



# Cragside Church of England Primary School

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

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



Dear Parent/Carer,

**Newsletter 14: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

## Weekend Challenge

Thank you for the photographs that have been sent in as part of our Christmas weekend challenge. These included:

- As part of our Christmas baking challenge, Finn HP (2GH) preparing festive chocolate cup cakes (minus his front tooth).
- Jake M (5KH) made some Bibingka which is a rice and coconut cake, popular in the Philippines at Christmas.
- Anya W (Explorers) had a great time making decorations and writing her friends cards out this weekend.
- Isla J (Year 3) Kayleigh C (Year 3) enjoyed making some delicious Christmas cookies.
- Congratulations to Riley M (Year 4) who successfully completed his one mile swimming badge. Well done Riley who swam 64 lengths of the pool without stopping to gain the award.

## St Nicholas' Church Foodbank

Some of the foodbank team from St Nicholas' Church collected our foodbank contributions this week. They were very grateful for all the contributions as the foodbank is used a huge amount during the festive period. Our foodbank box which is situated in our main entrance is now empty. Any donations of tinned or packet food would be very welcome and will be collected by members of our local foodbank team to be donated to families in the local community.

## On Your Marks Christmas Special-A Message from Cramlington Parish

On Your Marks is a club for children in years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 which is run by volunteers from the Church of England churches in Cramlington. The next session is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December between 5pm - 7pm and is held at Beaconhill Community Centre. Any children from Y1-Y6 at Cragside are very welcome to go to this week's session. There will be sport and games, Christmas crafts, cooking, a Bible story DVD and a Christmas meal. The cost is £1.50 which goes towards the cost of the meal. All children will receive a warm welcome and a great evening's fun. New children are always very welcome!

## Online Admissions Portal for Reception Places for September 2019

A reminder that Northumberland County Council's online admission for places for Reception places for September 2019 is currently open and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Families who live in Northumberland should apply through Northumberland County Council and families who live in North Tyneside should apply through North Tyneside Council. Further information can be found on the council websites: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/Admissions> or <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/129/school-admissions>

## Year 5 and 6 Christingle and Party Reminders

Our party is on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of December and we would like to remind you that the children should bring in £1 to allow us to buy party food this year. Please can children bring their clothes in the morning and they will be given time to change after lunch. Our Christingle service is at 1.30pm on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December please join us at St Nicholas's Church.

## Carol Singing

Well done to all our children who performed so well singing Christmas songs at Procter and Gamble's charity afternoon. We are very grateful to Mrs Collins for the invitation to bring children to sing at the company she works for. The children loved singing and were absolutely thrilled to receive a cheque for £500 from Procter and Gamble towards further developments in our outside area.



## Reception News

We are so proud of all our Reception children for their fantastic Nativity performances last Friday and Monday. The children were shining stars with their singing, speaking and dancing and we were all really impressed. Thank you so much to all our families and friends for supporting our performances.



This week Reception have all been so busy reading Christmas stories and completing lots of Christmas writing and sequencing of numbers and lots of Christmas card and calendar making too. Well done Reception.

Next week we have a busy time planned. On Monday we have Reception's Christmas Party. Your child is invited to come wearing full party clothes on Monday morning. Please remember if your child is an Explorer then please contribute something savoury and if your child is a Discoverer then please can they contribute something sweet unless you have been instructed otherwise by text.

On Tuesday we have the Christingle service at St Nicholas's Church. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to accompany us on the coach. We have let you know by text message if you are needed. If so please come to the main office for 9am and if not we very much look forward to meeting you at the Church for a 9.30am service. Well done to both classes who have been working so very hard this term and absolutely deserve their SUPERCLASS. The Discoverers enjoyed hot chocolate with marshmallows and some 'Go Jettlers' and the Explorers enjoyed watching 'Elf' with popcorn. Fantastic work, Explorers and Discoverers-keep it up!

