



# Cragside Church of England Primary School

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

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



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Newsletter 5: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Cragside Family,

Well done to all our children who have worked so hard through this week. We are proud of all their hard work. The children have enjoyed learning about today's European Day of languages. This week we have been thinking about national recycling week and the children have had some fantastic ideas about this and how their choices help protect our planet.

It is such a joy to see the children working so hard through each day and the real enthusiasm to learn that is tangible in each classroom. I relish coming into school each day as seeing the children so engaged in their learning feels like an oasis of positivity amidst all the difficult stories that we hear each day in the news. We couldn't be more proud of all the children are doing.

### Safety Procedures at the start and end of the school day-Staggered start and end times

I mentioned in the first newsletter, that we would constantly be evaluating current procedures at the end of September in our efforts to support the safety of children, families and staff at school.

During the start of the term, school has felt really calm in the classrooms and the movement around the school. Children have been really focused on learning which has really benefitted the pace of our catch up curriculum, supporting children to build on last year's home learning. Well done to all the children for their hard work.

I meet each week with other Northumberland Headteachers and Public Health England. The message from this week's meeting was that although there have been cases in schools around the whole of Northumberland the vast majority of these have been through community spread rather than spread within schools. Thank you to our children for the sensible way they are helping through regular hand sanitising and washing, carefully putting tissues in our tissue bins and keeping within their bubbles during the day.

The message from Public Health yesterday is that the rate of infection throughout the whole of Northumberland has continued to rise and, as of yesterday, was approximately 99 cases per 100 000 which was a rise on last week. This is the total for all Northumberland and not just schools. With this rise, and with the message that has come from central Government about what we all need to do to help reduce the rate of infection, I feel that it is appropriate to maintain the current staggered starts and timings of the school day. We will review them again at the end of this half term and, as always, appreciate any feedback from you about this. This continues our measured and careful start which has, at its heart, the safety of our children, families and staff.

## Staggered Start Times and Fridays

We will continue to finish teaching at 1pm during the three Fridays in **October (2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>)**. **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> is a training day**. We really do appreciate your help with this and understand that it may cause some inconvenience. This is the last thing we want to do but really do feel that it is helping in two ways; firstly it minimises the number of adults coming into each classroom to cover planning time and secondly, it also allows us extra time for cleaning classrooms on a Friday. We will continue to offer free child care between 1pm and 3.10pm each Friday in October for families who need this facility. The Out of school club which runs from 3.10pm each day will also be available on Fridays as normal.

Please would you complete the Google form <https://forms.gle/xs1UkDF5KQVQDFVZ6> to let us know if you need your child to remain in school between 1pm and 3.10pm on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October** or if you will be picking your child up at 1pm.

The timings for the month of October remain as:

	Start of Day Please arrive between	End of Day (M, T, W, Th)	End of Day (Friday)
Reception	8.30am-8.45am	3.05pm	12.55pm
Key stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)	8.40am-8.50am	3.05pm	1.00pm
Key stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)	8.30am-8.40am	3.15pm	1.05pm

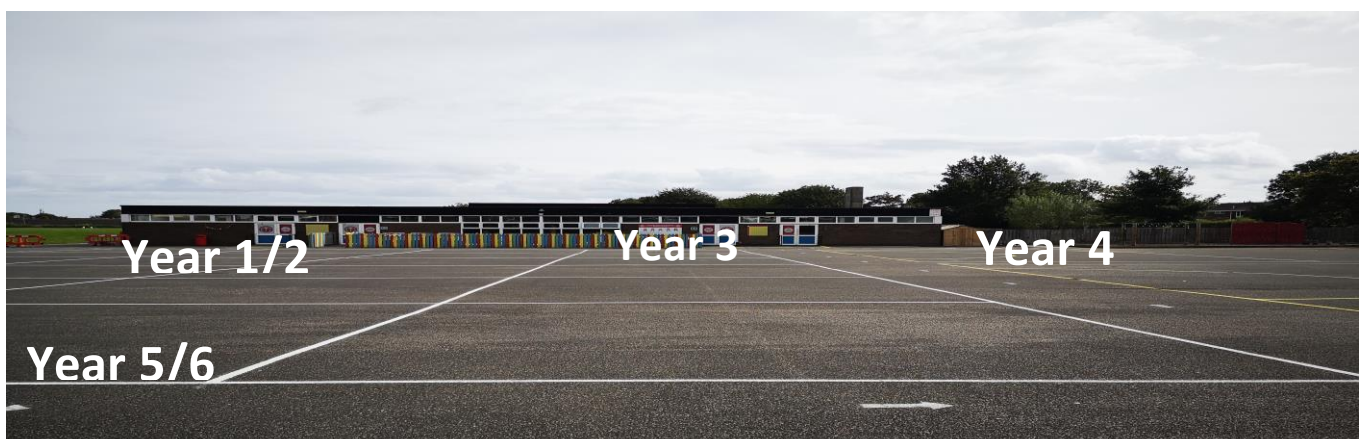
## Social Distancing whilst waiting for children

