



# Cragside Church of England Primary School

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**School Motto:  
"Let Your Light  
Shine"**

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



9<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Cragside Family

## Newsletter 18: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Thank you so much for all your help during this week. I am so incredibly grateful for all the help with home learning which has taken place this week. I know that so many of you are balancing your work commitments with helping to teach your children at home. We really do appreciate all your help with this.

### Critical Workers

As you may have seen from the national news, numbers of children in schools are at a higher level than they were in the first national lockdown in March. Over the weekend, the government has added extra information to their list of critical workers which says, '**parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.**'

We fully understand that some of you, as critical workers, need to send your child to school most days. We really do appreciate all your work which is supporting our community during this Covid pandemic. We would ask, where possible, to consider, within your critical worker role, if there are times when children can remain at home with you. We understand, for some of you, that this might not be possible and completely understand this but appreciate your help looking at this. I know that this is something that so many of you are doing at present which does help with numbers in school. If you find there is a day where you are might able to keep your child at home, please would you email school so we can update the register for that day. Thank you for your help with this.

If you consider your child is vulnerable and you have a query about how to access school, please contact Mrs Parker or your child's teacher and we will try to help.

The booking form for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers is available via the link on SchoolsBuddy for the week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

### Learning from Home

Thank you so much for all your help during this first week of learning from home. We really do appreciate all that you are balancing to enable this to happen. Thank you for the feedback to teachers about the first week of learning from home. As I mentioned on Tuesday, our aim is to have at least one maths and English lesson each day which is led by a video from one of the teachers in your child's year group. This is also supplemented with different learning activities which can be found on either Google classroom or Tapestry as well as daily reading which is so important.

We know that every child learns differently and the practical challenges many parents face balancing this with working from home. We will continue to try to produce a home learning core package which can be accessed flexibly during each day.

A reminder that:

- Our main tool for online learning for **Reception and Year 1** is **Tapestry**. Information will be placed on here regarding learning activities for the children.
- Our main tool for online learning for **Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6** is **Google classroom**. Daily Maths and English lessons, videos from teachers and links to all learning will be available through Google classroom.
- At the start and end of the week, there will be an opportunity for those children who are learning from home to have an online 'face to face' small group meeting with their teacher and one of our learning support team. The aim of this is to ensure we have regular contact to encourage and support our children with their home learning.

### Accessing Google Classroom

We are conscious that some children are sharing devices at home to get onto Google classroom. You may be aware that children can access Google classroom through an Xbox or Play Station. Play Stations and Xboxes also have USB ports where a computer keyboard could be attached to if that helps with writing. We have a limited number of spare USB keyboards in school if they would be useful to connect to one of these consoles, please email [admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk) if you would like us to reserve one for you.



1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:  
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'  
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.

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### Additional Mobile Data

You may be aware that the government has been working with a number of mobile data providers including EE, Tesco, Sky, Virgin and Three to increase data packages which will allow children to use mobile data to access online learning. We are seeking further information on this and possible other areas and will let you know as soon as we have any full details

## Staying Active during Lockdown

As always, the children's health and well-being is in the forefront of our minds during this challenging time. The physical and mental health benefits of exercise are well documented and we are very eager to encourage children to continue to be active during this lockdown. Teachers have uploaded a range of documents onto Tapestry and Google Classroom with lots of games, exercises and ideas to help keep everyone active at home.

There are hundreds of ideas for the children to enjoy! In addition to the resources on your home learning platform, Joe Wicks is reviving his 'P.E. with Joe' exercise sessions on his YouTube channel, The Body Coach. These sessions will begin on **Monday 11th January** and will be live every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am to 9:20am**. The videos will also be uploaded onto his YouTube channel and can be accessed any time. In addition to these resources, we are blessed to have many good local places for walking and exercise during these times of lockdown.

### A reminder for those children accessing school for some of the days next week:

Please do not enter the school grounds if you, or your child, have any symptoms of Covid-19.

#### Equipment and General Information

- Please wear normal school uniform and bring a coat each day.
- Please bring school planner and a pair of training shoes in a bag.
- Please bring a packed lunch for this week. We hope, soon, to have some meals provided by the kitchen.
- If you are entitled to free school meals, or need a packed lunch this week, please email [admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk) and we will try to help.

#### Timings

- Start of the day 8.30am-8.40am
- End of the day 3.10pm (On Fridays-1pm (preferably) or at 3.10pm. A Google form will go out this week)

#### Collection/Dropping Off

- Adults wear a mask whilst on the yard, unless there is an exemption. Only one adult per child please (no older brothers or sisters please).
- Please stand at least 2 metres from other adults on the yard and come forward to collect your child and then move around the painted arrows. Please do not enter the painted yellow boxes.
- Please hold the hand of younger children when coming into the yard and leaving the yard.
- No bikes or scooters please to help with the smooth movement around the yard.
- If Year 5/6 children have permission to walk home alone, we will dismiss them from the school gates.

#### Teaching

- Children will be taught in groups by teachers and learning support assistants work within the key stage that their child is in. This might not necessarily be your child's normal teacher each week as they are involved in remote home learning.

#### Attendance

- If your child is unable to come to school on one of the days he/she is booked in, or if you are able to remotely teach them on a day they are booked in for, please would you email the school admin email so we can amend our register for that day.

## Facebook Home Learning Gallery

A reminder that we have a private Facebook group for parents to add any pictures of home learning. We established this last year as a chance for parents to celebrate some of the learning successes of the children at home and celebrate some of the other learning that happens such as baking or crafts that children might do at home. The log in details for this group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/795896960817927/>

If you would like to join this group, please click on the link above and answer the questions. Any posts to the group will go through the group administrator before we post them. Thank you for all the posts which share children's learning at home.

## Free School Meals

We now have the information from Northumberland about free school meals and are distributing this to our families. If you feel that your child might be eligible for free school meals and don't currently receive this, please contact our school office team at [admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk). The form to apply for free school meals can be accessed at: [https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=FREE\\_SCHOOL\\_MEALS](https://online.northumberland.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=FREE_SCHOOL_MEALS)

## Thank You

Thank you for all the encouraging and supportive messages last week. We really did try to do our best to set up systems despite the last minute nature of the announcement (our guidance from government came through to me on the Monday at 10.50pm).

With the Covid challenges, snow and ice and then a roof leak, at the end of the week I was awaiting a plague of frogs to come as well but thankfully it didn't! Please would it be possible for me to say a big thank you to all the staff team at Cragside who all rallied together to try to support the children. It is such a blessing to have such a wonderful team of staff and such amazing families who are balancing all you are doing. Thank you, as parents and carers for all you do!

On Monday morning, I will send out a collective worship video and message to our children via a YouTube link. I wonder if you might share it with your child on Monday morning. I've tried to get more technical than the letters I sent out last year!

Thank you very much for all your help with Home Learning during this national lockdown. We really do appreciate all your help with this. We do understand how incredibly hard the balance between working at home and teaching at home is and do appreciate all your help with this. We are all seeking to do 'our bit' during this period of national lockdown as we work together to support our local communities to stay safe and protect the capacity of the NHS and our local hospitals who are doing such an incredible job.

At this time, I am reminded, again of the wisdom of the mole in Charlie Mackesy's book, 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse.'

Please take care and keep safe,

Paul Rusby



"Being kind to yourself is one of the greatest kindnesses," said the mole.