## Key Stage One News

What a busy week for Year 1! We were so proud of the children in our Christmas performances earlier this week - super singing, dancing and delivering lines! The children had a fantastic time at our Christmas party too! In Maths this week we have been busy doing Christmas themed activities such as adding different shapes to our Christmas trees, and colouring by solving addition and subtraction problems. In Art we have looked at the artists Klee and Kandinsky. We created a colour field in the style of Klee and beautiful stained glass windows in the style of Kandinsky. These will be coming home as calendars! In English we had a very special visitor - the man on the moon! We asked him lots of questions about his life on the moon, then wrote a set of instructions on how he might get home! Thank you for your support with performances and Christmas Jumper Day. We look forward to seeing you all again at our Christingle service next week.



It's been a very exciting week in Year 2 - thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas performances. This week Year 2 have been consolidating our learning in Maths for the Autumn term. The children have been showing off what they have learned in place value, addition and subtraction, money, multiplication and division. In Art the children have been learning about the artist Guiseppe Arcimboldo and designing pictures of our own faces using fruit. We have also been creating cards which will be sent out to elderly people in our community. We enjoyed a brilliant KS1 Christmas party and Christmas lunch today, and we're looking forward to sharing our Christingle service with families on Tuesday 18th December at 9.30am at St Nicholas' Church.

## News from Lower Key Stage 2

We were very proud of our Lower Key Stage 2 children during their performances of Children of the World. Their singing was fabulous and their acting skills were impressive. We are impressed with the dedication they have shown to our rehearsals and are looking forward to our Christingle services on Tuesday.



The Year 3 and 4 Christmas party will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in the hall. The children will play a range of games, take part in a disco and have a small party plate of snacks. Please could all **children bring their party clothes to school in a named bag on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for all the donations which have been sent to school towards party food for the children. **If there are any outstanding donations please can they be sent into school as soon as possible.**

Year 3 have continued to work on poetry this week. We have read the poem 'The Jumblies' by Edward Lear. The children enjoyed learning about this and created their own illustration to show their understanding of the text.

In Maths the children have started their end of term assessments. They are showing real dedication to this. In RE we have been learning about the different versions of Jesus' birth which are written in the New Testament of the Bible. The children studied the text from John's Gospel and picked out the key vocabulary. They then created Christmas cards 'according to John' focusing on Jesus being the Light of the World. The children then reflected on Christmas Carols and found out how they were inspired by the words from The Bible.

Year 4, have started a new English topic on poetry and have been finding examples of metaphors and similes in poetry. They have written their own creative poetry and learning to use intonation when speaking aloud. In Maths, Year 4 have been revising rounding to the nearest 10 and 100. Our African topic has led to our class designing their own safari park, during ICT using publisher and power point. Thank you for coming to our Christmas show! See you at our Christingle service!

## News from Upper Key Stage 2



Well done to Year 5 and 6 for their parts in our Christmas performances this week. All of the children have worked incredibly hard to either learn lines from their script or learn the words of our songs, in order to give a wonderful performance for their families. 'The Christmas Advent Calendar' was a brilliant show which demonstrated the children's expression, confidence and beautiful singing voices. Thank you so much for coming along and sharing our performance, it means the world to us that we had such a wonderful audience to share it with!

In Year 5 maths, we have continued to develop our confidence when using a formal written method for division, using the context of different word problems to round our remainders. We have almost reached the end of our class novel, Oranges in no man's land, and Year 5 have written some fantastic pieces of descriptive writing, explaining the journey of a young girl travelling through a war-torn Beirut.

In Year 6, we have been thinking about the Christmas truce of 1914 whilst preparing for our Christingle service. We read 'The best Christmas present in the world' By Michael Morpurgo and used this as a stimulus for some art work based around the Christmas truce and then went on to write in role as a soldier whom had taken part in the truce, sending a postcard home to a loved one. The children showed a very mature and respectful attitude towards this work and we were really impressed by their attitudes. We would love it if you could join us at St. Nicholas's Church on Tuesday at 1.30pm for our Christingle service, where we will be sharing some songs, readings and prayers.

