









CROSSHALL CONNECTS

A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior School

This issue's highlights:

	Head Teacher Message		Celebrate Families
	Key Dates		Student Achievements
	Year Six: Legoland Trip		Join Our Governors



See page 9 for full details and 6th October
Letter Day email for the permission slip
needed for child to buy ticket

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



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



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



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



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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Welcome to our second edition of the **Crosshall CONNECTS** for 2023-24!

This is our monthly magazine that lets you know what's been happening recently in the Junior School.

It is published on the first Friday of each month and replaces the Close Up for that week. It is a more in-depth look at life in the school and tries to keep you up to date with the latest information.

There are many other ways to find out what is going on, such as following us on Facebook and Instagram; our year group blogs, and information on our website.

The children, with the support of parents, have made an excellent start to the year and the atmosphere in school is positive and full of ambition.

Thank you for your support regarding uniform choices, P.E. kit, small bags, and the removal of earrings too.

NEWS/ SUPPORT NEEDED

- **The Crosshall Junior VALUES** of Ambition, Resilience, and Kindness are promoted throughout the year. This term, the focus is **Kindness**. So far, the children have been learning the habits of good manners, being 'noticers', and 'paying it forward'. We want our school to be a happy, safe, and respectful place to learn and work.
- The House Captains have been busy supporting events and the house points system. The budgeting system is also in place whereby lost/ damaged resources are counted. Class positive action is linked to house points. Children - look after the things that you use!
- Please do not let your child use the Adventure Playground before or after school. The barrier will usually be drawn across the entrance to mark that the area is not to be used.

- The podcasting suite is nearly complete, and the House Captains had a look around it for the first time last week. Thank you PTA for raising the funds for us to be able to do this. The children will love it!
- Towards the middle of this month, we will be holding Parent-Child Learning Review appointments via SchoolCloud again. Feedback about the virtual PCLRs has always been very positive from parents, allowing you to manage a busy home and to participate in these important meetings - usually both parents rather than one.

Have a great October, and I look forward to seeing some of you at the Celebration Assembly in a fortnight.

Anne Eardley
Head Teacher

House	House Captain 1	House Captain 2
CARDIFF	Freya W	Eloise F
EDINBURGH	Luke N	Mila H
BELFAST	Mason L	Carys H
LONDON	Erva A	Bella G



COMING UP - KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ONLINE CALENDAR

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

10th October	Individual Photograph Day
11th October	PTA School Disco LETTER
13th October	Year Three: Visit from Wood Green
wc 16th October	PCLRs Week LETTER
17th October	3CD & 3RP Toothpaste Workshop LETTER
20th October	Celebration Assembly 9:00am - Invite Only 3LG & 3LR Toothpaste Workshop LETTER
wc 23rd October	HALF TERM WEEK
30th October	School Begins
wc 30th October	FAMILY LUNCH WEEK (page 5) BOOK WEEK
2nd November	BOOK WEEK: Author Visit - Jack Meggitt-Phillips 'Child of the Beast' (page 10)
8th November	Dads Who Read - Library Event
10th November	Open Day
20th November	Flu Immunisation Day CONSENT INFORMATION

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

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.



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](#)

Celebrate Families



WITH A SCHOOL LUNCH

For mum, dad, siblings, aunt, uncle, or grandparents

Everyone welcome!

Enjoy a delicious two-course meal for up to two adults

Adult £5.00

Child £2.50



Available from

Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November

**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.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you again to everyone who joined us last Friday to raise money for Macmillan. It's a charity very close to the hearts of the Crosshall school community. Our final donations raised nearly £800!

The Teaching Assistant Team

How you're helping

The money you and your guests have raised will go towards our vital work. Here's some of the services you help to keep running:

£43 could pay for 50 copies of our most popular booklet, **Help with the Cost of Cancer**, potentially helping a person affected by cancer understand the benefits and financial help they could access.

£247 could pay for a **Macmillan nurse** for a day, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

£483 could help run our **Online Community forum** for a day. In this time, 2398 people affected by cancer in the UK can give emotional and practical support to each other on anything to do with cancer - from treatments to coping with everyday life.



Donate to Macmillan

[CLICK HERE](#)

STUDENT FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

Well done to **Martha L, Maiya W, Millie P,** and **Erin S** who recently raised over £90 for Cancer Research by selling fidget toys at lunchtime.



