



Cragside Church of England Primary School

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“Let Your Light Shine”

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Friday 17th September – Newsletter 2 2021-2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a wonderful second week in school! There has been a fantastic and purposeful learning buzz around school and we are seeing some really positive learning attitudes from all of our children. The children have settled incredibly quickly into our new term. As you know, we are gradually beginning to reintroduce some of our pre-Covid routines. This week 5JM enjoyed swimming lessons at Concordia and we have also had some time for reflection through some thoughtful Collective Worships, thinking about our talents and how we can use these to help others. I led our very first Shining Star Awards assemblies today and I even got to celebrate with our 'Shining Stars' by spending some time with the children who received a certificate. We had a glorious time this afternoon, in the sunny courtyard, drinking our hot chocolate and eating a lovely home-made biscuit during our 'Hot Chocolate with the Head!' time. At the moment, our Collective Worships have a maximum of four classes in the Hall. This is so that we can spread out a little more. For some children this is their first experience of the school as it was before the pandemic so we are taking it slowly to give everyone time to adjust.

PE Uniform

Just a gentle reminder that children should come into school dressed in their PE uniform on the days when they have PE. Children who are going swimming during the year may choose between coming into school wearing their PE uniform or their normal school uniform. As a reminder, PE kit should include:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings
- Plain black sweatshirt or Cragside Hoodie

Please can I ask that children do not wear any branded or brightly patterned clothing as part of their PE uniform. If a child has their ears pierced, please can you ensure that your child removes any earrings before coming into school. Clear, plastic retainers or tape over the earrings can be used if your child has only recently had their ears pierced.

Parent Consultation meetings

We have allocated a two week period, beginning on 4th October for you to meet, virtually, with your child's classteacher. This will enable you to spend some time with your child's classteacher, learn how well they are settling into their new year group and ask any questions about your child's learning, the Curriculum etc. Further information about dates and timings for these will be shared with you via Schools Buddy.

Flu Vaccinations

You will be aware from government announcements that healthy children aged 12-15 years old are being offered the opportunity to have a first dose COVID-19 vaccine. This follows advice from the UK nation's four chief medical officers who said that there was a benefit to children in relation to maintaining their education. To accommodate the roll out of this, the dates for all flu vaccinations will be delayed. **Flu vaccinations** for our children will now take place on 25th November.

Children displaying coronavirus symptoms

If you suspect your child has any symptoms of coronavirus or has had a positive lateral flow test please do not send your child into school. We would advise that you arrange a PCR test for any child displaying symptoms of coronavirus and keep your child at home until the result of this test is confirmed. If the result is negative, your child is able to return to school when they are well enough. If the result is positive, then your child will need to follow government guidance on self-isolation. If your child has a positive LFD, a confirmatory PCR test should be arranged. If you are unsure whether your child is displaying coronavirus symptoms we recommend that you carry out a lateral flow test. Tests are readily available from local pharmacies or can be ordered online for delivery straight to your house.

Opal Play (Outside play and learning)

During the week a number of our staff have met with the Opal Play team to plan the implementation of this programme at Cragside. We are really excited about the further development of our outside learning environment, about using our amazing grounds to create spaces for small world play, dressing up, digging, building, creating, constructing, arts and crafts, performance and music areas. I've attached an introductory letter to this newsletter, for further information. Please take a look at <https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/> if you would like to see more.

As we look ahead to next week, I know many of our Year 6's are very much looking forward to their residential visit to Robinwood. I hope that you all get some rest over the weekend, ready for an action-filled few days in the country.

In our Collective Worship on Monday, we will be thinking about the Good Samaritan. Over the weekend, it would be really lovely boys and girls, if you could do something really kind and helpful for someone that you live with. I look forward to hearing you share some of these acts of kindness during our Collective Worship on Monday.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday!

Joanne Parker