



DECEMBER 2022



# CROSSHALL CONNECTS



A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior School

## This issue's highlights:

	Diary Dates		Clean Air Champions
	Year Three Nativity		PTA Christmas Shop
	Dad's Who Read Event		PTA Christmas Disco
	Praise Cards		Head Teacher's Award



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Head Teacher: Ms Anne Eardley



## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Welcome to our last edition of the Crosshall CONNECTS for 2022. A lot has been happening at Crosshall Junior School.

### Snippets

- Our Year Three performed their wonderful **Christmas Assembly** to parents today and yesterday!
- Our **annual Christmas Decoration Day** last week was enjoyed by all with festive jumpers and baubles galore!
- **TRockstars** competitions have been set up between classes and houses which is engaging our students.
- The **Student Arts Council** is working hard
- We now have **three Student Clean Air Champions** - more info later in this newsletter
- **Sports Playleaders** (children) are supporting children by leading games at lunchtimes.
- **The Choir** is performing on Sunday 18th December at the St Neot's Mayor's Christmas Concert.
- Miss White is planning an **exciting Science Day for March 2023**
- This term the focus has been on **kindness**. We have been promoting a 'World Record' for being 'The Kindest School in the World' - Pudsey thought we were!

### News

- **Welcome.** We have recently welcomed Lesley-Ann Osborne to our school office team and hope that she will be very happy. Lesley-Ann brings many talents to the school, including marketing and communication skills.
- **Young Carers.** Our Learning and Wellbeing Mentors - Mrs Hale, Mrs Searle, and Mrs Smith - have continued to run sessions for our Young Carers group. These children, as described by a recent visitor, are **superheroes**; and we have been looking for ways to offer further opportunities for them to flourish. The staff received some more training last week, and the children had an assembly too. Events have been planned over Christmas and into the Spring Term.
- **Sport.** The Lower School Futsal team entered into their very first competition...and came joint first and won us a trophy! Congratulations to the children - we are so proud of you! Thank you to Mr Hamilton, Mr Ainscow, Miss Howell, and Mrs Blackwell for all their hard work too.



- **PTA.** Our wonderful PTA members have been very busy: Christmas Jumper Sale, Christmas Shop, and even a Christmas Disco next week! All these types of activities are cherished by our children - mine still remember the Shop very fondly - and these events are only possible with the support of a fantastic band of parents. The team welcomes new faces and are a very friendly bunch. Contact the school office if you wish to become involved - big or small commitments are welcome!

- **Catering Team.** Our catering team, led by Mrs Mitchell, are often the unsung heroes of the school. They serve a great lunch every day, even through water shortages, equipment malfunctions, and staff absences. If you haven't had a school lunch in a while please book in for one soon. **Christmas Dinner** is on the last day of term. Unfortunately we cannot accept visitors for this occasion but children who have now booked and paid will be able to enjoy a festive meal on the day.

It's only 15 days until Christmas!

Have a magical December

**Anne Eardley**  
Head Teacher



**Christmas Disco**

Tickets on sale from Monday. Children must have signed reply slip. Letter is [HERE](#)



**Christmas Shop**

Next week, on Thursday & Friday. Letter is [HERE](#)





## COMING UP...



14th December	Instrumental Concert	
15th December	Rocksteady Concert	
15th & 16th December	PTA Christmas Shop	
19th December	Christmas Panto in School	
20th December	Carols @ St Mary's	
21st December	Christmas Dinner Day & Last Day of Term Non-Uniform	
5th January	Spring Term starts	
11th January	Grandparents Who Read - Library Event	
23rd January	School Clubs begin	



Term dates are listed on our school website.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the CJS Digital Office



You can also subscribe to our Calendar which has all key dates and activities which can be synced with your mobile or desktop device

Click [HERE](#) to view and subscribe



## FLU IMMUNISATIONS

All in-school flu nasal/IM vaccination programme has now been completed.

