



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 13: 8th December 2017

Weekend Challenges

Thank you for the photographs and information that have been sent in for the weekend winter walk and Advent baking challenges. These included:

- As part of the winter walk challenge, Charlotte Irving (2EA), Libby Irving (2JP), Alex Irving (4ER) and Will Irving (Reception Explorers) enjoyed a winter walk in Ilkley together with a visit to Father Christmas.
- As part of our on-going healthy challenge, Lily Murphy (4JH) passed her dancing exams with honours and also won three medals in her competition.
- Also winter walking was Jake Miah (4ER) who enjoyed a winter woodland walk beside the river in Morpeth and a cup of hot chocolate afterwards!
- As part of the advent baking challenge, Sophie Lydon (3RC) enjoyed making and eating her first ever sweet mince pie
- For our advent challenge, Elliot Bell (Reception Discoverers) made an Advent candle.
- For our winter walk challenge, Thomas Irving (1SG) walked in the woods of Kielder winter wonderland and put a pear on the tree.
- Ruby Stewart (Explorers) and Jasmin Stewart (Discoverers) enjoyed a forest winter walk with their puppy Charlie avoiding all the busy shops!

Christmas Arts and Music Concert-Tuesday 12th December at 6.00pm

Our singers, ukulelists, drummers, penny whistlers, dramatists and dancers all very much look forward to performing, next Tuesday the 12th of December at 6.00pm. If your child is performing, please ensure your child arrives wearing full school uniform and brings their musical instrument if necessary. If your child is dancing, please would they arrive in their PE kit. If your child is dancing and also singing or playing an instrument, please would they arrive in school uniform and then change. If your child is performing in Mrs Cowie's Drama and Dance group, please can they arrive wearing their charcoal grey school trousers and white school t-shirt.

Performers are all welcome to Miss Westgarth's classroom from 5.45pm with the concert beginning at 6pm. We will have a short interval to serve mulled wine, fruit juice and mince pies and very much look forward to seeing lots of supportive friends and family for our evening.

Messy Church-A Message from St Nicholas' Church

Messy Church is on Saturday 9th December from 10.30am at St Nicholas' Church (registration opens at 10.20am) with plenty of crafts, activities and games to take part in. Families are invited to come along and join in with lunch afterwards in the church hall. Entry is free, we typically have a wide age range present and we look forward to welcoming those coming for their first time and the many who come each time.



Cragside's Golden Award Ceremony-A Message from Mr Dickinson and Mr Beck

Last Thursday evening, Cragside attended the Cramlington and Seaton Valley Annual Awards Ceremony to collect their School Games Gold Mark award for the 3rd year in a row! The award is for high levels of activity in school, providing after school clubs and entering a high number of inter school competitions throughout the year. The award was collected by two of our sports leaders Marley Urwin and Alisha Munroe. We were thrilled to receive this as the gold award is the highest award you can receive.

During the ceremony Cragside was awarded a special award for "Improving Health and Wellbeing" the special awards are prestigious and we were delighted to accept the award. Cragside was recognised for the on-going hard work and commitment we make towards healthy lifestyles. Also mentioned was the amazing range of clubs we provide at Cragside from GoNoodle, healthy cooking and Jogging around Cramlington. In addition to the on-going work our Young Sports Leaders play in keeping children active on the yard during plays, it was mentioned how we are at the forefront of ideas in the area and are pushing new boundaries in order to improve health and wellbeing at Cragside. Thank you to everyone who has played even the smallest part in helping us to achieve such prestigious award.

E Safety Tips for Keeping Your Child Safe this Christmas-A Message from Mrs Parker

As Christmas approaches we know that electronic and digital devices will be amongst the gifts that many children will be hoping for. In an increasingly digital world, more and more toys and devices aimed at children now have internet-connected technology. This Christmas there are more tech toys than ever before, with many of these toys using Bluetooth or Wi-Fi to link to apps and the wider internet. Some of these toys may also have cameras and microphones recording the environment and the child's play. To help you in supporting your child to keep safe, we wanted to draw your attention to the following website which provides important safety information about the risks of using smart toys.

