



CROSSHALL CONNECTS

A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior School

This issue's highlights:


| | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
|  | Diary Dates |  | Sporting Achievements |
|  | Year Five York Trip |  | Student Achievements |
|  | School Governor |  | LEGO Competition |




Year Five Residential Trip to York last week




www.crosshalljunior.co.uk



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www.youtube.com/user/CrosshallJunior

[Y3 Blog - http://cjsy3.blogspot.co.uk/](http://cjsy3.blogspot.co.uk/)



[Y4 Blog - http://cjsy4.blogspot.co.uk/](http://cjsy4.blogspot.co.uk/)



[Y5 Blog - http://cjsy5.blogspot.co.uk/](http://cjsy5.blogspot.co.uk/)



[Y6 Blog - http://cjsy6.blogspot.co.uk/](http://cjsy6.blogspot.co.uk/)





A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Welcome to the March edition of the Crosshall Junior Connects magazine

SNIPPETS

- Reading tuition is going well in Year Three!
- The Year Six children enjoyed curling in PE.
- Year Four have been rehearsing their performances for Stage and Screen!
- Cardiff House Captains supported Cardiff Day this week.
- The children's Art Council is busy encouraging the classes to participate or watch the arts in the local area.
- A new room was created out of an old storage space for group work - thank you Mr Bruce!

NEWS

• Mock Key Stage Two Tests

Our Year Six children have been amazing this week. They took the practice seriously and all the children did their very best. It will take the team a while to mark all the papers and put further actions in place, but the week has meant that the final preparations have been fine-tuned; we can administer the final tests with greater confidence and support for the children as needed.

• Governing Body

Have you got the skills that the Governing Body needs? Can you spare an evening each half term? Have you the interests of the school at heart? We are looking for people - and not necessarily parents - with the following skills to join the team:

- Human Resources
- Education

Please get in touch via the School Office if you would like to know more. The Chair and I will be happy to have an informal chat. Email office@crosshalljunior.co.uk or ring 01480 475972

• Thank you!

Thank you for all the messages of praise for the York Residential Trip. Your kindness has a huge impact on the team who went 'above and beyond' to make the trip so successful!

Year Three will be off to Burwell in a couple of months!

Have a great weekend,

Anne Eardley
Head Teacher



COMING UP - KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8th March | Mums Who Read - Library Event, LETTER |
| 15th March | Year Six Dentist Visit - <i>preselected children only</i> Year Three DT & History workshop LETTER |
| 13th-24th March | Mother's Day Lunches, see page 5 and LETTER |
| 17th March | Red Nose Day - wear something red, donate £1 Belfast House Day—wear token green item (i.e. socks, hair bobble) Year Three DT & History workshop LETTER |
| 22nd March | 4AA & 4NT Verulamium Trip LETTER |
| 24th March | Celebration Assembly - <i>more details to follow soon</i> 4CH & 4KW Verulamium Trip LETTER |
| 31st March | Last Day of Term |
| 3rd-14th April | Easter Holidays |
| 17th April | Staff Training Day - School closed to pupils |
| 18th April | Summer Term Begins |



TERM DATES

Our 2024-2025 term dates are NOW LIVE

Find all term dates listed on our website [HERE](#)

LETTERS TO PARENTS

All letters sent out are available [HERE](#) under Letters to Parents on our website



ONLINE CALENDAR

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

Click [HERE](#) to subscribe



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals the school receives additional funding to support your child, as well as provide school meals.

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

OUR WEBSITE - 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.

DONATIONS - UNIFORM AND BOOKS

Next time you're having a clear out at home please consider donating to the school

We welcome **all donations of school uniform and children's books that are in good condition.**

Just drop them into the School Office and we will put them to good use.



Celebrate Mother's Day



WITH A SCHOOL LUNCH

Enjoy a delicious two-course meal
with your child(ren) or
grandchild(ren)

Adult £5.00

Child £2.40

Available from
Monday 13th to Friday 24th March



**To book: ring or email The School Office
01480 475972 or 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.

The logo for Crosshall Junior Academy Trust, featuring three interlocking rings above the text 'CROSSHALL JUNIOR ACADEMY TRUST'.

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**

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.