Thank you very much for all your help keeping 2 metres apart from other adults whilst waiting for your children. The gap in time between KS1 and KS2 coming out of school really does help as the vast majority of Reception and KS1 parents having left school before KS2 come out. Thank you for your help with this. **To help improve our safety protocols even further, please would it be possible to ask that:**

- When children in KS1 and KS2 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.
- Please avoid waiting on the arrows so the flow around the yard is as smooth as possible.
- To help minimise the number of adults on the yard, please would it be possible for just **one** adult to collect.
- Thank you for using the whole space on the yard to help with the social distancing between adults.
- Please would children not use the play equipment at the start and end of the school day. Thank you for your help keeping younger children close to parents whilst waiting for their brothers and sisters to come out.
- If bikes or scooters are being used, please would you remind children not to ride these on the yard and carefully re-enter the arrow one way stem once bicycles and scooters have been collected to help the safe flow around the yard. It would be helpful if parents could collect these before the children come out if possible.



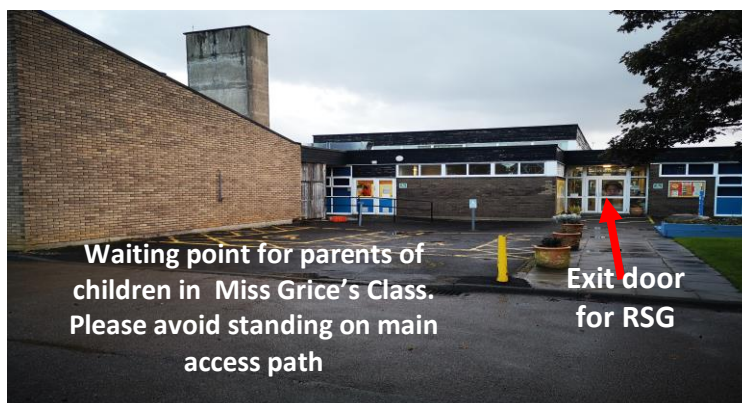
**Year 5/6 pupils who are collected from school are dismissed by their teacher from this point here. Year 5/6 children who walk home alone are walked to the gate by their teacher.**



## Entry and Exit Points

Our entry and exit points remain the same as they have been through September with one exception. To try to help increase social distancing in our Reception yard, we will trial, for next week, taking **Miss Grice's** class out of the main entrance. A separate message has been sent home to Reception parents this morning. We will evaluate this next week and examine if it helps with our aim to support social distancing of adults who are collecting children at the end of the day. **All entry points remain exactly the same (including Miss Grice's class).**

In addition to this, any parents in Mrs Pemberton's class who need to go onto the main yard (i.e. to collect older brothers or sisters or to use the gate onto the cycle path at the top of the KS2 yard) can leave the Reception yard via the wooden gate on the Reception yard and walk past the Y5/6 entrance onto the arrows of our one way system on the main yard. Key Stage 2 don't leave until 3.15pm so the staggered times will help avoid any potential cross overs.



Mrs Parker stands near the corner of the yard close to the Year 1 and Year 2 entrances each day. **If you are dropping off children for the Year 5/6 doors, please would it be possible to drop them off near where Mrs Parker is standing and then follow the arrows to the school exit gate.** The children walk the short path to their Year 5 or Year 6 entrance point. This has worked really well helps with the safe 'flow' of adults around the playground at the start of the school day. The majority of our Year 5/6 children are now being collected outside of the school e.g. near the local shops which is really helping to reduce the number of adults on the yard-thank you for your help with this.

## Collective Worship

Well done to Year 6 for this week's wonderful family worship which can be viewed via our YouTube channel. If you need help accessing this, please send a message to Miss Rennison or Miss Hebdon. As we cannot gather as a whole school under the current government restrictions, we are filming our family worship and harvest services. A link to our YouTube channel will be sent to parents with information about this.

We know how magical Christmas performances and services are and really want the children to be able to enjoy dressing up and performing. At the time of writing this, our aim is to create videos of these special services. We are having to think very creatively about how to do these under the current restrictions so they will be a bit different to what we have done in the past but hopefully still filled with the joy that the children have in these services. Dates for future family worship videos to be released are:

Thursday 08 October	Year 5 Family Worship
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

## Recycle Week - A Message from Mrs Urwin

We have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Recycle Week here at Cragside. Our theme, thanking the nation for continuing to recycle despite the challenges that COVID-19 has presented, has incorporated lots of fun activities which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. From safe litter picking within our school grounds and recycling themed scavenger hunts to poetic writing in English and making bird feeders, the children have learned so much about the importance of recycling and the role it has in maintaining and saving our planet.

Thank you to our incredible families for joining in with the recycling fun! Find out what our children have been up to at home...