Vaccination UK would like to offer those parents whose children did not receive the vaccine in School the opportunity to attend one of their 'Catch-up' Clinics.

These clinics operate on a walk-in basis and therefore no appointment is necessary.

If you require an IM, please contact us prior to the clinic you wish to attend so we can ensure we bring enough vaccines on the day.

All clinics are available from 10:00-14:00 in the following areas on the following dates.

Huntingdon	The Coneygear Centre, Butts Grove Way PE29 1PE	10 Dec
Cambridge	Trumpington Pavillon, Paget Road CB2 9JF	17 Dec
Haverhill	Epi Centre, Enterprise Way CB9 7LR	19 Dec
Great Yarmouth	Hopton Village Hall Station Road, Hopton Village NR31 9BE	19 & 30 Dec
Lowestoft	Oulton Community Centre Meadow Rd NR32 3AZ	20 & 30 Dec
Ipswich	Martlesham Community Hall, Parish Rooms Felixstow Rd HP12 4PB	21 Dec 0845-1245 28 Dec
Bury St Edmunds	Blackbourne Community Centre, 71 Blackbourne Rd	28 Dec
P'borough	Nene Valley Community Hall	28 Dec
Norwich	Thorpe End Village Hall Plumstead Rd, Thorpe End NR13 5BU	28 Dec
March	Wimblington Parish Hall Adison Rd, PE15 0QT	30 Dec



## DIGITAL SCHOOL OFFICE



Did you know the Digital School Office on our website gives you access to all the information you as parents may request if you were visiting our main reception here at CJS

Every letter that we send to parents/ carers can also be found under the Digital School Office, under each year group or the Whole School

If you ever need to look over a letter, just search [here](#)

Some of our letters will require you to send a reply slip. If you are unable to print off the letter this should not be a problem. Simply write the required information on a piece of paper and send it into school with your child.



## BOOK DONATIONS

Having a clear out? Looking for somewhere to put all those old books your children no longer read?

We would like to ask families for book donations so that we can distribute them to other families in the new year.

There is a box in the main reception area if you have anything to donate please drop it in the box

Thank you!







## TT ROCK STARS &amp; NUMBOTS

Each week we celebrate our CJS Times Tables Rock Stars and NUMBOTS users with the highest scores. Here are this week's winners!

**SPEED**

Abigail P

**COINS**

Callum P

**IMPROVED**

Emily C

**NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE**

Cardiff v Edinburgh

**NUMBOTS****COINS**

Thomas G

**IMPROVED**

Samuel J





## CENTURY

Details of the 'CENTURY Guardian Overview' can be found here: [tinyurl.com/8v8c4e5c](https://tinyurl.com/8v8c4e5c)

If you would like to access your child's CENTURY Guardian Portal, please enter your details here: [forms.gle/fXj1262XpmJ2omw29](https://forms.gle/fXj1262XpmJ2omw29)



## ACCELERATED READER

Home Connect: Receive reports about your child's quizzing when they complete a book. Sign up here: [ukhosted28.renlearn.co.uk/2051095/HomeConnect/](https://ukhosted28.renlearn.co.uk/2051095/HomeConnect/)

### Accelerated Reader 2022 - 23 November 2022



**Reading Practice Quizzes Passed: 2388**

**Average % Correct: 88%**

**Average Engaged Time per Day: 28 minutes**

**Most quizzes passed: Alice Z (27)**

**Most points earned: Chloë L (87)**





## **YEAR THREE CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY**



The Year Three Nativity is always a highlight of the festive period here at Crosshall Junior School.

We hope that everyone who attended this week's event thoroughly enjoyed watching the children and their enthusiastic singing efforts. It takes a lot of planning and organising from both parents and teachers so thank you to everyone who made this week possible!



## **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**



We now have all our Christmas decorations up adorning various parts of the school. From Christmas trees in main reception area and the main hall, through to tinsel and baubles in all the class units and the library. We're all feeling very festive!