YEAR FIVE YORK RESIDENTIAL TRIP 20-23 FEB

Last week, Year Five had a very busy but enjoyable residential trip to York. The schedule was packed with exciting opportunities, including heading to the Jorvik Centre and DIG within an hour of arrival! Following their ride through history and archaeological digging, they designed and made Viking shields and solved some Norse Code before settling down for their first night away.



Tuesday got off to a great start with a visit to the York Chocolate Story and gift shop (which they left with considerably lighter wallets!). The children then had a guided historical tour of the city walls, including getting the chance to see a brand new statue of Queen Elizabeth II at York Minster, before enjoying a beautiful picnic lunch in the Museum Gardens. Either side of dinner, they took part in team challenges like building Viking long ships big enough to hold eight people, solving myth puzzles and decoding some Norse messages. A cosy film with pyjamas, cuddly toys (and some chocolate, of course) rounded off the day.

The final full day was just as busy! The morning started with a wander down the Shambles (the inspiration for the representation of Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter films), followed by lunch aboard an open-topped bus tour of York. The afternoon saw the children designing and making their own stained glass windows or mosaics, then getting their hands sticky making bread. The big finale involved flashing lights, blasting music and a lot of enthusiastic moves with the end of residential disco.



YEAR FIVE YORK RESIDENTIAL TRIP 20-23 FEB

Who wants to waste a whole morning when you're away on a residential? Not us!

After very efficiently packing and evacuating rooms, the children built mini catapults and took part in a range of team challenges before a final al fresco lunch and back on the coach.

Over the course of four days, the children had a fantastic time and demonstrated lots of skills. They were archaeologists and historians, puzzle solvers and bakers, artists and engineers, chocolatiers and performers. They also demonstrated some fabulous collaborative and communication skills throughout the trip (something commented upon by the YHA staff).

All of the adults were extremely pleased and proud of everyone who came along. They showed ambition, resilience and kindness, and were praised by members of the public and the YHA staff for being excellent ambassadors for our school. Well done, Year Five!

Miss Connor | Head of Year Five



QUICK STICKS HOCKEY - 28 FEBRUARY

On Tuesday 28th February a team of Year Six players went to a cold St Ivo Outdoor Centre to take part in a Quick Sticks Hockey tournament. The team of Phoebe, Harriet, Jojo, Hayden, Cooper and Sam did amazingly well finishing fourth out of twenty teams. The best we have ever finished!

In the first round of pool matches, the team played 4 games. Playing both Priory and Wintringham twice (Round House had pulled out at the last minute).

Match 1 - Crosshall 2-0 Priory. Our goals were scored by Sam

Match 2 - Crosshall 2-0 Wintringham. Our goals were scored by Hayden and Cooper.

Match 3 - Crosshall 5-0 Priory. Our goals were scored by Sam (2), Phoebe (1) and Priory (2 own goals)

Match 4—Crosshall 2-0 Wintringham. Our goals were scored by Harriet and Hayden.

We then play the first of our placing matches against Buckden.

Final score Crosshall 0-3 Buckden.

Our final match was a play off for third and fourth position, against Houghton.

Final score Crosshall 0-1 Houghton.

I am extremely pleased with the team, especially as it was the first time Phoebe, Jojo, and Cooper have represented the school.

A big thank you to Miss Howell for her support, and to the parents who transported and supported the children.

Well done team!

Mrs Blackwell | Quick Sticks Hockey Leader



CURRENTLY AT CROSSHALL

More photos of all our recent activities are on our website

[HERE](#)



CARDIFF BONUS DAY - 1st MARCH

The four Cardiff classes (3LR, 4KW, 5MM and 6MR) enjoyed their bonus day this week by enjoying some special activities. The four year groups were mixed and had an opportunity to work together on making daffodils, dragon bookmarks, Nantgarw tradition dancing and hearing the story of the Welsh dragon



CURRENTLY AT CROSSHALL

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FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT - 2nd MARCH

On Thursday, we held a football tournament inviting various other primary schools from the local area including Bushmead , Little Paxton, and Round House primary schools.

Our team did great, coming second overall with three games drawn and a win.

Lots of effort, encouragement and fun was had by all involved. Thank you to parents who came to support and watch the games.