- Amelia from Reception enjoyed a visit to her local bottle bank.
- Sara from 4UC creatively recycled unwanted cardboard into a Wendy House for her garden.
- Harry and Georgi recycled bottles together - great teamwork!
- Georgia, 6KH, reused an old sock and crafted a cute toy rabbit for her younger sister.
- Callum enjoyed recycling junk to make his own fabulous Thunderbirds model.
- Marni and her Mum enjoyed roasting some vegetables which were getting close to their 'best before' date. Instead of throwing them away in the rubbish bin, they roasted them with some garlic and blitzed them in the food processor with some stock for some tasty mid-week dishes, such as Spaghetti Bolognese.
- Thomas I and Jacob I kindly donated their used books to school.
- When Seth, YR, returned home from school one night this week he filled some pots to place on his bird table in the garden using the bird feed he made at school. Afterwards, he washed the yoghurt pot and put it in the recycle bin.
- Alex Johnson-Green loved putting used jars in the bottle bank.
- Neavie, Y1, has had fun creatively recycling junk into a model train.
- Sebastian, YR, loves to help fill up the recycling bin at home.
- Aaron, 4UC, understands the importance of cleaning containers and jars before recycling them. He enjoys helping to do this. He also regularly donates his clothes, when he has outgrown them, to benefit others.
- Seth, Y3, visited his local clothes bank where he recycled his old clothing.
- Emily, YR, has reused a few items from around the house this week to create a pumpkin for Halloween. She recycled a balloon from her mum's birthday and an old magazine. Emily had lots of fun painting the pumpkin in different colours, adding a face and some bats.
- Iris, 4UC, helped recycle bread rolls by whizzing them into bread crumbs to make a topping for a family fish pie.
- Georgia, YR, re-used a plastic snack carton as a painting tray. She then washed it out and put it with her crafts/painting box to reuse.

Thank you so much for your involvement at home. If we all continue to do our bit, together we can maintain a clean, healthy planet for generations to come. Thank you so much.

## Reception News-A Message from our Reception Team

Thank you to our Reception superstars for a fabulous week! Inspired by 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers, we have been thinking about our world and talking about recycling week. In forest school, we picked litter and made bird feeders from old yogurt pots and porridge oats donated by Evelyn's Mum - thank you! We have also been practising our letter and number formation too, as well as listening to French stories and songs for European Day of Languages on Friday - tres bien!

Miss Grice and Mrs Pemberton have set our first Tapestry challenge this week - we can't wait to see your work! Have a lovely weekend!

## Winter Flu Immunisations

Thank you for all the flu immunisation letters which have been returned or posted directly by parents to the NHS immunisation team. Please would **Year 5** return their letters by **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**. If anyone in any of the other year groups has not sent their letter in yet, please would you post the letter back to the free post address which is on the letter which will go straight to the immunisation team. We know that some of you sent your replies back to the NHS team during the summer holiday. If you have any queries, please see:

<https://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-services/immunisations/>

## Parents' Evenings

During this half term we normally have our parent evenings. Due to current restrictions, we will not be able to hold the face to face meetings that we normally have. We understand how important these meetings are and have organised them via online video meetings.

On **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, on School Buddy**, you will receive an opportunity to book a date and time with your child's teacher. The Parents' Evening dates will be slightly different for each teacher but will all take place on dates between **7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Cramlington Learning Village-Year 6

A reminder that Cramlington Learning Village have organised a virtual open evening to help families with the application process for secondary schools for September 2021. Year 6 should have received a letter about this information evening which is on **30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. There is a Google form for questions from families which can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLozeie396USfdsHFtCWwlakKGrloexgQ4BD6X8YNflU5aww/viewform>

## Primary School Admissions

We have recently had a number of queries about admissions for places in our school and also queries about applications for September 2021. If you know parents who are moving into the area and are interested in applying to our school, please would you ask them to contact our school office for detail of possible spaces.

The portal to apply for Reception places for September 2021 starts on **1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**. We are in the process of organising a 'virtual' open evening for parents and will send details of this very soon.

## Weekend Challenges and Thank You

Today we have been celebrating European Day of Languages. Our voluntary weekend home learning challenges are:

- Make some cupcakes using different coloured icing to make the flags of France, Italy, Spain and some other European countries.
- As we come to the end of our recycling week, is there something that you can do in your local community or one your local beach to help keep our local area free of waste plastics which can harm wildlife?
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September is the start of national healthy eating week. I wonder if you can make a pizza with 5 healthy toppings on it.
- The Great British Bake Off has started again and it was 'Cake Week' this week. I wonder if you can make a 'show stopper' cake or some cupcakes that you can decorate.

Well done to all our boys and girls for working so hard this week. Thank you very much for all your help during this first month of the autumn term. We really appreciate that we are living in different times and we are all trying to do our bit to keep each other safe.

I hope that you have a good weekend and that today's strong winds calm down and we can all enjoy some sunshine during the weekend.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support,

Paul Rusby