



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
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Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Bilton



Friday 8th May 2020

Dear Cragside Family,

Parent Update Fifteen

Thank You

I hope that you are well. Thank you for the letters and rainbow pictures which have been posted into school during the week. It is lovely to hear from the children and to see their pictures which we have attached to the gate to share some positive messages for all who walk past our school. Many thanks for the letters, salt dough hearts, painted pebbles, cupcakes and even the large bird house that were delivered this week...they are all very much appreciated.

Sunday's Message from the Prime Minister

Like you, I am awaiting the update from the Prime Minister on Sunday as scientists and politicians start to identify possible opportunities for changes to the current rules whilst enabling all to maintain social distancing. As a school, the safety of all our children and adults is paramount and we will consider carefully the implications for any measures that are suggested on Sunday's speech to the country. I will send an extra update next week if there are any changes suggested by the Prime Minister so you are kept informed of any implications for you and our school.

Learning at Home

It has been wonderful to see, and hear, about lots of the learning that has taken place at home this week. Thank you for the pictures of the VE Day celebrations which were posted in the Facebook group and shared with teachers. It was lovely to see the homemade bunting and the tasty treats that the children had made from their 'socially distanced' tea parties. Thank you to the Cubs and Beavers who shared some of their celebrations of VE Day in their smart uniforms. The sacrifices that were made by those who died in World War 2 are very much in our thoughts.



Away from VE Day we had lots of reading, crafts, birthday celebrations and we even saw some of the children achieving SUPERCLASS at home this week. I am so grateful for all the hard work that goes into teaching your children at home and am so conscious of the balance between your own work and also being a teacher at home.

In our normal school days there are natural ups and downs in learning and I know that some of you have experienced some of this at home. Some of you may well have had days which felt far less productive in terms of learning than others. We completely understand. Over time, things tend to balance themselves. If there are moments, or days, when the table top and screen learning needs to be put on hold and replaced with learning that comes from making a cake together, crafting or chatting about the signs of early summer on a walk around the town then that is all good. Thank you so very much for the amazing teaching that you are doing at home!

Sharing Together

Thank you very much for the posts in our private Facebook group. Thank you for celebrating some of the learning that is happening at home. Seeing some of the things that the children are doing is really heart-warming and really helps to bring us all closer together even when we away from school. We have nearly 180 members in our group now which is almost half the families in school. If you would like to join the group, the link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/795896960817927/>. You will be asked to confirm you have a child in our school and agree to the group's aims which are to celebrate the learning and amazing teaching that is happening at home.

PPE for Jubilee Lodge

Well done to the children who have helped make some PPE visors for staff at Jubilee Lodge residential home in Cramlington. Miss McVicar found the design and children helped make them using laminated materials. Thank you to Mrs Irving for delivering the visors to Jubilee Lodge, we do hope that they will help. Our school has close links with Jubilee Lodge and we keep the staff and residents in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Week Six Home Learning

Our coloured list of home learning suggestions for week six will be emailed out and posted on our website in the home learning section. Thank you for sharing some of the learning your child does this week with their class teacher.

Phonics and Reading

To support phonics with our younger children, phonics books for Year 1 children are placed in the main entrance each day. If you want to change books, please would you aim to do this once a week as part of one of your daily exercise sessions. Please would it be possible to wear gloves when changing books and to avoid coming into the main entrance area if someone else is in there. On sunny days, we will place the books outside. If you have any queries, please contact Miss Harris or Miss Grice. If there are any children in Year 2 who would benefit from using these books, please feel free to do so. After taking books home, we recommend lightly cleaning the cover with an antiseptic wipe. Mrs Pemberton and Mrs Wade will continue to share information with Reception families on Tapestry about book changing for our Reception children.

Reading books are available online with Active Learn and also Epic Books which children have been given log in information for. These have lots of books suitable for children from Reception to Year 6. Thank you for all the work in encouraging children's reading at home. If you have any queries about reading resources or phonics, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher-we want to help!

School Next Week

Thank you for the information that has been sent in about school for next week. If you are a critical worker and your child needs a place in school next week, please would you email school on admin@cragside.northumberland.sch.uk with your child's name/class and the days that they need to be in school.

Weekend Home Learning Challenges

Thank you for sharing some of the VE Day challenges that the children did last week. Lots of wonderful bunting and cakes and even a union jack flag made out of small red, white and blue cars...how creative our children (and adults) are! Our, completely optional, creative children's challenges for this weekend/next week include...

- Make an origami animal out of paper-there are lots of ideas on the Internet of different animals.
- Create a 'toys' tea party. Send some invitations to invite an adult or brother or sister to come and join you and your toys. Make some cupcakes and biscuits and enjoy your tea party or picnic together.
- How many 'keepy uppies' can you do with a football or with a tennis ball/shuttlecock on a tennis racket?
- I wonder if any families can 'virtually' combine together with other families and make your own music video (similar to the VE Day video of 'We'll Meet Again). It may need someone with technical expertise to 'cut' the different snippets of song together so it makes one final video. It would be amazing if we could create a video.

Thank you for all your incredible help balancing your work and family life with being a home teacher. I hope that next week goes well. I will contact you again during the week if there any changes following the Prime Minister's talk on Sunday. I will email out Monday's letter to the children on Sunday evening-thank you for sharing this.

Please take care and keep safe-you are very much in my thoughts and prayers,

Paul Rusby