









# CROSSHALL CONNECTS

A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior Academy Trust School

## This issue's highlights:

	Diary Dates		Future Me Talks
	School Governor		Non-Boring Club
	Year Three Fairy Tales		LEGO Competition



*Happy Easter and enjoy the holidays everyone!*



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



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



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

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



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



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



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





## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Welcome to April's edition of the Crosshall Connects, our monthly magazine.

It's sometimes difficult for parents to understand what life is like at school for our children, which is why we put a lot of effort into the newsletters, website, social media feeds, events for parents, publications, and letters. They are all designed to let the community know about the good work done in, and by, Crosshall Junior School. It's a great place to be!

### NEWS

- Over the past four years, we have redeveloped the grounds for the children's enjoyment and to promote outdoor learning. We have installed an outdoor gym, an outdoor classroom, a summer house, a log cabin, basketball/ netball hoops; begun Tinkering Club, planted an orchard, and four memorial trees (which will add to the shade), developed the Farm, re-planned the Adventure Playground, built a Nook and a Stage, and bought lots of play equipment. We now need to tidy up the area by the Stage, but the solutions have been very costly. We will keep you posted on the outcome.
- We have had lots of success across our sporting teams: NFL, multi-eventers, football, netball, and hockey. Thank you Miss Howell, Mrs & Miss Blackwell, Ms. Hemingway, Mr. Hamilton, Mrs Gould, Mrs Parween, and Mr. Ainscow.
- We need to renew our wet playtimes resources. Do you have any games (complete, with not many pieces) that could be used during indoor play, such

as Top Trumps, Snakes and Ladders, and cards? No jigsaws though, thank you. Please send them into school via your child.

- This week, we said farewell to Ms. Sheldrick, who has worked as the Librarian and then as a teaching assistant, since joining us in 2018. We wish Leah all the best in her new adventures and will miss her sparkle.
- Next term, we focus on 'Ambition' as one of our Crosshall Junior values. Children have already begun to receive Head Teacher Awards for this, as well as showing 'Kindness and Resilience' - our other treasured values.

### SNIPPETS

- Each term, sparky starts and fabulous finishes are planned across the school. Year Three finished their term with another event involving parents, and Fairy Tales!
- The Year Four children performed to over a hundred parents as part of their Stage and Screen work. Thank you for the compliments!
- The Farm is being used for our Gardening Therapy work, led by green-fingered Mrs Smith, as well as for each year group to plant their crops. Year Five will be planting sunflowers and potatoes next.
- MP Jonathan Djanogly gave a Future Me talk last week about what an MP does. He called the school a pearl of the community!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

- We had a robot dog in school! Thank you to a local business, Hexagon, for bringing the robot and drone into school and speaking to the children about your job.
- Four boys from Year Six are planning to use the St Neots Library to study together for the upcoming Key Stage Two tests in May. Such ambition!
- We are also busy preparing for the King's Coronation, as well as...Eurovision! More info to follow.

I hope you and your family have a lovely break over Easter and we look forward to welcoming the children back, safe and happy on Tuesday 18th April.

**Anne Eardley**  
Head Teacher



## OTHER NOTICES

### INJURIES

It is important that the school is informed of any injuries a child may have.

Ideally, a conversation should occur between staff and parent/carer before a child arrives into school with an injury. However, we understand that this is not always possible so an email ([office@crosshalljunior.co.uk](mailto:office@crosshalljunior.co.uk)) will help in the first instance.

Please state how your child was injured, the outcome, and the new constraints that we need to be aware of and take into consideration while they are in school.

A staff member will then contact you to discuss.

Thank you

### NUT FREE SCHOOL SITE

Reminder that we are a nut free school site.

Please do not send your child into school with any nut-based product for a snack or packed lunch - this includes products that may contain traces of nuts. Potential allergens could include:

- NUTELLA, and NUTELLA based products
- other butters and spreads e.g. peanut butter
- cereal bars
- some types of biscuits containing nuts
- cakes containing nuts
- some snack pots containing nuts

If any pupil is found with a nut-based product it will be confiscated and disposed of immediately.