## **CLEAN AIR CHAMPIONS**



Hello Parents/ Carers!

We are Harriet, Esther, and Carragh from 6JE. We are the Student Clean Air Champions and we are raising awareness about clean air around our school. Together with Asthma+Lung UK, we are encouraging children and parents to make the air around our school cleaner.

Did you know one in every four cars you see in the morning rush hour is doing a school run journey? This is polluting the air. Also, idling cars, or keeping the engine running while stationary, increases the amount of toxic vehicle exhaust in the air.

Plus, as Crosshall Junior School is close to the A1 and the Great North Road, traffic pollution is a real problem. Air pollution, over time, causes children's lungs to become damaged; especially for those with asthma or other lung diseases. Children growing up around severe air pollution are five times more likely to have poor lung development. Every child at Crosshall may be exposed to air pollution at the school gates.

Luckily, you can help to improve air pollution in our area. **It's so easy!** Just follow our two top tips for decreasing the amount of pollution.

- 1. If you can, walking to school would really improve the situation.**
- 2. If you are unable to walk to school, make sure you turn off you engine when you are waiting for your child to meet you.**

We will be running some Asthma+Lung UK tests that will show us just how much pollution there is at our school, and they will give us the all important results.

Thank you so much for your help. Together we can improve the safety of our school.

Let's go CJS!

Yours sincerely,

**Harriet, Esther, and Carragh**  
*Clean Air Champions*

December 2022

**CROSSHALL  
CONNECTS**



## COMPETITION TIME



### Crosshall Arts Council and CAYAC - ART COMPETITIONS - two categories

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Friday 6th January 2023**

#### Observational Art Category

There will be a First, Second, and Third prize in each year group

The First prize winners will go forward to the Cambridgeshire Area Young Artists Competition (CAYAC) for which there is a consent form to be completed.

Children may draw or paint– using any media. Maximum size A3. They can choose their subject: i.e. still life, animals, birds, vehicles, buildings, landscape etc. However, it is a representational, observational art competition and so abstract art would not meet the criteria.

#### Textile Art Category

There will be a First, Second, and Third prize across the school.

The First and Second prize winners will go forward to the Cambridgeshire Area Young Artists Competition (CAYAC) for which there is a consent form to be completed.

Children may create their picture by sewing (by hand or machine), embroidery, or applique, knitting, crocheting, weaving, or create a collage using textiles.

**CAYAC**

Cambridgeshire Area Young Artists Competition

#### Cambridgeshire Area Young Artists Competition (CAYAC)

Prizes consisting of art materials will be awarded to the work judged 'Best in each Category'.

In addition, there will be two Overall Winners: 'Best in Show Primary' and 'Best in Show Secondary'

All work accepted into the competition will be displayed at the CAYAC Exhibition at Hinchbrook School from Friday 17th to Saturday 18th February 2023. Visitors may attend.

#### Entries

All entries must have **Full Name and Class** written clearly on the back.

Hand in to your class teacher by the entry deadline of Friday 6th January 2023.

Thank you

**Sarah Clee**

**SENCO**

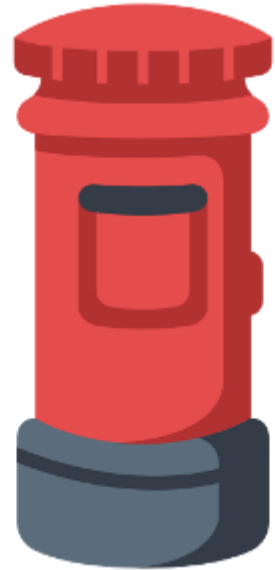


## LETTERS TO THE KING

Year Four have been reading and learning about The Great Kapok Tree in their English lessons this half term. They have learnt many skills including, how to debate about a subject and write a persuasive letter. Our persuasive letters were based around not letting the kapok tree be cut down, or any other trees in the Amazon Rainforest.