Mr Ainscow and Mr Hamilton | Mixed Football Leaders



SPORTS ACTIVITIES AT CROSSHALL THIS TERM

We've had lots of sporting activities going on this term:

HUNTS SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Dance—HSSP Dance Specialist Mr Russell has been teaching pupils



YEAR FIVE/ SIX GIRLS FUTSAL COMPETITION



YEAR FIVE AND SIX MIXED FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



PANATHOLON SEND BOWLING COMPETITION

Team placed second and third



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

In last week's Close Up, we shared Imogen B in 4AA's dance competition success. Kayleigh from 6HB also attended the dance competition during half term at Butlins. Her team came away with first, second, and third places for all their eight team dances. Kayleigh performed in six of those eight. Both her dance team and teacher also decided to award Kayleigh with one of their team trophies for being such a dedicated, true team mate showing unconditional kindness and support for others whilst simply having a 'pure heart of gold'.

Well and truly demonstrating **the Crosshall ARK value of Ambition, Resilience, and Kindness!**

Well done Kayleigh and everyone else who took part!



SHARE YOUR NEWS

It's great to celebrate our pupils and all their achievements.

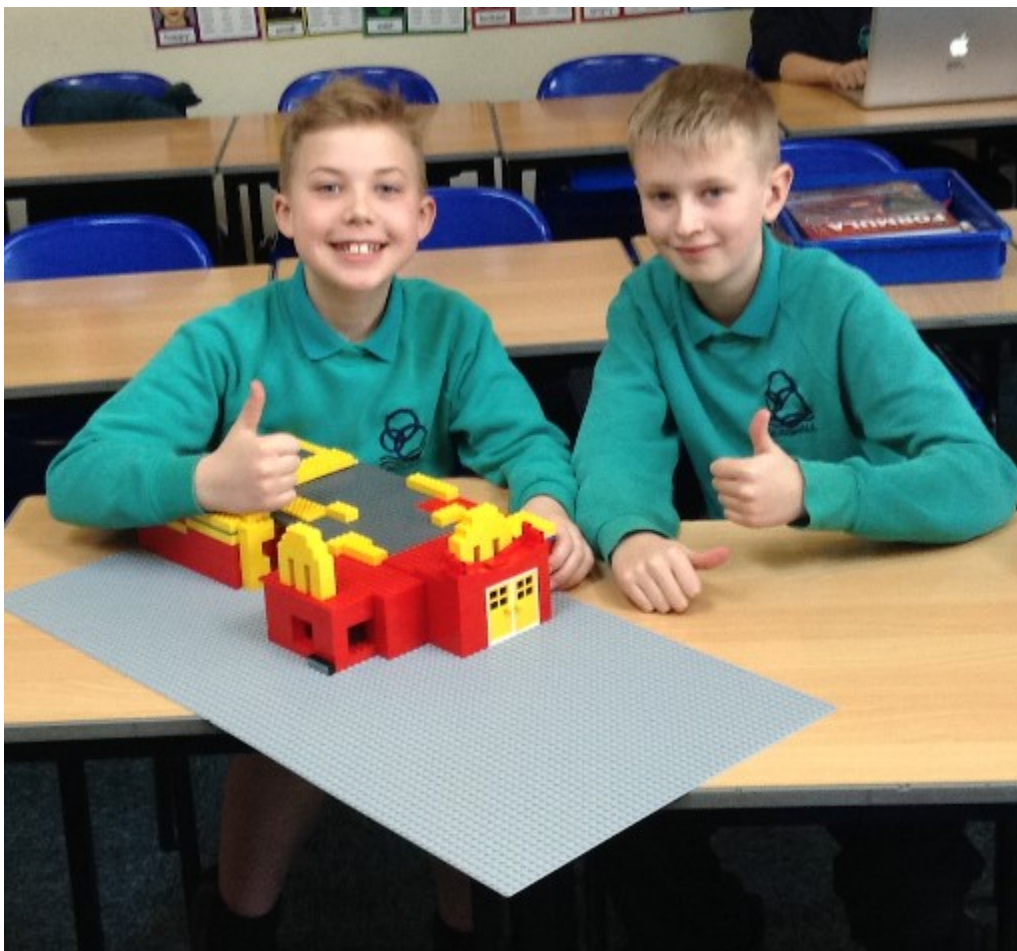
If your child has a good news story or a personal achievement to share do get in touch with the School Office and we can share in our weekly newsletter and/or monthly magazine.

