



Cragside Church of England Primary School

Westloch Road
Cramlington
Northumberland
NE23 6LW

☎ 01670 714200

✉ admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk

🌐 www.cragside.northumberland.sch.uk

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

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



Friday 9th October 2020

Newsletter 6: 09 October 2020

Dear Cragside Family,

With the whole of our local community, we have been so saddened to hear about the tragic deaths of two young people in Cramlington. It is such heart-breaking news. We remember these two precious lives, their families and friends in our prayers at this incredibly sad time for them. Sometimes there are just no words to express the sense of loss that we feel. This is a time where there are no words to express the sadness felt throughout our whole community. We hold them in the silence of our prayers.

Acts of Kindness - A message from Mrs Urwin

Thank you so much to our families for sharing their acts of kindness from this week. It has been lovely to hear all about the thoughtfulness and kindness amongst our children, from across the whole school. Please keep sending these in each week as we love to hear about these caring acts.

- Harley, Y6, was so caring towards his dog Tilly as he carried her out of the woods because there was broken glass on the ground.
- Ava has been very kind towards her little brother this week. Her brother got some phonics books for his birthday and Ava has been teaching him to read as Mum made tea. She did this using her own initiative.
- Penny, Reception class, is such a kind and caring person. She always gives her family hugs and says ‘I love you.’ She makes others smile every day.
- Izzy, 4UC, has been helpful by doing jobs around the house this week. She has learned how to unstack the dishwasher and makes breakfast for herself and her sister in the morning. She has even learned how to safely make a cup of tea.
- Oliver H, 4JB, cheered his little brother up this week when he was sad. He read him a story and gave him a cuddle.
- Due to the current restrictions, Matthew (2AW), and his family had to cancel plans for dinner with friends to celebrate his dad's birthday. Instead, Matthew helped his mum to make and decorate an army tank shaped cake and he then helped to bake 24 muffins. Matthew then kindly left the muffins on the doorsteps of each of their friends' houses and organised a surprise Zoom meeting to sing Happy Birthday to Dad.
- Emily, RSG, decided on Wednesday morning to pick a flower for her teachers Miss Grice, Mrs Pemberton and Mrs Gilroy because she wanted to make them smile.
- Georgia, Y6, has been emptying the dishwasher, helping with the hoovering and she has been reading her younger sister bedtime stories.
- Eve, 4JB, has been really kind and helpful looking after her mum after she had her operation.

Mental Health Awareness Day

It was lovely to see so many shades of yellow around our school today. We had yellow bobbles, yellow hairbands, yellow socks, yellow bows and lot of other yellow items as we thought about World Mental Health Day which is on Saturday 10th October. Thank you very much for supporting our mental health awareness day. We include mental health activities within our learning each week to try to support our children with this incredibly important area. Some activities that we do with the children include yoga, mindfulness colouring, nature time in our forest school, encouraging lots of physical activity at breaks/lunchtimes and use of quiet reflection time.

Each class has been reading a specially selected book as part of our mental health awareness day. One of my favourites was *The Red Crayon* by Michael Hall. It is a simple picture book but with a very deep and profound message for adults and children alike.

There are a number of websites for parents to help support children with their mental health including one from the NHS which can be accessed at <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>

SUPERCLASS becomes SUPERKIND

You will know that children earn dojo points each day which go towards our SUPERCLASS reward. The dojo points are awarded for all manner of positive things such as high standard of work, good effort, acts of kindness, thoughtfulness to others and having a really positive outlook with learning. We enjoy celebrating all the wonderful things our children do. When the last letter of SUPERCLASS is turned over, the class decide on an appropriate reward. To further highlight the importance of care and kindness to one another we are changing the name of our reward challenge from **SUPERCLASS** to **SUPERKIND**.

On Monday we are starting a special kindness fortnight where the teachers will be recording the acts of kindness that the children do through the day so we can celebrate this important school value. We will be looking at how each class does during this fortnight and will celebrate with our highest achieving classes having a non-uniform day on the last day of this half term which is **Thursday 22nd October**. We'll let you know who they are later this half term.

Safety Procedures at the start and end of the school day

Like me, you will have seen updates in the news about the increased number of cases in the North of England which is having a significant impact on a high number of schools. We continue to work hard in school to help the children keep safe in areas such as good hand sanitising and disposal of tissues as we move into a time where children often do get colds each year. Thank you so much for all your help with this-it really is a 'together' effort to help keep us safe and we are so grateful for your help with this, including the extra steps many of you are doing when walking around the one way system on the yard. Please would it be possible to ask for your help with:

- Thank you very much for all your help keeping 2 metres apart from other adults who do not live in your household bubble whilst waiting for your children.
- When children are dismissed by the teacher, please would it be possible for the parent to walk towards the child and then continue to exit with his/her child on the painted arrows.
- To help minimise the number of adults on the yard, please would it be possible for just **one** adult to collect.

Thank you very much for all we are doing, working together, to help keep our children, families and staff safe.

Be Kind Online

With more children having access to the Internet from an early age, I know that you share with us the importance of the language of kindness on phones, computers and gaming consoles. I know that many families have strict limits on the time spent on phones and online devices and also check devices. This is so helpful in our shared drive from home and school for children to be 'kind online.' Thank you for helping children with the essential balance between 'virtual time' and time away from electronic devices. I have attached some posters from online safety groups which might be helpful in sharing with children about being kind online. Thank you so much for your help with this.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for any donations for our Harvest Festival services. These can be brought into school where we will quarantine them before all donations are given to the Hope centre in Cramlington to help families in our local area.

