






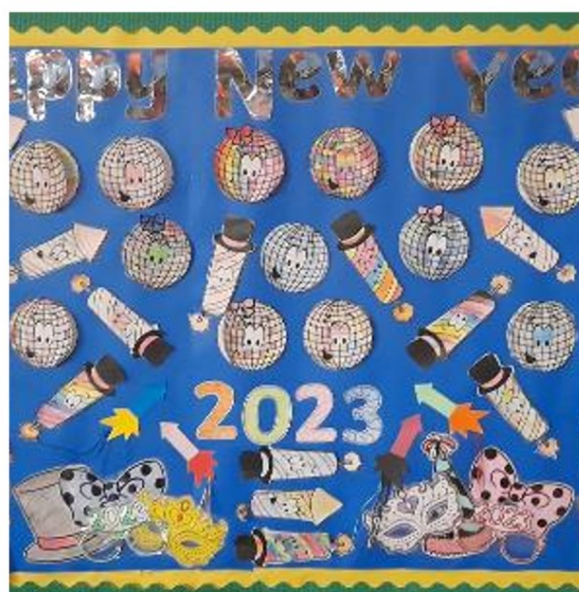


# CROSSHALL CONNECTS

A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior School

## This issue's highlights:

	<b>Diary Dates</b>		<b>Residential Trip Survey</b>
	<b>Book Week/ PCLRs 6th - 10th February</b>		<b>LEGO competition</b>
	<b>Become a School Governor</b>		<b>Student Achievements</b>



[www.crosshalljunior.co.uk](http://www.crosshalljunior.co.uk)

Y3 Blog - <http://cjsy3.blogspot.co.uk/>



[www.facebook.com/CrosshallJuniorAT](https://www.facebook.com/CrosshallJuniorAT)

Y4 Blog - <http://cjsy4.blogspot.co.uk/>



[www.twitter.com/CrosshallJunior](https://www.twitter.com/CrosshallJunior)

Y5 Blog - <http://cjsy5.blogspot.co.uk/>



[www.youtube.com/user/CrosshallJunior](https://www.youtube.com/user/CrosshallJunior)

Y6 Blog - <http://cjsy6.blogspot.co.uk/>





## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Welcome to the February edition of the Crosshall CONNECTS, where we reflect on what happened at Crosshall Junior school over the past month and give you glimpses into current and future projects.

### Snippets

- **It's Book Week next week!** Miss Jones and the committee have worked hard and everyone is excited. The author, Andy Stanton, is visiting on Monday. Fancy Dress Day will be on Friday 10th February - dress as a word!. Full details on pages 8-10
- Next month, the assessor for our current **inclusion award** will be inspecting the school again.
- We are an **Ambassador School for Century**. Each child should be logging in at home and completing set tasks each week.
- Mr Murphy has been busy booking in speakers for our **Future Me talks**. One of them is the MP Jonathan Djanogly.

### News

- **Pastoral Team.** Our pastoral team is made up of three dynamic , experienced and caring Learning and Wellbeing Mentors. They across the year groups and follow children through their four-year journey with us. They work with over one hundred children and families. If you are in need of support and would like to speak to one of the team, please contact the school office.

- **Opportunity.** If you would like to join our Crosshall family and have the skills needed to join the catering team, please contact the school office. Advert on page 6.

- **The First Residential Trip of 2022/23.** Miss Connor and an army of teachers and teaching assistants are looking forward to the Year Five York Residential Trip. This time next month they will be back!

### Thank you to our PTA

Not only do they organise and run fabulous children and community events; the team also supports our students by providing part/ full funding for several curriculum activities each year. This means families and the school do not need to find additional monies, whilst our children can participate in a wide range of curriculum opportunities that would not normally be provided. **Thank you PTA!**

We are looking forward to seeing you all during **PCLRs next week!**

**Anne Eardley**  
Head Teacher



## COMING UP...



2nd - 7th February	<b>Travelling Books fair - Duloe Room (see page 9)</b> 15:25-16:00 each day after school
6th - 10th February	<b>Book Week (see pages 8-10)</b> PCLRs (No Home Learning/ Clubs)
6th February	<b>Andy Stanton, Author visit school (see page 8)</b>
10th February	<b>Fancy Dress Day - dress as a word (see page 10)</b>
13th - 17th February	<b>Half Term</b>
20th February	<b>School starts</b>
From 20th February	<b>Hunts Post Lego Education Competition starts (see page 11)</b> Collect tokens for the school to win equipment!
20th - 23rd February	<b>Year Five York Residential Trip</b>



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



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals

Check the government website to see if your circumstances qualify [here](#)



## 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 later this term.

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

Thank you!