We would also like to remind you that in lieu of party food this year we asked that £1 could be sent in to cover the cost of party food which will be prepared for the children by the staff in school. It would be helpful if this could be sent in prior to the party in order that the food can be purchased. Thank you so much for your continued support at this very busy time of year as well as all year round.

## Christmas Music, Dance and Drama Concert

Congratulations to all the children who performed so well at our Christmas concert on Tuesday evening. We had wonderful playing from our djembe drummers, our ukulele band and our violinists. Our choir sang so beautifully and our dancers wowed us all with their energetic moves. Well done to our drama and dance group who performed their version of Alice in Wonderland with superb costumes, dancing and acting. We were so very proud of all the children who took part in the evening. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend and to the staff who helped with the performers and refreshments.

The Music service provided at Cragside by Miss Geldard and Mr Doyle is a varied, fun and specialised opportunity. A great way to encourage your child's musical talents. If your child is interested in taking up music tuition (violin, ukulele or djembe drumming) in school, then please let Miss Westgarth know via the school office. Many thanks.

## Christmas Dinner –Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018



Thank you very much to Mrs Dunn and her catering team for all the hard work preparing and serving our Christmas dinner. The children all looked so good in their Christmas jumpers and Elf costumes. There was a lovely Christmas atmosphere throughout the dinner service.

## Christmas Cards for the Community-A Message from Miss Westgarth

Thank you very much to Mrs Forster for involving our school in the Project 'Close to Hand' this week. Children from Year one to Year six have been busily decorating and writing cards to someone they feel might be lonely at Christmas, would love a card and the fact that they have thought of them at Christmas. Cards have been addressed by the children with 'To a very special person', 'to my lovely friend', 'to the nice man at the bottom of my street', 'the kind lady at church' etc, with the hope that they will bring smiles to someone's face this Christmas. Thank you very much to Mrs Forster for distributing any extra cards to care homes and hospitals. All the children have really benefited from the opportunity to think of others at Christmas.

### Attendance

Congratulations to our classes with the highest attendance last week. These were:

In Early Years- Miss Westgarth's Discoverers Class- with a very good 98%

In Key Stage 1-Both our Year 2 classes, 2GH and 2JB, with a high 98%

In Key Stage 2-Miss Hebdon's Class, 5KH with an excellent 99%



### Christmas Performances and Dates for Next Week

Well done to all our children for their amazing Christmas nativity performances throughout this week. It was wonderful to see the children retell the story of the first Christmas with such joy. Well done to all our children. Thank you to you as parents for all your help and to our staff who supported and encouraged the children during the productions and in all the rehearsals leading up to this week's performances.

A reminder that next week is our final week. We have a number of Christmas parties and then all the school are taking part in Christingle services at St Nicholas' Church on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We hope you will be able to join us for our Christingle services.

- **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December**-Reception Christmas Party (pm)
- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**- Rec/Y1/2 Christingle (9.30am); Y3/4 Christingle (11.00am); Y5/6 Christingle (1.30pm) at St Nicholas' Church
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**-Year 3/4 Christmas Party (pm)
- **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December**-Year 5/6 Christmas Party (pm)
- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December**-Break up at 3.10pm for Christmas
- **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**-Training Day
- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019**-Start of Spring Term 2019



### Weekend Challenges:

As we move into our last week of school, we continue our Christmas themed challenges. Please send a picture of your child:

- Make some cupcakes or biscuits with an Elf or Christmas theme
- Make your own Christingle at home as a decoration for the whole family for the Christmas table.
- Complete some of the activities from the Advent calendar of kindness
- Send in some 'extreme reading' with a Christmas theme.



I hope you have a good weekend and look forward to seeing you at our Christingle services on Tuesday. We estimate that each of the services will last approximately 25-30minutes. It is lovely to see the children so excited for Christmas as they count down the days to Christmas Day and remind me each morning how many 'sleeps' there are until Christmas...11 sleeps to go!

Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby  
Headteacher