<https://iconewsblog.org.uk/2017/11/23/the-12-ways-that-christmas-shoppers-can-keep-children-and-data-safe-when-buying-smart-toys-and-devices/>

Which? Magazine has also surveyed many connected toys (including the Furby Connect, I-Que Intelligent Robot, Toy-fi Teddy, and CloudPets cuddly toy) and have identified how easy it was for anyone to take over the voice control of a popular connected toy, and speak directly to your child through it. To watch this video and read more, please use the following link:

https://www.which.co.uk/news/2017/11/safety-alert-see-how-easy-it-is-for-almost-anyone-to-hack-your-childs-connected-toys/?mc_cid=a8356a5ff3&mc_eid=7a112f79ea we have attached a one page checklist which we hope is useful.

Reception and Year 1 Author Visit-A Message from Mrs Bilton

Lisa Jones delighted our children today with her beautiful book Christmas Eve. She read the story to the children and then gave them lots of lovely Christmas crafts to do. Children who bought copies of her book had them signed and dedicated specially to them. I'm sure this beautiful book will prove to be a favourite for lots of Christmas times to come. Thank you for all of your support as we encourage our children to become lifelong readers.



Christmas Performances and Christmas Party Information

Please see below information about the times for Christmas performances and information about Christmas parties.

Date	Information
Monday 11 th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Nativity-2.00pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Nativity-9.15am
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Nativity-2.00pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Music, Dance and Drama Evening-6.00pm. Please would performers arrive at 5.45pm and go to Miss Westgarth's room. If your child is performing, please would your child arrive wearing full school uniform and brings their musical instrument if necessary. If your child is dancing, please would they arrive in their PE kit. If your child is dancing and also singing or playing an instrument, please would they arrive in school uniform and then change? If your child is performing in Mrs Cowie's Drama and Dance group, please can they arrive wearing their charcoal grey school trousers and white school t-shirt.
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Nativity-9.15am
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Nativity-2.00pm
Thursday 14 th December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Nativity-9.15am
Friday 15 th December	Reception Christmas Nativity-9.15am-
Friday 15 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper/top day (voluntary donation to Save the Children Christmas appeal)

Monday 18 th December	Reception Christmas Nativity-9.15am
Monday 18 th December	Reception Christmas party (pm) -further details to follow
Tuesday 19 th December	Christingle Services at St Nicholas' Church 9.30am-Reception/Y1 and Y2 11.00am-Year 3 and 4 1.30pm-Year 5 and 6
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas party (pm) On Tuesday 19 th December the children in Year 1 and 2 will enjoy their Christmas Party. The party begins after lunch so children are asked to bring their party clothes into school in a named carrier bag please. A list of party foods/drinks will be displayed next week (on cloakroom doors for Y2 and classroom doors for Y1). If you would like to donate we kindly ask for you to sign your child's name next to your choice of food/drink. Thank you for your continued support.
Wednesday 20 th December	Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas party (pm) The children will play a range of games, take part in a disco and have a small party tea. Please could all children bring their party clothes to school in a named bag on the morning of the 20 th . We are also asking each child to bring a small amount of food to share. Please can 3RC and 4ER bring savoury food and 3AD and 4JHW bring sweet food.
Wednesday 20 th December	Year 5/6 Carol singing at Scarborough Court
Thursday 21 st December	Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas party (pm) Please can we ask that Year 5 and 6 children come into school in their school uniform and bring their party clothes to get changed into later in the day. We would also be very grateful if your child could provide a small amount of food as a contribution towards a party tea. To make this as simple as possible, we only ask that girls bring something savoury and boys something sweet. Thank you so much for your help with this.
Friday 22 nd December	Break up for Christmas holiday-normal end of day timings

Shining Stars

We are so proud of all of the children who have worked extremely hard this week. Please see the names below for those children whose efforts have been rewarded with a Certificate of Achievement this week:

Reception Discoverers: Lexie Simpson for working hard with letter formation. Thank you.

Reception Discoverers: Max Wilson for lots of enthusiasm for our work on money. Well done.

Reception Explorers: Harry Green for being a kind friend and amazing tidying up!

Reception Explorers: John Thomas for always giving his best in everything he does. You are a shining example – thank you!

Year 1SG: Kaydon Brunskill for always having the most positive and happy attitude in school.

Year 1SG: Eve Clarke for her amazing Rothko style art work this week.

