which is suitable for children aged from 6 to 11 takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month at Beaconhill Community Centre. Their next session is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February starting at 5pm and finishing at 7pm. All are very welcome!

## Chess Puzzle-A Message from Mr Flywood



Well done to the children who brought in the correct answer to me last week (Knight to 6F). I have 'kicked it up' a level this week, enjoy the challenge!

White to move! **Checkmate in two moves.**

## Safer Internet Day



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February we will be marking Safer Internet Day by thinking about all the many ways that we can keep safe online. Thank you very much for talking to your children about this area on Tuesday. There is a lot of information for families about parental control settings on phones, tablets, game stations and computers on the Safer Internet Day website.

## Vivian French author visit for Key Stage 2-A Message from Mrs Bilton

As well as our Lunar New Year and Safer Internet Day activities we also have one of our wonderful author visits next week on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February. Vivian French is coming to talk about her new book The Steam Whistle Theatre Company. This beautiful book is a wonderful world of adventure full of magic and mystery. I know the children are going to love her visit and enjoy her book



## Attendance

Perfect  
Attendance!

Congratulations to all our classes with the highest attendance scores last week. These were:  
Early Years-Miss Westgarth's Discoverers Reception Class  
Key Stage 1-Mr Beck's Class-2JB with 96%  
Key Stage 2-Mrs Bilton's Class-6CB with 99%

## Tynemouth Lifeboat Visitors

Tynemouth Lifeboat station are coming to talk to our KS1 children on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February about keeping safe in the water. We are really grateful to them for coming into school to talk about this important area and look forward to being able to thank them for all their hard work on the sea.



## Instrumental Lessons

Our Instrumentalists have worked really hard this week. Our violinist's Ben P and Molly A have been learning how to play the music from Star Wars. Ben has been working very hard on making sure his bow is correct and Molly A is really improving when reading sheet music. Sara G, Molly G and Tilly A have been learning all about how to use their fingers on the string. Molly G is fantastic at using lovely big bows. Well done Molly G!



Group one ukulelists have been learning the song 'Sponge Bob, Square Pants' with the second group practising 'Strawberry Fields' by the Beatles. Well done to Georgina B for some fantastic concentration and efforts. Our drummers continue to work on Jabba, Jabba Jembe and Fanga. Great efforts from Leo R this week. All our instrumentalists are looking forward to performing for the whole school during an assembly next Friday morning and we really look forward to hearing them play!

## A Message from the Reception Team

Well done Reception. We are so proud of all your hard work this week. This week it has been Frankie W and Megan Mc's focus weeks and their favourite stories have been 'Monkey Puzzle' and 'Wonkey Donkey'. We have been using these texts to write sentences and think about rhyming words. Keep rhyming Reception. Can you continue a rhyming string? Both girls have also enjoyed baking, crafting and playing outdoors with their friends. In Numeracy we have been thinking about addition and recording simple addition sentences.



Next week we are looking forward to our trip to the Northern Stage to see 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. Please make sure you have returned your permission slip and payment with details of if you can help on our trip. Just a reminder Reception doors open at 8.40am until 8.50am. It is really helpful if children can be in school for 8.40am to start their learning. If you have arrived at school late and Mrs Pemberton's door to Reception is closed please come into school via the school office. Well done for a super busy week!

## A Message from the Key Stage 1 Team



Year 1 have had a very interesting week. We have been looking at a story (The Best of Friends) set in India with some very exciting characters. The children have written some descriptions of the characters and retold the story to their friends using exciting expression. The children also planned a written recount of the story thinking about the main events of the story.

In Maths the children have been working on addition and subtraction and have been learning through many practical ideas and games. The children have really enjoyed their lessons and shown some great knowledge. In History this week the children looked at the first airplanes and got the opportunity to design and make their own. The children had some creative and exciting designs and made some wonderful airplanes.