# WE ARE LOOKING FOR **SCHOOL GOVERNORS**



Being a school governor is a strategic, voluntary role that supports and challenges the school's leadership team to drive improvement and growth for now & the future.

You do not need to be an expert to be a governor - help, advice, and training are available from various sources.

We're looking for people who have energy, enthusiasm, time and commitment to give to our school and its future.

We would also welcome individuals to join who have HR and/or Education experience and knowledge

The term of office is four years

If you are interested in finding out more  
**contact the school office on 01480 475972**  
or **email [office@crosshalljunior.co.uk](mailto:office@crosshalljunior.co.uk)**

*The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicants will be subject to DBS clearance.*



# WE ARE LOOKING FOR **CATERING STAFF**



## **Catering Assistant**

Monday to Friday  
12 noon - 2:30pm

A vacancy have arisen in our catering team.  
We are a friendly, hardworking team, producing  
freshly prepared meals for children and staff.  
The duties include setting up the dining room,  
washing up and general kitchen duties.

If you are interested in finding out more  
**visit our website [www.crosshalljunior.co.uk](http://www.crosshalljunior.co.uk)**  
and head to Our School > Staff Vacancies  
to download an application pack  
or **call our school office on 01480 475972**

Crosshall Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Appointment is subject to an enhanced DBS check. You will also be required to disclose any previous unspent criminal convictions and any cautions which have not expired.



# Come Join Us

## FOR SCHOOL LUNCH



**Adult £5**

**Child £2.40**

**Fab reviews from our pupils**

"The best fudge tart ever!!!"

"Jean is a LEGEND!"

"Each day there's something tasty  
and lots of choice!"

Enjoy our  
tasty, homemade  
school meals  
made fresh everyday  
by Jean & her team



**To book: ring or email The School Office  
01480 475972 or [office@crosshalljunior.co.uk](mailto:office@crosshalljunior.co.uk)**

**Arrival by 12:10pm to Main Reception. Enjoy a two-course meal with your child(ren) .  
Booking system in place. Limited spaces available each day. Must book in advance.  
No on the day bookings available.**



**BOOK WEEK 6-10 FEBRUARY**

## Meet the Author

On Monday, the first day of Book Week, the children will have a visit from Andy Stanton, author of the Mr Gum series of books, who will hold a session with the children to talk about what it is like being an author, how to write stories, and answering questions they have.



**CROSSHALL JUNIOR SCHOOL  
PRESENTS**

During Book Week pupils will

# MEET & GREET

the author

# ANDY STANTON

**MONDAY  
6TH FEBRUARY**

**Book Week 6th-10th Feb**

The author of the Mr Gum series of books will be giving a talk to the children about being an author, writing stories, and answering any questions



A limited number of signed books will be available to purchase  
More details to follow





## BOOK WEEK 6-10 FEBRUARY

## The Travelling Books fair

In the Duloe room until Tuesday 7th February from 15:25 -16:00 each day. Head down and check out the great range of books for all ages. Cash or Card payment only.

Every book sold can help to earn free books for the school.



## Book Week Poetry Competition

All entries to be in by Wednesday 8th Feb (hand in to your class teacher). Check out examples written by some of our CJS teachers below!

**Poetry Competition**

Write a poem about you! It can be any type of poem you like and remember, poems do not have to rhyme! You can do your poem by hand or on the computer and add pictures and colours too! Look at the examples below.