As we know King Charles III is very passionate about nature and reducing global warming, we decided to write our persuasive letters to him. The whole year group used excellent persuasive language in their letters to bring about change and really enjoyed doing this. They have worked so hard presenting them neatly and thinking carefully about their sentence structure.

This week, our letters have been sent to Buckingham Palace for the King to read! We cannot wait for our reply! Thank you to Edward and Isabella in 4AA for posting them for us. We will let you know if we receive a reply.





## PTA SCHOOL DISCO

Please find the PTA Christmas Disco letter and reply slip [here](#)



A CROSSHALL JUNIOR SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST PTA EVENT

# CHRISTMAS DISCO



**WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2022**

**Year Three & Year Four: 17:30-18:45**

**Year Five & Six: 19:00-20:30**

**Tickets £3 each**

Includes a drink and a packet of crisps

Tickets will be on sale at lunchtime on Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th, &  
Wednesday 14th December under the Year Five Canopy

**PUPILS MUST HAVE A SIGNED REPLY SLIP TO PURCHASE A TICKET  
PLEASE BRING EXACT CHANGE TO BUY A TICKET**

Please note: Tickets WILL NOT be on sale at the school office or on the door on the night





## PTA CHRISTMAS SHOP

The PTA will be holding their annual Christmas Gift Shop again this year on Thurs 15th and Fri 16th December!

There will be a wide range of gifts suitable for all the family, including a selection for pets. These will be at a cost of £1 per gift.

There is no limit to the number of gifts pupils can purchase. Please ensure your child has a carrier bag and the correct money in a named envelope, clearly marked with details of the required gifts (e.g. for mum etc) and the relevant ages of the recipients where appropriate (e.g. for sister, age 2)

	Thursday 15th December		Friday 16th December
9:00-9:25	<b>6MR</b>	9:00-9:25	<b>5AC</b>
9:25-9:50	<b>4AA</b>	9:25-9:50	<b>5MM</b>
9:50-10:15	<b>6JE</b>	9:50-10:15	<b>3CD</b>
10:15-10:40	<b>5MH</b>	10:15-10:30	<b>4CH</b>
11:25-11:50	<b>3LR</b>	11:25-11:50	<b>3LG</b>
11:50-12:15	<b>3LJ</b>	11:50-12:15	<b>4KW</b>
1:20-1:55	<b>4NT</b>	1:20-1:55	<b>Lower School Catch Up</b>
1:55-2:20	<b>6CH</b>	1:55-2:20	<b>Upper School Catch Up</b>
2:20-2:45	<b>6HV</b>		
2:45-3:10	<b>5DA/LM</b>		




## DADS WHO READ

On Wednesday 9th November, we held our first parent and child library event for about two and a half years. The attendance was wonderful to see! When the library became full, two more rooms had to be opened up for adults and children to use. There were children providing tours of the library and explaining systems. Children were reading to adults, and adults reading to children. Many took the opportunity to change books and display their independence by scanning books in and out of the library.

Thank you to all the dads, step-dads, granddads, and the mum who came along! Later in the school year we will also hold events for other family members

Additionally, if these events continue to prove popular we will look to open the library with greater frequency

 The next library event planned is Grandad's Who Read on 11th January 2023. More details to follow at the beginning of next school term.





## PRAISE POSTCARDS

Here is this month's update to the Praise Postcards recipient list. Staff recognise progress or attainment by posting Praise Postcards home to students. It is very exciting when one of these lands on the door mat!



The 'Students Achievements and Awards' section of our website is regularly updated with all the winners! Click [HERE](#) to visit the page.