This week Year 2 have begun to focus on shape. We have looked at the common 3D shapes and some more unusual 2D shapes. The children have been describing the shapes using their lines and vertices. Next week we will be looking at symmetry as well as the faces and edges of 3D shapes.

In English we have been using inverted commas to show speech from characters. The children have shown magnificent progress over the last few sessions and we have had some amazing conversations between a range of characters, from Buzz and Woody to The Queen and the teachers. Well done Year 2!

In our topics sessions we have focused on Robert Falcon Scott and Ibn Battuta and their amazing adventures through some of the most amazing places on Earth. We have also been creating Picasso portraits and sewing. It's been a very busy week made much easier by such hard-working, amazing children.

## A Message from the Year 3 and 4 Team



Year 3 have been working hard to practice their collective worship this week. We have been finding out about Lunar New Year. The children are really looking forward to performing this next Thursday at 9am.

In Maths the children have been learning about money. We have been adding amounts of money and converting between pounds and pence. On Friday we enjoyed an exciting number day challenge of making towers using spaghetti and marshmallows. In English we have been writing a non chronological report based on our non fiction text. We have been using a range of conjunctions and writing in paragraphs. In art we have been studying insects. We observed them carefully and then drew them using pencil and then using colour. In our Topic work we found out about Greek food and created a menu. We also learned and performed a Greek dance.

Year 4 have been working hard this week to prepare for our family worship. We have been learning about life on the Tyne and rivers in general. In Maths we have been consolidating our knowledge of short division and the compact method of multiplication. In our English lessons we have been reading our class novels. Exploring character feelings, motivations and using this knowledge to inspire letters, songs and poems. We have been building models of famous landmarks along the Tyne, after carrying out research about them. The children's home work has been very impressive (and tasty) this week. Thank you very much.

## A Message from the Year 5 and 6 Team

It's been another brilliant week for Year 5 and 6. In Collective Worship on Monday, Mr Rusby launched our Kindness Challenge, which the children have worked very hard to do well in. Many Upper Key Stage 2 classes have achieved the top kindness score every day this week! Well done Year 5 and 6 children.

Year 5, have continued to read Wonder this week. They have really enjoyed reading new chapters each day from the perspective of different characters. Year 5, have shown brilliant maturity when empathising with the characters and trying to understand their actions. They have written some incredibly persuasive letters from Jack to apologise to Mr Tushman and ask him not to be suspended. In maths, the children have been comparing and ordering fractions by finding a common denominator - a great opportunity for children to show off their times tables knowledge and put it into practice!

We have also written an eye-witness report in RE, detailing the moment when the people of God were given the Messiah they had been longing for!

Year 5 have had the opportunity to explore the world through maps and atlases this week, finding world rivers, capital cities and places they have visited before. Well done Year 5 for another week filled with enthusiasm - you have given your absolute best to all of your work this week!

In Year 6 this week, for English, we have been concluding our work on information texts by planning a report about the function of blood. This links closely with our science topic of the circulatory system which we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about and have found it intriguing. In maths, we have been learning about decimals and the effects on numbers when you divide by 10, 100 or 1000 and putting this into practice by solving word problems. We have then moved onto multiplying decimals by whole numbers and are looking forward to learning about dividing decimals next week.

We have enjoyed taking part in our dance lessons in PE where we have been linking it to our History topic on Vikings and Saxons. We have also spent time reflecting on the knowledge we gained from our Anglo-Saxon and Viking topic day last week and linking it to our learning. Well done Year 6 you are working so hard in everything you do, which includes maths Mentor sessions at lunchtimes.

### Weekend Challenge

We have lots going on next week with our Lunar New Year celebrations and Safer Internet Day. Our weekend challenges reflect these days and also our ongoing healthy challenges for 2019:

- Be inspired by the Lunar New Year to create some Chinese, Japanese or Vietnamese food. This might be sushi, stir fry or any other meal. Send in a picture of children preparing or enjoying the food. I wonder how many might be able to use chop sticks to eat it with?
- Create a poster, badge or sign for Safer Internet Day. This might be something to help children of your age to stay safe online.
- Go on a wintry walk in the countryside, beach or woods. Try and make some natural models using wood, branches, pebbles or other objects.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend and the weather is kind to us all!