Year 1LU: Jack Hart for super Science work. Jack used a compass to measure the direction of the wind.

Year 1LU: Hope Heppell for always scoring 100% on her spellings, each week.

Year 2JP: William Richards for excellent contributions during our Science lessons.

Year 2JP: Willow Crossey for always being an exemplary role model.

Year 2EA: Inez Smok for super work on doubles and halves.

Year 2EA: Torey-Lee Allison for always smiling and being positive.

Year 3RC: Elise Noonan for always working hard and following school rules.

Year 3RC: Oliver Quinn for confident work on multiplication and division in maths.

Year 3AD: Rio Riches for working hard to follow school rules and having a great attitude.

Year 3AD: Owen Todd for working hard practising being a Wise Man in the Christmas Performance.

Year 4ER: Jake Miah for an absolutely amazing performance in our Christmas rehearsals.

Year 4ER: Jessica Maddox for showing increased confidence.

Year 4JHW: Joseph Horn for persevering with his handwriting and improving.

Year 4JHW: Lily Murphy for writing a wonderful poem with plenty of personification in it.

Year 5HC: Tyler Raeburn for being a super star in his first week at our school.

Year 5HC: James Laybourn for writing a creative and emotional diary as Anne Frank.

Year 5JB: Paige Johnson for an excellent diary entry.

Year 5JB: CJ Eaton for being a great friend.

Year 6 CB: Charlie Kelk for having a wonderfully positive attitude to all we do.

Year 6CB: Kate Hedley for excellent contributions to reading comprehension lessons.

Year 6RD: Layla Chalder for a fantastic wow write about The Eye of The Storm.

Year 6RD: James English for excellent work adding and subtracting fractions in maths.

Attendance



Congratulations to all our classes who achieved the highest attendance last week. These were:

- Early Years- Mrs Pemberton's Explorers class
- Key Stage 1-Mrs Urwin's Class (1LU) who achieved 97%.
- Key Stage 2- Mrs Cowie's Class (5HC) with 99% attendance.

Reception News



Well done to all of Reception for their fantastic behaviour and for being shining examples on our first Reception class trip to the Pantomime. We loved our adventure and all had a good giggle at the performance of Snow White and the seven dwarfs. Thank you too, to all of the Reception parents who accompanied us- we really appreciate your help.

This week in Literacy we have completed lots of writing about Snow White- making warning posters to keep children away from poisoned apples and writing messages to magic mirrors. In Numeracy we have been thinking about money and the value of different coins. Great work Reception. As part of Scarlett Wilson and Marla Money's focus week- we have been singing Spanish songs, baking, making Christmas crafts and decorations and reading stories of Paddington Bear. Thank you girls! To end the week, Reception enjoyed their Christmas dinner on Friday, followed by a visit from the author, Lisa Jones with her book 'Christmas Eve'. She visited Reception to read her book and helped us make Christmas crafts.

Reception are working hard for their first performance of 'The Nativity' on Friday the 15th of December at 9.15am, followed by a second performance on Monday the 18th of December at 9.15am. Thank you very much to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Simpson for volunteering time to help organise our costumes. Details of any small additions to costumes will be texted to parents today. Details for Reception's Christmas party and our Christingle service at Church will also be texted to Reception parents very soon. Many thanks to all our parents. We look forward to seeing you at the Nativities and Christingle services over the next few weeks.

Key Stage 1 News

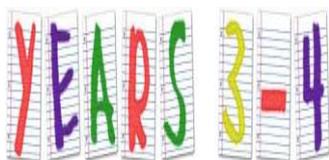


In Year 1 this week the children have busily been preparing for Christmas! Christmas crafts and cooking activities are in full swing. In Science the children have been exploring the things humans and animals do to adapt for winter. They discussed the ideas of wearing warmer clothes, putting the heating on and eating warmer foods. They learned about hibernation, migration and adaptation of certain animals. We watched an amazing clip showing swallows travelling all the way from the south of the UK to Africa, seeking the

warmer weather!