I am happy and smiley  
I was born in London  
I enjoy taking my dog for a walk  
I like shopping  
I like a cup of tea and biscuits  
My favourite food is Italian  
I love going on holiday –  
Anywhere warm is great!  
I have two sisters.  
I LOVE reading  
I enjoy going to yoga in my spare time  
My favourite city is Rome  
You normally hear me saying 'Morning!' before you even see me!  
I wear glasses  
My favourite animal is a unicorn...  
**Who am I?**  
*A 'who am I' poem by Mrs Archer*



*A shape poem by Miss Jones*

Rebecca Jane O'Brien (that's my name in full),  
I am a Year 6 teacher, who works at Crosshall School,  
My favourite subject's science (but Maths is also cool),  
My favourite subject's swimming (if it's in a heated pool).  
**A rhyming poem by Mrs O'Brien**

Did you hear?  
About what I am doing?  
No-one must know.  
I am going to  
Eat all of the doughnuts,  
Leaving none for anyone else.  
**An acrostic poem by Mr Ainscow**

Long, brown hair tied up  
And eyes that change with the light  
Find me in Year 5.  
**A haiku poem by Miss Connor**

**BOOK WEEK 6-10 FEBRUARY****Book Swap - Tuesday 7th February**

For the very first time, Crosshall Junior School will be hosting a Book Swap. After school on Tuesday 7th February, families are invited to bring a book (or a couple) they have already read to exchange for a book which another family has brought. Books will be placed on a table under the Year Five canopy in the playground to add to, browse, and take from. If a family does not have any books they wish to swap but would like more reading material to own at home, they are encouraged to give a donation to the school in exchange for a book. If it is successful, we would love to run a Book Swap every month to ensure all our children have access to engaging, high-quality texts at home. We look forward to seeing you!

**LET'S  
SWAP****Fancy Dress Day - Friday 10th February**

Wear a word! On the last day of the Book Week (and last day of this half term), we are inviting children to wear a costume related to a word; this could be an adjective (e.g. 'shiny', 'green', 'creative'), a noun (e.g. 'dictionary', 'banana', 'duck'), or even a verb (e.g. 'swim', 'fly', 'grow'). The costume can be as simple or as complex and creative as they like. We encourage parents and carers not to purchase anything specific for this activity, as it is a much more fun challenge for the children to be imaginative with what they already have at home. Please also support your child in choosing a school-appropriate costume.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy Book Week 2023!

**Laura Jones and Angela Connor | English Subject Leaders**



## LEGO COMPETITION

**The Hunts Post and Ely Standard** will shortly be launching **a new LEGO competition** and we need your help to secure Crosshall Junior School a winning place!

**From week commencing 20th February** (until week commencing 24th April) these publications will print weekly tokens for parents, guardians, grandparents, other family members, friends and neighbours to collect!

The school that collects the most tokens will **win a £500 voucher to spend on LEGO Education equipment with Creative Hut.**

Every school that is registered (which CJS is!) and **collects more than 500 tokens will receive £50 to spend.**

### How we use LEGO in school?

In school we use LEGO across the year groups. In particular, the annual autumn term Year Six visit to LEGOLAND WINDSOR is always a highlight for pupils. During the visit they complete an educational workshop and seek inspiration from the rides at the attraction. Once back at school they engage in designing and building their own LEGO creations, focusing on the rides. They use a computer programme to control the movement of the rides they design. It is a fantastic project that the pupils really love, and forms part of their Design and Technology learning.

**A collection box for all tokens will be located in the school office from 20th February.**

**Thank you in advance for your support!**

*The* **Hunts Post**



**education**





## RESIDENTIAL TRIP SURVEY

Ahead of the Year Five Residential Trip to York in a few weeks, we would like to better understand parent/ carer overall thoughts on residential trips.

Which year groups should go? How long for? When? Where? Potential associated costs?

Residential trips have long been part of Crosshall extra curricular activities that we know the children look forward to, enjoy, and make lasting memories from!

We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes of your time to complete the survey linked below. The survey is anonymous and no personal details will be collected on respondents.

If after completing this survey you have any further suggestions, ideas, or opinions you would like to share with us regarding residential trips, please email the school office at [office@crosshalljunior.co.uk](mailto:office@crosshalljunior.co.uk)

Thank you

**[Residential Survey Link here](#)**







## SWIMMING ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Sofia B on her recent swimming achievements.

Sofia won medals for completing all the strokes at a recent swimming competition.