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby  
Headteacher

**Cragside Church of England Primary School      January and February 2019**  
A full list is in the calendar section of our school website [www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk)

Date	Information
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Lunar New Year Safer Internet Day activities
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Family worship 9am-all Y3 families welcome Author Visit (Key Stage 2) Reception theatre trip
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Tynemouth Lifeboat team to Key Stage 1 Children who have instrumental lessons performing to children in music assembly
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent update meetings 3.30pm-6.00pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent update meetings 3.30pm-6.00pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Family worship 9am-all Reception families welcome
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	3.10pm Break up for Spring Half Term
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school-Start of Spring Half Term (Two) Start of Fairtrade Fortnight
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 Family worship 9am-all Y1 families welcome

In the event of poor weather, the school has procedures in place to try to keep parents informed and to try to keep the school open. The information below summarises our procedures:

1. **In the event of heavy snow, flooding or other emergencies which necessitate the closure of the school before the normal start of the school day**, we will inform parents that school is closed by:
  - Sending a text via the school text messaging service
  - Informing Radio Newcastle who will make announcements on the radio
  - Sending a tweet via our Twitter account
  - Updating the home page of the school website ([www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk)) with relevant information
2. **In the event of heavy snow or ice where we are able to keep the school open**, we will prioritise certain routes to ensure that there are some safe routes to access the school building. The priority order of clearing and gritting is:
  1. Path leading to the front of the school and main school office is cleared and gritted first. This would be the primary entry point to the school if all other areas are not able to be accessed. Entry point for all pupils in this case is the main school entrance.
  2. Path leading across the main school playground where I stand each morning which will lead to the Year 3 and 4 cloakroom doors. This means pupils of all year groups can now also access school via the Year 3/4 cloakrooms
  3. Path leading to Reception and Nursery. This means Reception and Nursery pupils can now access their normal entrance.
  4. Path leading between Year 3/4 and Year 1/2 cloakrooms. This means that Year 1 and 2 children can now access school via their normal cloakroom
  5. Finally, the path leading to the back elevation of the school leading to back of Reception and Year 5/6 cloakrooms. This is the last path to be gritted/cleared and should be avoided during heavy snow. Children for Reception would access Reception via the path at the front of the school. Year 5/6 children would access school via Year 3/4 cloakroom.
3. **In the event of ice or light snow**, the gritting plan is as above. Small cones are sometimes used to highlight the gritted area. Please would you remind children to walk between the cones for their own safety.
4. **In the event of an emergency closure of the school after the school day has started** e.g. boiler failure, heavy snow or fire damage. We will inform parents via the following methods:
  - Sending a text via the school text messaging service
  - Sending a tweet via our Twitter account and updating the home page of the school website with information.

Depending on the situation, children will be dismissed from their normal classroom (if this is possible) once an adult is able to collect the child. If the classroom is not accessible e.g. through flooding, then children will be collected via the main school entrance. Older children will not be allowed to leave alone, unless this is first sanctioned by a parent.

#### 5. General Information

- If children are late to school because of traffic problems associated with poor weather, please would parents bring children to the main entrance so they can be signed in.
- If parents are unable to get through on the telephone system (01670 714200), and the message is not urgent, please email school on [admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk) and we will respond to these messages through the day.
- If any parents or carers are able to assist with clearing paths on days where there is heavy snow, please would you come to school between 7.00am and 8.30am to help with our snow clearing procedures.
- In the event of poor weather, please would you check your child has appropriate clothes for school including
  - Warm coat and gloves
  - Wellington boots, boots or sturdy shoes
  - Normal black school shoes to change into and possibly a spare pair of socks/tights