Email office@crosshalljunior.co.uk with details and photos.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Oliver and Shane were very proud of their 20-minute Lego construction of a McDonalds restaurant this week. The boys showed great skill and team work to achieve their end goal.

Well Done Oliver and Shane!



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LEGO COMPETITION - HUNT POST

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 is located in the Main Entrance/ School Office

Thank you in advance for your support!

The **Hunts Post**



education



TT ROCK STARS AND 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

William M



COINS

Elijah T



IMPROVED

Jessie J

NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE

Edinburgh v London



NUMBOTS



COINS

Ellie B



IMPROVED

Belle S





CENTURY

Details of the 'CENTURY Guardian Overview' can be found here: tinyurl.com/8v8c4e5c

If you would like to access your child's CENTURY Guardian Portal, please enter your details here: 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/



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, | Isobel N, | Abbey B, | Sam J, |
| Harrison J, | Charlie H, | Grace G, | Roxy B, |
| Julia C, | Samuel J, | Bill N, | Evlyn O, |
| Lily R, | Henry L, | Owen J, | Florence J, |
| Bella G, | Beau Z, | Anna J, | Tilly C. |
| Gustavo R, | Archie T, | Ela M, | |
| Naomi H, | Elijah T, | Jessica B, | |
| Esther Y, | Olly H, | Faye B, | |
| James W, | Scarlett A-W, | Miao Miao X, | |
| Elsie P, | Marina G, | Alfie S, | |

CELEBRATION AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Below are details of all our students who were presented with our first Celebration Awards of 2023 for Spring Term. The awards recognised excellence and progress in English, maths, and/or science.

Our next Celebration Assembly is on Friday 24th March, more details to follow soon.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| <p>Winners: Gilson K, Esther S, Emily B</p> | <p>Winners: Jaxon C, Jake B, Martha B, Ella-Louise M-D</p> |
| | |
| <p>Winners: Lily S, Alfie C, Evie B, Mason L</p> | <p>Winners: Eva M-W, Esther B, Francesca L, Archie F</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 M, 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, Viktor K, George S, Tyler W, Gustavo R, Goncalo R, Layla M, Layla R, Emily E, Kuba J, Anya P, Harry H, Isla P, Eleanor C, Sebastian S, Isabella O, Faye P, Shane M, Harley D, Cooper S, Hayden W, Maia W, Sophia G, Chloe L, Abbey B, Scarlett A-W, Theo S, Ava H, Josh T, Sam L, Millie M, Olivia H, Oliver L, Cameron C, Mia C, Lily V, Ella J, Darcey M, Thomas J, Maxwell O'H, Daisy W, Stanley D, Jaxon C.

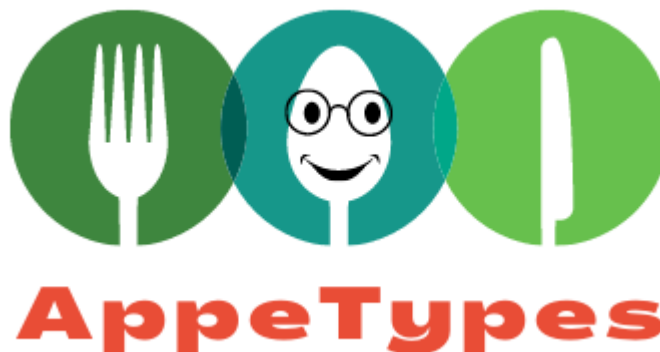
LOST PROPERTY



We currently have a lot of lost property items needing to be claimed. Items can be collected from the School Office. We will keep items until the end of term. Current items include:

Water bottles, coats, hats, gloves, jewellery (bracelets, badges, glasses), hairbands, and an assortment of other pieces!

CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL - ONLINE SURVEY



Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are supporting the University of Cambridge with a study into the appetites of Primary School-aged children.

To support this work they are kindly asking Primary Schools to share this invitation with all parents to take part in a short (10- 15 minute) online survey led by the University of Cambridge. The findings will help health professionals to identify and support children with unusually high or low appetites and to create new guidance on healthy patterns of eating and weight gain.

For more information and to take part, please see:

[AppeTypes: Survey of Appetite Types in Primary School Children - MRC Epidemiology Unit \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/epidemiology/mrc-appetypes)



ABSENCE GUIDANCE

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.