YEAR SIX: LEGOLAND TRIP

Our Year Six children were exceptional last week on their D&T trip to Legoland. They enjoyed the robotics workshop and testing out the rides in preparation for building their own Lego theme park ride in future lessons. The children were polite to other members of the public and were a credit to Crosshall Junior School. What a great time we had!

Mr. Martin Righetta

Head of Year Six



LEGO DONATIONS NEEDED!

We're on the hunt for Lego to help with our Year Six Legoland project, and for other year groups to use throughout the school too.

If you or someone you know has any unwanted Lego that they would like to donate, please bring it to the school office. We would be very grateful!

Thank you in advance

Mr. Martin Righetta

Head of Year Six



OCTOBER 2023

**CROSSHALL
CONNECTS**



PTA AUTUMN TERM DISCO

[CLICK HERE](#)
to view letter



Wednesday 11th October 2023

Year Three & Four : 17:30-18:40

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



Tickets £3 each, includes a drink and packet of crisps

Tickets will be on sale at lunchtime
on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th October

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

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

BOOK WEEK: 30th OCTOBER - 3rd NOVEMBER

**CROSSHALL JUNIOR SCHOOL
PRESENTS**

During Book Week pupils will

MEET & GREET

the author

JACK MEGGITT- PHILLIPS

**THURSDAY
2nd NOVEMBER**

***Book Week*
30th OCT - 3rd NOV**

The author 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 at the BOOK FAIR
for £6.50 each
CASH ONLY

A portrait of Jack Meggitt-Phillips, a young man with brown hair, wearing a dark blue sweater over a purple collared shirt. He is standing in front of a red background with white, pointed, tentacle-like shapes hanging down.

TT ROCK STARS AND NUMBOTS

Each week we celebrate our CJS Times Tables Rock Stars and NUMBOTS users with the highest scores. Below are this week's results:

**SPEED***Dylan N***COINS***Harriet P***IMPROVED***Nathaniel R***NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE***Belfast v Edinburgh*

NUMBOTS

**COINS***Nathaniel R***IMPROVED***Ava P*

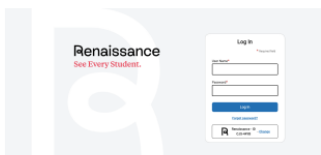
ACCELERATED READER: HOME CONNECT

Recent system updates to Accelerated Reader mean that you may have issues receiving information updates on your child's progress.

Please see below instructions on how to sign up again to get emails included in this week's Letter Day emails

Accelerated Reader Home Connect

Home Connect is a way for parents and guardians to stay informed about a child's progress in Accelerated Reader. This can be achieved by logging into the website regularly or by signing up for update emails.



Navigate to [our Home Connect site](#) and enter your child's login details into the User Name and Password fields. If you are having trouble with the login details, please ask your child's class teacher for a Home Connect letter.

[Home Connect site link HERE](#)

Renaissance Home Connect

[Get email updates](#) to track your child's work

In the top left-hand corner, click 'Get email updates to track your child's work'.

New Email Details

Name

Email Address to Receive Updates

Enter your name and email address and click 'Submit' to receive regular updates.

More information about how to interpret everything on your child's Dashboard can be found on the [Accelerated Reader help pages](#).

[Accelerated Reader help pages HERE](#)

If you have any further questions, please contact your child's class teacher or Miss Connor via the [school office](#).

[Email school office](#)



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: [Renaissance - Log In \(renaissance-go.com\)](https://renaissance-go.com)

Crosshall Junior School Reads!



In September 2023, students have read...

979 Books
7,368,795 Words
for **16** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

Special congratulations to:

Most Quizzes Passed (23):

Oscar W, Year Five

Most Points Earned (70.7):

Miles S, Year Five

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:

Elijah T,	Lara D-S,
Isabella D,	Ellia F,
Ava W,	Eloise F,
Cameron C,	Dylan F-W,
Olivia C,	Derick I,
Oscar M,	Josie K,
Miles S,	Amelia L,
Sophie C,	Isla T,
Robbie R,	Freya W
Isla C-M,	

CELEBRATION AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Below our details of all our students who were presented with our final Celebration Awards of 2022/23 in Summer Term.

