



CROSSHALL CONNECTS

A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior School

This issue's highlights:

	Head Teacher Message		PTA
	Key Dates		Student Achievements
	Book Week		Join Our Governors



As part of Book Week, children were invited to dress up today in an outfit linked to their favourite book

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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Head Teacher: Ms Anne Eardley



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Welcome to the latest edition of the **Crosshall CONNECTS!**

This may be first time that you have had read the Connects. It aims to keep parents and the community in touch with what is happening in school and provide useful information. We also aim to share our successes and future plans.

SNIPPETS

- Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete the questionnaire we sent out last term. Your input influences policy and decision making in school.
- We welcomed back parents to our Celebration Assembly in October.
- On **Friday 10th November is Open Day!** Children are able to show their parents around the school. Make sure you have booked your slot [HERE](#)
- On **Monday 13th November**, children (and staff) may wear odd socks in support of NSPCC and marking the start of our **Anti-Bullying Week**, and **World Kindness Day**.
- For **Children in Need**, our children are invited to wear non-uniform to include something spotty and to donate what they can on Friday 17th November.

NEWS

- Our autumn term Parents and Child Learning Reviews (PCLRs) were a success! Thank you to everyone - parents and staff - who braved the innovative technology. We will be using this system again during the spring term. If you attend the Open Week or one of the parent events e.g. Family Lunch, #AskCJS, Year Three Toothpaste Day...thank you for your support.
- In the run-up to **Remembrance Day on 11th November**, the children will be learning more about what it means and the significance of poppies. Children can purchase poppies and other poppy related items (i.e. keyrings, snap-bands, lanyards etc) from the school office by

donating what they can. If you would also like to donate, you can do so via the school office who have the charity fundraising money box.

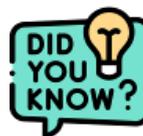
- **Autumn is our Kindness Term!** We will continue to post home **Praise Postcards** or give **Head Teacher Awards** in recognition of kindness or demonstration of any of the other School Values. Well done to all those children who have been excellent role models!
- Ask your child about their engagement with:
 - our **Future Me programme**, and;
 - **Century** - our artificial intelligence, personalised tutoring website. It is available to every child for maths, reading, and science; and is regularly used for home learning.
- The first **House Bonus Day** of the year will be on **Thursday 30th November**. **Edinburgh House (3LG, 4JE, 5AC, 6PM)** will be able to **wear a token (i.e. hair band, bobble, slide, or socks) in house colour (blue)**, along with their normal school uniform. All house points earned for Edinburgh that day are **doubled!**
- We all need a bit of sparkle! Our 'world renowned' **Christmas Decoration Day is Friday 1st December**. It is an opportunity for the children to learn some new art skills/ crafts whilst making cards/ decorations for the family. Our past students tell us that they really miss this annual event. Children may wear a Christmas Jumper as part of non-uniform day.

It's only 53 days until Christmas!

Anne Eardley
Head Teacher



COMING UP: 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

1st-7th November	Book Fair - after school each day 15:25-16:00
2nd November	BOOK WEEK: Author Visit - Jack Meggitt-Phillips 'Child of the Beast' (page 10) <i>Books on sale after school - cash only</i>
3rd November	Fancy Dress Day (see Book Week LETTER)
7th November	Year Three Burwell Virtual Info Evening LETTER
8th November	Dads Who Read - Library Event LETTER
10th November	Open Day LETTER
13th-17th November	Anti-Bullying Week
13th November	World Kindness Day - wear odd socks
15th November	#AskCJS session
16th November	Year Four Grafham Info Evening LETTER
17th November	Celebration Assembly - invite only Children in Need Charity Day - wear spotty non-uniform PTA Quiz Night. Doors open 7pm for 7:30pm start
20th-24th November	Road Safety Week
20th November	Flu Immunisation Day LETTER
30th November	Edinburgh Bonus Day for 3LG, 4JE, 5AC, 6PM. <i>Wear token blue (i.e. socks, hair bobble etc)</i> Year Six Maya Mask Event
1st December	Christmas Decoration Day - wear a Christmas jumper
wc 4th December	Year Three: Nativity (date tbc)
wc 13th December	Instrumental Concert
14th & 15th December	PTA Christmas Shops
18th December	PTA Christmas Panto
19th December	Carol Service at St Mary's
20th December	PTA Christmas Disco
21st December	Last Day of Term/ Christmas Dinner Day



OUR WEBSITE: DIGITAL 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



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](#)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Myla, 4JE who recently took part in her first ever dressage with Pony Club during the half term and came fifth out of eleven riders on the day.

Myla has been horse riding since she was five years old.

This is a great achievement for her first ever try. Well done!