Black History Day-A Message from Miss Harris

On Thursday 15th October, we will enjoy a Black History Day as part of Black History Month which takes place during October in the UK. As part of this special day, the children will be learning about a significant black individual from history. The children will also enjoy creating inspiring artwork for a whole school project based on the wonderful work of Alma Thomas; an artist who believed creativity should be independent of gender or race. I am sure the children will be very excited to take part in this memorable, and incredibly important, day in school. Please have a look on our twitter for **#BlackHistoryMonth** updates on Thursday 15th October!

Year 3 and 4 Homework - A message from Mrs Urwin

To limit the number of resources going out and coming into school, we will be emailing a bingo style homework sheet for next half term. This will include weekly tasks which your children can do over the half term, leading to Christmas. Homework will cover all subjects from across the curriculum. There will be a weekly task set on My Maths. Reading as regularly as possible (if possible each day) is highly encouraged as well as practising weekly spellings. Children may email work they've done to their teachers. Thank you so much for your support in extending your children's learning experiences. We hope that you have a lovely half term. Your children are working so hard since their return to school abs we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.

Family Worship

Thank you to Year 5 for their family worship video which we enjoyed watching on Thursday. It is so difficult when we love signing so much that we can't sing. Well done to the children for signing to the words of Think and Learn on Me. The words of Lean on me are so powerful and speak so much of the care that the children do show to each other. It was lovely to see the Anglo Saxon art work, to hear about the Michael Morpurgo book they have been studying and even having some quiet reflective time at the end. Well done Year 5, amidst all your work in school, that you have been able to make this video.

A reminder that the next planned family worship dates for this term are

Thursday 15 October	Year 4 Family Worship
Tuesday 21 October	Reception Harvest; Year 1/2 Harvest; Year 3/4 Harvest; Year 5/6 Harvest
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance/Armistice Service
Tuesday 10 November	Year 3 Family Worship
Thursday 12 November	Year 2 Family Worship
Tuesday 17 November	Year 1 Family Worship
Thursday 19 November	Reception Family Worship
Week commencing 7 December	Christmas Nativity performances –all year groups during this week

Reception News-A Message from our Reception Team

Well done to our wonderful Reception children on a super week! We have enjoyed Poppy and Elle's focus weeks and now know far more about animals and princesses! We have been comparing different amounts in Numeracy and love practical Maths. In Literacy, we have been reading Ruby's Worry and have been working really hard on our sounds and letter formation. We loved celebrating 3 birthdays in Reception this week too! We were so proud of our children's maturity and discussions after reading The Colour Monster on Friday in line with World Mental Health Day.

Thank you Reception and families for all your hard work. Keep accessing Mathletics and reading your books at home. Thank you for signing reading diaries with a little comment every time you read together at home. Have a lovely weekend together and thank you for all your support. Please let Miss Grice or Mrs Pemberton know if you have any questions about parents evening virtual appointments. Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Flynnwood's STEM Challenge for this weekend

As it was STEMFEST this week I would love to see people make their own baking soda rockets at home. Follow this link to find a PDF with all you need to complete this challenge. <https://www.science-sparks.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Baking-Soda-Rocket-Instructions-1-1.pdf>

STEM FEST in space 8th October-A Message from Mr Flynnwood

We have had a blast yesterday! This Thursday the North East STEM Hub put a STEM FEST IN SPACE on for us. The children made pop up card solar systems, interviewed the first US Woman astronaut to walk in space. Listened to astronomers and NASA engineers tell us about space exploration and all things spacey. The Life Science Centre showed us how they get astronauts ready for space and rehabilitate them afterwards. We tried out the exercises they would use. It was really fun and wonderful for the children to meet so many real scientists and engineers. I hope we see some of our children take part in something like this, from the other end, in the future.

Christmas Cards

Thank you very much for your help with the online orders for Christmas cards. It has been lovely to see the children's designs, most of which been returned to school today. These will be sent off to the company on Wednesday 14th October and will be returned in time for sending for Christmas.

Parents' Evenings

This week we started our first set of our online Parents' Evening meetings. Thank you for the feedback that we have received about these which has been very encouraging. If you have not yet booked a session, please follow a link on School Buddy. If you encounter any problems, please let us know and we will try to help. The Parents' Evening dates will be slightly different for each teacher but will all take place on dates between **7th and 21st October**. We do hope that you find these sessions useful. If you are not able to access the online video link that we send you, we will be able to contact you on the phone if this is preferable to you.

Primary School Admissions

If you know parents who wish to apply for places for September 2021, please would it be possible to let them know that the Northumberland admission portal to apply for Reception places for September 2021 starts on **1st November 2020**. If you live in North Tyneside, you would apply through the North Tyneside admissions portal for our school. We are in the process of organising a 'virtual' open evening for parents and will send details of this soon.

Weekend Challenges

With tomorrow being World Mental Health Day 2020, our weekend challenges are linked to this. Maybe you might be able to email in some photographs or send them to the school Facebook account. When you first log into this account you will be asked a series of security questions before being allowed to join the group. The address is:

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

- Spend some time off line with nature. Maybe collect some conkers or signs of autumn in a wood or collect some pebbles or shells on a beach. Make a positive word such as **care** or **kind** out of the shells or conkers and send in the picture.
- Spend some time enjoying some exercise. Go on a family walk or bike ride. Enjoy time outside walking, running or riding with your family.
- Make some friendship cards to make someone smile. Send some friends or relatives a lovely positive message and a picture which will brighten up their day
- Make a healthy snack to share with someone in your house.

Well done to all our children for all their hard work over these last 6 weeks. It is a long 8 week half term and I know that children do get tired towards the end of the week and towards the end of half term. Well done to all our children who are really doing their very best with their learning and working to be super kind to each other.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend,

Paul Rusby