Students who have received postcards so far this term are:

Dexter M	Ella-Louise M-D	Isabella O	Isla B	Riley M	Amelia L
Sam L	Finlay W	Anya P	Anna P	Joshua D-G	Ethan M
Rubie C	Sophia G	Shane McK	Maia W	Simran T	Eliza S
Robbie H	Sofia B	Daisy J	Rupert W	Scarlett J	Amelia M
Samuel H	Clemmy E	Elliott E	Jessica F-C	Lilly M	Tyler B
Goncalo R	Seb S	Emily E	Thomas J	Esme B	Sapphire G
Tyler W	Isla P	Eva M-W	Layla J	Amelia B	Lily S
Kelena N	Eleanor C	Ava P	Ella M	Ava W	
Alice H	Layla R	Chloe L	Emma S	Alice M	
Toby B	Layla M	James W	Amelia C	Alfie C	



## HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Here is this month's update to the Head Teacher Award winners list. Ms Eardley sends a congratulatory text message to parents/carers and meets with the student to award him/her with this great honour.



**The recipients since the beginning of this term are:**

James W, Sam L, Archie F, Dexter M, Isabel N, Emily B, Isla C-M, Robbie H, Esther Y, James W (again), Tilly C, Vespa S, Miao Miao X, Logan J, Elliott E, Kuba J, Harry H, Cooper S, Isla H, Kayleigh B, Sam L (again), Robbie H (again), Noah S, Josh T, Rubie C, Ethan F-W, Olivia T, Isabella O, Martha B, Finlay W, Oscar D, Marnie C, Layla J, Ethan F-W (again), Rubie C (again), Olivia T (again), Chloe L, Layla R, Freyja C-S, Lara D-S, Archie T, Roxee J, Scarlett Z, George S, Darcey B, Luke C-S, Emily B, Nuala C, Rupert W, Isobel N, Ellie B, Phaebe U, Francesca L, Lilly A, Emma P, Sienna S, Ava W, Alice H, Ethan M, Cameron C, Logan G, Lilly M, Gustavo R





## **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL GUIDE**

Parent advice from Cambridgeshire County Council:

The information below is designed to help parents understand how and when leave of absence in exceptional circumstances may be granted. The decision to authorise absence is at the head teacher's discretion based on their assessment of the situation. Circumstances vary from school to school and so there can be no absolute rules on this subject.

Term times are for education. This is the priority. Children and families have 175 days off school to spend time together, including weekends and school holidays. Head teachers will rightly prioritise attendance. Generally, absences will not be granted during term time and will only be authorised by the head teacher in exceptional circumstances.

Penalty Notices for term time leave are issued by the Local Authority. The Local Authority cannot override the decision made by the head teacher on an unauthorised absence. If you have any reasons to believe the Penalty Notice should not have been issued please contact the school within 10 working days. There is no statutory right of appeal against the issuing of a Penalty Notice.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**What are exceptional circumstances?** Exceptional circumstances are one off events which are unavoidable, examples may include the death of a close relative, attendance at a funeral, respite care of a looked after child, a housing crisis which prevents attendance.

**Can this be reviewed by the Council?** No. Only the head teacher of a school can authorise any absence under exceptional circumstances. The County Council cannot override any decisions made by the head teacher.

**My child's attendance record is generally good, can I still be issued a fine for short time unauthorised holiday?** The Cambridgeshire Penalty Notice Code of Conduct allows Penalty Notice fine to be issued for holiday taken for three days or more.

**Which parent receives the fine?** Where both parents live together and have day-to-day care and also any absent parent who has frequent contact with the child and is named in the child's school records may receive a fine for each of their children. This will include parents who allow their child to go on holiday with another family member or friend of the family.

**Who is fined when parents do not live together?** The situation can become complicated where parents do not live together and both wish to remove their child from school at separate times during the same academic year.



Where parents are separated, if an absence request is submitted by the parent not involved with the absence, then both parents may be fined.

**Who is considered to have parental responsibility?** The definition of a parent is anyone who has parental responsibility for the child and/or any adult with day to day care and responsibility. (Section 576 Education Act 1996). This will include step parents and cohabiters, partners of older pupils if the partner is over 18 years of age and they are living together, other relatives with residency orders.