Well done Sofia!





## #ASKCJS

Thank you to the parents who joined our most recent #AskCJS session on the afternoon of Wednesday 25th January. It was a pleasure to share some knowledge of how our school is developing our understanding of memory, and how frequent retrieval of information can move knowledge from short term memory into long term memory.

For those who were unable to attend the session, below are links to the presentation and information shared.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office email [office@crosshalljunior.co.uk](mailto:office@crosshalljunior.co.uk)

**#AskCJS – Making Learning Stick Resources**

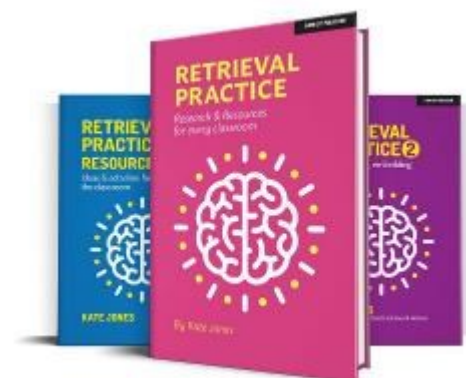
Presentation from latest #AskCJS session is [here](#)

Together with Retrieval Practice information [here](#)

Information from all our #AskCJS sessions to date is available on our website under **Digital Office > Letters to Parents > #AskCJS Sessions**

Thank you

**Mr Liam Murphy | Assistant Head Teacher**





## 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**

Noah B

**COINS**

Callum P

**IMPROVED**

Josie K

**NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE**

London v Belfast



# NUMBOTS

**COINS**

Emily B

**IMPROVED**

Lola M





## 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 January 2022



**Reading Practice Quizzes Passed: 1708**

**Average % Correct: 87.2%**

**Average Engaged Time per Day: 26 minutes**

**Most quizzes passed: Max J (21)**

**Most points earned: Sam L (70)**



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## 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:

Archie F,  
Harrison J,  
Julia C,  
Lily R,  
Bella G,  
Gustavo R,  
Naomi H,  
Esther Y,  
James W,  
Elsie P



## CELEBRATION AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to all our students who were presented with our first Celebration Awards of 2023 at this morning's assembly. The awards recognised excellence and progress in English, maths or science.

Details are also up on our website, under Student Achievements & Awards [here](#)

	
<p>Winners: <b>Gilson K, Esther S, Emily B</b></p>	<p>Winners: <b>Jaxon C, Jake B, Martha B, Ella-Louise M-D</b></p>
	
<p>Winners: <b>Lily S, Alfie C, Evie B, Mason L</b></p>	<p>Winners: <b>Eva M-W, Esther B, Francesca L, Archie F</b></p>

**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:**

Elijah T, Adam M, Summer M, Brooke M, Yuliia C, Layla Mi, Faye P, Ela M, Kim K-G, Bella R, Elodie J, Esele F, Ronnie F, Lola M, Callum P, Bella G, Freya W, Skye B, Mila H, Poppy A.





# Your Education Inclusion Family Advisor

**Lorraine Simon**

Education Inclusion Family Advisors offer you an opportunity to ask for information, advice and support on any issue affecting your family life in a relaxed and confidential environment. These areas include:

- Challenging behaviour
- Routines
- Supporting emotions and wellbeing
- School transitions
- Parenting strategies
- Building resilience and confidence
- Any other family challenges you might be facing

## Appointments in school

Individual Appointments for Crosshall Junior School parents:  
Appointments available on the following Mondays, from 9am.

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**16<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**15<sup>th</sup> May**

**20<sup>th</sup> February**

**19<sup>th</sup> June**

**20<sup>th</sup> March**

**17<sup>th</sup> July**

To make an appointment, please ask at the school office,  
or contact your linked worker for an alternative appointment time

*Appointments are being held back in school, but families may need to be aware of any restriction if the Coronavirus situation changes.*

For more information speak to your school office or contact us directly on:

✉ [Lorraine.simon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lorraine.simon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) ☎ 07585 403316





## ABSENCE 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.