What a very busy week in Year 2! We have been making a healthy Chinese meal in the Create Room this week as we come towards the end of our DT project and for Art we have been creating cherry blossom trees using plastic bottles to print the petals. We have been thinking all about winter recently and how certain animals are suited to very cold conditions. From this we have been writing fantastic sentences with adjectives, verbs and nouns to describe animals in the Arctic. In Maths we have been doubling and halving and we have been counting up in twos, fives and tens. This week the children have been working really hard on their Christmas performance and we are so very proud of them! We look forward to seeing parents and carers next week on Monday and Tuesday. Thank you for the wonderful costumes!

Lower Key Stage 2 News



This week the children have continued to work hard on our Christmas play 'Tinsel and Tea towels.' We are really looking forward to our performances on the 12th and 13th of December. Thank you for all the costumes which have already been sent into school.

In Year 3 the children have been working on a range of division and multiplication skills in maths. They then used these skills to solve problems. We also revised a range of written and mental methods for solving addition and subtraction calculations. This included, using a 100 square, partitioning, counting back and using the frog method. During English lessons we have continued our work on performance poetry. We created a poem called 'The Fight of the Year' in pairs about the changing seasons. We then recorded ourselves performing the poem so we could watch and evaluate ourselves. We made improvements to our work and did a final performance. Well done for all your hard work Year 3.

In Year 4 this week, we have been thinking about creating images and using similes and metaphors to create effective pictures. We have made some fabulous metaphors of our own and we are going to be using them in our own poetry in the coming days. In maths we have been refining our knowledge of subtraction skills and have been thinking not only about counting up to find the difference but also about using the efficient column method too. During our topics lessons we've been thinking about how the Romans built roads and used our geography skills to locate Roman roads on a map of the British Isles. Well done Year 4, we're really impressed with you.

Upper Key Stage 2 News

Years 5 and 6

Upper Key stage 2 children have had another busy and hard-working week! They have impressed us particularly by keeping up with all of their hard work in lessons and also giving their very best to our rehearsals for the Christmas performances next week.

In literacy this week, Year 5 have been focusing on Anne Frank. They have written an emotional and thought provoking diary entry as Anne Frank. In Maths, the children have mastered the use of protractors and compasses and have been using the mathematical vocabulary: diameter, radius and circumferences. Christmas show rehearsals continue which are looking fantastic. We cannot wait to sing and perform next week with family and friends.

It has been another busy week in Year 6! In between Christmas performance rehearsals, we have worked hard to squeeze in our work. In our Maths lessons, we have been adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators, as well as converting fractions to percentages. In English, we have been recapping how to identify and use adverbs and modal verbs correctly. We have also been enjoying some spooky stories and doing some reading comprehension work around them. In Topic, we travelled back in time 500 years to learn about the Ancient Inca Civilization and each created a fact-file filled with facts! In Science, we have continued to learn about the importance of micro-organisms in the ocean and about the scientific discoveries of Edward Jenner. And in art we have been learning about and creating our own optical illusions. Phew! Well done, Year 6.

Christmas Lunch



Thank you very much to Mrs Dunn our catering manager and her team for all the preparation and work for our Christmas Lunch today. It was lovely to see the children enjoying Christmas lunch today-we have put some pictures on Twitter.

Christmas Jumper Day-A Message from the Pupil Voice Charity Group

On the 15th December all our children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper or top and bring a voluntary donation of £1 to raise money for Save the Children. There will also be the opportunity to play Christmas games made by Year 6. Please don't buy a jumper or top especially for this. A small amount of tinsel can transform an everyday jumper into a Christmas jumper!



Christmas Performances



Our Christmas performances are next week. We are very much looking forward to seeing parents and grandparents at all eight of the Christmas performances which are in school and the three Christingle services which happen the week after at St Nicholas' Church. We have organised a Christmas 'chocolate' hamper as a raffle prize. Tickets are available when you come into school for the performances.

Weekend Challenge

As we continue through this time of Advent and move ever closer to Christmas, our weekend challenges have a festive theme. Please send in picture of your children:

- Baking some Christmas inspired cupcakes with snowmen and other Christmas ideas
- Creating a decoration for the Christmas tree
- Making a nativity scene (either 3D, painting or drawing) with a stable and the characters from the Christmas story

I hope you have a lovely weekend and continue to enjoy this time of Advent as we prepare for Christmas.



Yours sincerely,

Paul Rusby
Headteacher