



**Cragside Church of England Primary School**  
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**“Let Your Light Shine”**

Headteacher: Joanne Parker

Deputy Headteacher: Caroline Bilton

Assistant Headteacher: Roz Cant



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Newsletter 8 2021-2022**

Dear Cragside Family,

It's been another very busy fortnight in school, with lots of exciting learning taking place. I hope you enjoyed watching the delightful family worships which have been shared during the past two weeks for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 families. All three of the family worships were an absolute joy to watch and made me feel so proud of the children, our staff and our wonderful environment which we have here at Cragside. These recordings are wonderful keepsakes for you to have. It was also wonderful to see our children and staff coming into school on Monday wearing their Odd Socks in recognition of how we are all different and to see the children in school today, wearing their more casual clothes and thinking about how we can help other children. Many thanks to PC Moorhouse and PC Turner who visited our school this week to help our younger children learn about road safety, their guidance and support with this is very much appreciated.

**Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to all our wonderful families for your generosity with this year's Christmas Shoe Box Appeal. We delivered 40 boxes to the local drop off location for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for making a difference to so many other families this Christmas.



## Diary Dates

Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Beginning of Interfaith Week
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Nasal Flu Programme in school
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day/wear something Christmas-y day Christmas Lunch
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Party (morning group) Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Christmas Party
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery (afternoon group) Christmas party End of Term, school closes at normal times
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Teacher Training Day – School and Nursery closed to children
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Children return to school for the beginning of Spring term 2022

## Updates about Christmas performances and services

With only four weeks to go to the end of term, I wanted to mention Christmas. We very much want, as we have done since September, to get a good balance between keeping children, adults and our local community safe, whilst trying to ensure that the children in school enjoy key events within the year, with Christmas being one of those key events. We have spent a lot of time this week discussing guidance from the Local Authority which advises that schools should be minimising the number of times in which we ask groups of people to assemble. With this guidance in mind, it is with a heavy heart that we have decided that our Nursery and Reception performances will be shared remotely this year, like all of the other year groups in school. Despite our hope and optimism that our children would be able to attend a Christmas service at Church, we now also feel that, with our Local Authority guidance in mind, we will instead invite a member of St Nicholas' Church into school, to hold a Christmas Service in school. I am truly sorry about this as we were really hoping that events could go ahead as planned.

We are determined that 'the show will go on' as the children love taking part in these nativity performances. We are aiming to film these and release them on our school YouTube channel for parents, grandparents and friends and family to enjoy and keep forever. We will send our Christmas videos out in the same way that the family worship videos have been sent out this term.

## Christmas Dinner

A reminder that this year's Christmas dinner will be on Friday 10th December, which is the same day as our wear something Christmas-y/Christmas jumper day, so school will feel really festive. The menu is:

- Roast turkey, Roast potatoes, Creamed potatoes, Carrots, Peas, sprouts, stuffing balls and chipolata sausages (vegetarian option is also available)
- Christmas biscuit OR festive ice cream OR Christmas pudding with white sauce
- Choice of orange or apple juice.

If your child would like a Christmas lunch please book this on our School Buddy System. The cost is £2.40 for Nursery and Y3-Y6 children. If your child is in Nursery and you would like to book their Christmas lunch, you can do this on SchoolsBuddy from Tuesday next week. Reception and Y1-2 do not need to pay as they receive universal free school meals but will still need to book. We look forward to the delicious smell of Christmas dinner on 10th December.

## Rwandan Partnership School

I would like echo Mrs Cowie's thanks to all families and staff for their donations last year for our partnership school in rural Rwanda. The money raised from our 'Read for Rwanda' project and Christmas sales of reindeer food in 2020 enabled a water tank to be installed in the grounds of Mukuge Primary School. The new water tank will provide clean water to the children within the school and also to everyone within the local community of the school. The headteacher of the school has sent the following message to our Cragside family:

"Mukuge thanks all of your staff, teachers, parents and students for your big and graceful support. Mukuge is grateful and thankful from our heart." Jean Rurangwa, Mukuge Primary School.

Many thanks for your ongoing support. This partnership is a great opportunity to help others and teach the children to be caring global neighbours.



Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Joanne Parker