The awards recognised excellence and progress many areas of the curriculum.

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



Winners: **Marina G, Florence J, Finley McG, Isobel N**



Winners: **Lila-Rose A, Cecelia P, Alfred B, Esele F**



Winners: **Georgia T-C, Olly P, Lara DS, Maiya W**



Winners: **Isabella O, Harriet C, Abigail P, Sam L**

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 Autumn term are:

Lola M, Katie V, Ruben B, Imogen H, Esme M, Harry B, Martha L, Maiya W, Millie P, Erin S, Nyla G, Imogen H, Georgia T-C, Beau Z, Leo T, Luke N.



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.

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.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

To apply for Free School Meals

[CLICK HERE](#)



HOLIDAY VOUCHER SCHEME

To apply for CCC Holiday Voucher Scheme

[CLICK HERE](#)





2023/24 CLASS NAMES

Year Group	Class Teacher(s)	House
3CD	Mr. Chris Dorey (Head of Year)	London
3LG	Mrs. Lisa Griffiths	Edinburgh
3RP	Mrs. Bryony Radwell & Ms. Emma Power	Belfast
3LR	Mrs. Leigh Ruff	Cardiff
4CHo	Miss. Cara Howell (Head of Year)	Cardiff
4Che	Ms. Catherine Hemingway	Belfast
4JE	Mr. John East	Edinburgh
4NT	Mrs. Naomi Thatcher	London
5AC	Miss. Angela Connor (Head of Year)	Edinburgh
5AM	Mr. Dan Ainscow & Mr. Liam Murphy	London
5MH	Mr. Michael Hamilton	Belfast
5MM	Ms. Michelle Morgan	Cardiff
6MR	Mr. Martin Righetta (Head of Year)	Cardiff
6BC	Mrs. Rebecca O'Brien & Mrs. Amy Craven	Belfast
6PM	Mr. Patrick McLaughlin	Edinburgh
6KW	Ms. Katie White	London



SCHOOL UNIFORM

As you know, post-pandemic, students have been able to come to school on P.E. Days, wearing their P.E. kits.

This has had several benefits:

- more time for P.E. – rather than spending time changing;
- fewer worries for some students – no changing with other people around;
- better hygiene – the P.E. kits are washed each week.

The P.E. kit should consist of:

plain navy, dark grey or black tracksuit and/or shorts, with a plain white T-shirt, and dark, sensible footwear.

Our uniform was chosen to support parents' budget so that:

- branded items were discouraged;**
- clothes would be easily and cheaply purchased;**
- P.E. stains would not be so noticeable;**
- Uniform would be 'hardy', comfortable, and safe.**

We also created a 'nearly new stock' of clothes that have been laundered and we sell for £1 per item. Please contact the office team or our Learning & Wellbeing Mentors if you would like to purchase.

Indoor P.E.

Additionally, if students wear zipped or hooded tops, they will be asked to remove these. Excessively baggy tracksuit bottoms are also not suitable and, generally, students remove their shoes and socks.

Earrings

Students should remove stud earrings at home on their P.E. / swimming day(s)/ and when on the Adventure Playground.

Clubs/ Matches

Where sporting clubs or matches occur, students should still attend in school uniform, and then change prior to the club or the match commencing.

Other Uniform requirements:

- jade or navy sweatshirts/ cardigans (navy sweatshirt is available in most stores);**
- jade, navy, or white polo-shirts (navy and white polos are available in most stores);**
- plain navy, dark grey, or black trousers (not 'jean style', 'skinny trousers', or denim), or modest length shorts or skirts;**



SCHOOL UNIFORM (cont'd)

- jade or blue-check summer dresses;
- **plain, dark, sensible footwear – not trainers with coloured markings (.e. white lines, white soles, Nike swooshes etc.), open-toed, sling-backs, or high-heels;**
- for art activities: a smock or modified adult's shirt or an apron

Also, we do not allow students to wear nail varnish, jewellery (other than stud earrings), or make-up during the school day.

If a student is in the wrong uniform, we will contact parents to establish why this is the case, and agree a timescale for it to be rectified.

Many thanks for your continued support and helping to keep our community looking smart, being safe, and feeling comfortable – and on a small budget.

We have much to be proud of at Crosshall Junior School.



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.