## COMING UP - KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th April	Staff Training Day <b>School closed to pupils</b>
18th April	Summer Term Begins Year Six Leaver's Hoodies available to purchase <a href="#">LETTER</a>
20th April	Last day to register for clubs <a href="#">HERE</a>
21st April	London Bonus Day (St George's Day on 23rd) wear token red item i.e. socks
1st May	Bank Holiday <b>School closed to pupils</b>
2nd May	School Clubs start
4th May	Year Four: Birds of Prey workshop <a href="#">LETTER</a>
5th May	Crosshall King's Coronation Day - wear red, white, & blue (non-uniform)
8th May	King's Coronation Extra Bank Holiday <b>School closed to pupils</b>
9th-12th May	Year Six: Key Stage Two Tests <a href="#">LETTER</a>
12th May	Eurovision Song Contest - BBC Live Lesson and other activities. Details to follow
wc 15th May	Maths Week (more details to follow next term) National Vegetarian Week
16th & 17th May	Year Three: Fitzwilliam & Zoology Museum Trip <a href="#">LETTER</a>
19th May	Celebration Assembly Summer Term
22nd - 24th May	Year Three: Burwell Residential Trip National Walk to School Week
23rd May	The Book Swap - after school outside Year Three classrooms
26th May	Staff Training Day <b>School closed to pupils</b>
29th - 2nd May	Half Term
5th June	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.





# 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.

## FUTURE ME TALKS

Our Future Me programme encourages children to attain bronze, silver, and then gold awards depending on the pledges they complete throughout the school year. These pledges include a number of enterprise skills such as developing a product, team working, as well as a number of social and emotional learning related pledges, including: overcoming a friendship disagreement, and looking after someone that has been left out on numerous occasions. All of these are vital skills and values that help children to know how to act as they leave the school and move on to secondary. A central thread of the programme is our career-related activities and talks designed to develop children's knowledge about work, and skills for both work and life.

At the end of the spring term, we have handed out approaching 400 awards, 19 of which being gold! As mentioned in last week's Close Up, March 2023 saw the return of our 'in-person' Future Me Talks. These 14 talks have enabled the vast majority of our pupils to hear first-hand about the world of work and how future success can be built upon strong academic foundations.

Professions who have given talks this term have included: Archaeology, Civil Engineering, House of Lords, Land Survey, Local MP, Project Management, and Veterinary Science.





## YEAR FOUR STAGE & SCREEN PERFORMANCES

Over the past ten weeks, Year Four have taken part in the Cambridgeshire Music programme, Stage and Screen. The children have learned new skills around performing arts; involving script writing, performing, and directing their own piece of drama.

On Tuesday, the children got to showcase these performances to their parents. The children performed with enthusiasm and big smiles on their faces. It was lovely to see so many parents come in to school again, and we hope you enjoyed it too!

Well done Year Four!

**Mrs Amy Archer | Head of Year Four**

## FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday, a team from our mixed football club took part in a tournament at Bushmead Primary School against various other schools.

The teams all played very well. Crosshall Junior School played three matches.

We won 2-1 against Eynesbury, and lost against Brampton and Bushmead.

Well done to Yuliia C, David E, Ellia F, Stanley H, Kimberley K-G, Francesca L, Eddy L, Callum N, Olly P, Antony S, Noah S, and Leo T for all taking part.

Thank you as well to all the parents who helped get the children to the tournament too!

**Mr. Michael Hamilton and Mr. Dan Ainscow | Football Leads**





## YEAR THREE FAIRY TALES

This morning, the Year Three children invited a parent/ grandparent/ carer in to share the amazing fairy tales that they had written over the last few weeks. We had over 80 adults join us for this wonderful event. After the children read their fairy tale to their adult, they chose part of it to improve. There was then a chance for children to show their adults how they take an A.R. quiz, and change their A.R. books. The session ended with children choosing a book from a table in the hall and sharing a story together.

A great end to the spring term!