**What happens if I am a self-employed worker e.g. a farmer, is an employee with fixed holiday dates, or is on a holiday rota set by my employer?** It is advisable for parents to discuss this with their child's school prior to making any arrangements for absence during school term times. Legislation no longer allows head teachers to authorise 10 days absence from school for a term time holiday. If you are self-employed then you are able to select when you take your annual leave.

**We want to go on a trip of a lifetime. Could this be an authorised absence?** No, this would constitute a family holiday. The head teacher cannot authorise term time holidays, unless there accept the reason for leave of absence is exceptional.

**I have a significant number of relatives abroad and may need to spend an extended period in another country. Could this be an authorised absence?** Head teachers are bound by law to discourage families from taking trips during term time, whatever the reason given.

**Can I have a payment plan or make part payments?** No, The Code of Conduct does not allow part payments or payment plans.

**The primary school authorised the absence but I received a PN fine for my secondary school aged child. Is there no consistency?** The government has given the authority to individual head teachers to make their own decision based on the explanation provided by the parents. What is exceptional has not been defined by the government and therefore individual opinions may differ between head teachers. However, the county council does encourage schools to work together but at the same time take into account circumstances of the individual child's needs.

**Could an absence to attend a religious observance or festival be an authorised absence?** Absence that is due to religious observance must be authorised. The day should be marked as authorised where there is an element of worship associated with the religious observance. The religious observance days are set apart by the religious body of the individual religion, not determined by the parents.



## **COST OF LIVING SUPPORT**



As winter draws on, more people are feeling the impact of inflation and increasing fuel bills. [County Council's webpages on support with the cost of living](#) provide information on accessing grants and debt advice, support on getting all the money you're entitled to and more information about the government's recent support measures.

The page also contains a link for the Council's [Household Support Fund](#). This fund, which has wide eligibility criteria, provides direct financial support and a gateway to more personalised offers which are intended to provide longer-term help. It is easy to apply to the fund, details and a link to the application form are on the webpage. There is also a telephone application route for pensioners through our partners Age UK Cambridge & Peterborough on 01223 221929

We will continue to run the Holiday Voucher Scheme for children during Christmas and February half term holidays. If you have difficulties accessing your vouchers, please email [winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:winter.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



## PINPOINT INFORMATION

**pinpoint**  
for parents by parents

**Do you have a child or  
young person with  
additional needs or  
disability?**

Your child doesn't need a diagnosis for you to seek Pinpoint's help or attend one of our sessions. Your child may be on a waiting list, accessing services, had a referral turned down, or just be struggling...

### Who are Pinpoint?

We are your local Parent/Carer Forum and hub for information, signposting and events for all things SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

We offer **free** signposting, information, professionally supported workshops and events.

We work across Cambridgeshire linking parent/carers to the right professionals.

We work to make sure you get the services you need in a way that works for you by feeding back to those who are responsible for them.

### What do we do?

We offer practical sessions with visiting speakers and specialists who will be able to help you. We can support you to better help your child or young person with high quality information, practical ideas, tips and techniques.

We specialise in signposting to relevant organisations. We hold virtual coffee mornings called 'Tii Hubs' where you will always find a friendly face to chat to and can meet with other parent/carers in similar situations.

**Pinpoint is run by  
parents for parents.  
We understand  
because we are like you!**

### Where can you find us?

All of our sessions and events are currently being held virtually online.

### Did you know?

We provide all sessions **free** of charge and you can book quickly and easily online, through our website:  
[www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/pinpoint-events/](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/pinpoint-events/)

### What can you do now?

The best thing you can do right now is:

- Visit our website:  
[www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk)
- Sign up to our newsletter (follow the link at the very end of our website's homepage)
- Take a look at one of our workshops, Tii Hubs or group sessions and arrange to pop along
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @PinpointCambs to hear all the latest news

### How can you contact us?

Come to one of our parent workshops or groups for professional advice and expert signposting plus a friendly place to off-load.

Email: [information@pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](mailto:information@pinpoint-cambs.org.uk)