**Mr. Chris Dorey | Head of Year Three**



## NON-BORING CLUB (YOUNG CARERS)

Crosshall Junior School Non-Boring Club (Young Carers) welcomed Annabel from Caring Together this week. Annabel brought in resources to make Easter cards with the children, and our kitchen kindly baked some delicious biscuits for the group too. A fun time was had by all!

Annabel explained to the group about Caring Together, and the trips and events they are putting on for the Easter holidays.

If you would like any further information or to sign up for these events, visit [www.caringtogether.org](http://www.caringtogether.org)





## ECO COUNCIL FORMED

This week, the first meeting of our newly formed Crosshall Junior School Eco Council took place. Two representatives from each class were nominated by their fellow classmates to join the Eco Council. The council will focus on identifying opportunities around the school to be more sustainable and eco-friendly.

We look forward to hearing more next term!



## BIG BATTERY HUNT COMPETITION

The Big Battery Hunt is a nationwide programme to help educate and inspire young people to recycle more used batteries. There are some amazing prizes to be won including £3,500 towards garden and outdoor equipment for the winning school and a Nintendo Switch for the winning pupil plus a certificate and trophy!

To help the Big Battery Hunt be as sustainable as possible Duracell are asking everyone to recycle batteries at your nearest recycling point, which is usually your local supermarket. This is great for the environment as it means no big trucks on the road!

Find your nearest recycling point using these handy finders [here](#) and find out more about Duracell's sustainability journey [here](#).





## 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**

Dexter M


**COINS**

Layla R


**IMPROVED**

Betsie-May A

**NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE**

TBC



# NUMBOTS


**COINS**

Freddie B


**IMPROVED**

Ellis F





## 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/)



## 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,	Logan G,
Harrison J,	Charlie H,	Grace G,	Roxy B,	Matthew H,
Julia C,	Samuel J,	Bill N,	Evlyn O,	Olly P,
Lily R,	Henry L,	Owen J,	Florence J,	Abigail P,
Bella G,	Beau Z,	Anna J,	Tilly C,	Brooke M,
Gustavo R,	Archie T,	Ela M,	Edward U,	Joshua B,
Naomi H,	Elijah T,	Jessica B,	Viktor K,	Jonah D,
Esther Y,	Olly H,	Faye B,	Jacob B-C,	Emma P
James W,	Scarlett A-W,	Miao Miao X,	Corban L,	
Elsie P,	Marina G,	Alfie S,	Tilly-Rose N,	



## CELEBRATION AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Below our 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 most recent Celebration Assembly was on Friday 24th March

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



Winners: **Scarlett A-W** (for Spring 1), **Jaxon C**,  
**Nicolas G-D**, **Thomas J**, **Jess F-C**



Winners: **Frank B**, **Miles S** (4CH & 4KW awards will  
be presented next term due to school trip today)



Winners: **Ruben B**, **Amelia L**, **Finley C**, **Joe K**



Winners: **Bill N**, **Elise H**, **Callum R**, **Ethan F-W**



## 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, Bella H, Erin E, Lillie W, Ellie M, Miles S, Alfred B, Ronnie B, Sophia B, Lilia B, Emilie P-E, Thomas C, Antony S, Henry B, Jess F-C, Edward U, Tyler B, Nancy-Mai M.

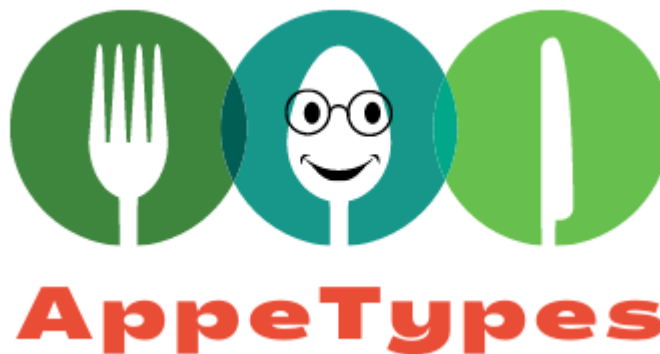
## LOST PROPERTY



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/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.