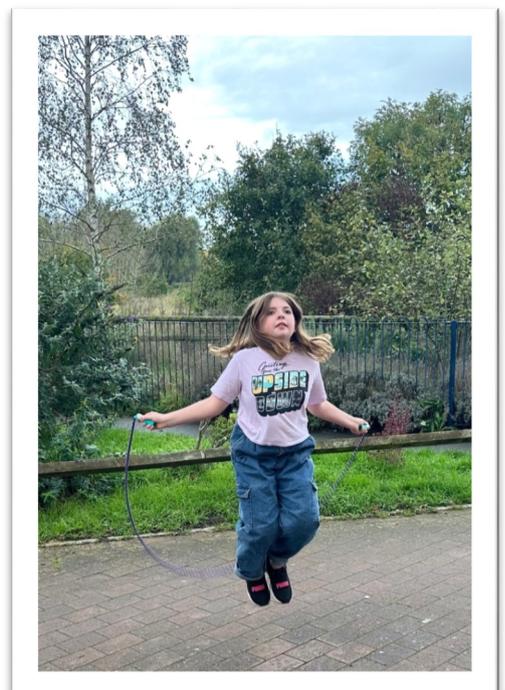
Congratulations to Rebecca, 3RP who has completed a charity walk for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Rebecca walked 50 miles over three days in order to raise money and has so far raised £763!

A fantastic achievement for a very worthy cause. Well done!

Congratulations to Lilia, 5MM who has completed the 100 skips every day October Challenge and raised £60 for Cancer Research.

That's a total of 3100 skips over the month. Well done!



BOOK WEEK: FANCY DRESS

The school has been filled with colourful, imaginative, and very creative fancy dress costumes today as part of our Book Week. Well done to everyone who took part!



BOOK WEEK: AUTHOR, JACK MEGGITT-PHILLIPS

On Thursday, as part of our Book Week, the children had a visit from the author Jack Meggitt-Phillips as he held workshops for each year group. He was such a funny and inspiring speaker and kept the children entertained as he took them through the process of writing their own stories.

Mr Meggitt-Phillips took them through the process of story-writing and encouraged the children to get into a creative head space which he called “your happy place”. He also shared details about his latest book and gave the children an insight into life as an author.

A fantastic event as part of our Book Week!



YEAR FIVE: PIZZA EXPRESS

This week, a small group of Year Five children had the opportunity to visit Pizza Express, St Neots as part of their Design and Technology learning. They learnt about the history of Pizza Express, all about the ingredients they use (using a taste testing), food hygiene and they also got to make their own margherita pizza.



Did you know a margherita has tomato, cheese and basil to represent the colours of the Italian flag?

The children had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed eating their pizzas!

Mrs Lisa Griffiths

Design & Technology Lead





PTA CHRISTMAS JUMPER - DONATIONS NEEDED!

Do you have any unwanted Christmas jumpers? If so please donate to the PTA. Drop them into the school office as soon as possible.

Christmas Jumper sale will be on 16th & 17th November (more details to follow).



PTA QUIZ NIGHT: FRIDAY 17th NOVEMBER

Crosshall Junior School PTA team will be hosting Quiz Night on Friday 17th November in our main hall. It's £3 entry per person, max eight people per team.

Help raise funds for the school while having some fun and testing your knowledge!

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 17th November 2023

Doors open 7:00pm

Starts: 7:30pm

Crosshall Junior School Main Hall

'BRING YOUR OWN'
refreshments & snacks

£1 STAND-UP BINGO
and much more fun!

Over 16s only
Entry £3 per person
Max 8 per team

We look forward to seeing you on the night to help support the school & children through PTA events





REMEMBERANCE DAY 11th NOVEMBER

A graphic for the Poppy Appeal featuring a white background with scattered red poppies of various sizes. Two horizontal red lines frame the text. The text reads 'THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION' in a smaller font, followed by 'POPPY APPEAL' in a large, bold font. 'POPPY' is in red and 'APPEAL' is in black.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
POPPY APPEAL

Available to purchase from the school office.

Donate what you can.

We have new plastic-free poppies, keyrings, snap-bands, and lanyards available this year.

PINPOINT: SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Pinpoint is an organisation who aim to empower parent carers. They provide help and information for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with additional needs and disabilities in Cambridgeshire. They have launched a digital booklet which provides lots of information about ways to support your child/ren or young person if you suspect they are neurodiverse. It provides lots of practical tips as well as signposting about where to go for extra support.

Scan the QR code below or click [HERE](#)





HELP: 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





CCC: HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD VOUCHER SCHEME

Christmas Holiday Scheme Places *for free*



Would your child like to attend a fully funded holiday scheme this Christmas where fun experiences, a meal and snacks are included?

Children in receipt of income-related free school meals are eligible to attend a participating holiday scheme for up to 4 days.

Please visit the County Council webpage for details and the wider eligibility criteria:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf
(or scan the QR Code)

Questions: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk





TTRS 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	<i>Marina G</i>
	COINS	<i>Callum P</i>
	IMPROVED	<i>Alexandra S</i>

NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE

Belfast v Cardiff



NUMBOTS




COINS
David D


IMPROVED
David P



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

Special congratulations to:

Highest 'Total Study Time' in Oct 2023

Finley M, Year Four

Most 'Nuggets Completed' in Oct 2023

Most 'Questions Answered Correctly' in Oct 2023

Marina G, Year Four



The Century annual Winter Cup competition kicks off next week on Monday 6th November. It is an inter-school Century usage competition that will run for 4 weeks with weekly results announced every Wednesday. The competition will end on Sunday 3rd December and the winners will be announced shortly after.



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 October 2023, students have read...

1,686 Books
15,060,676 Words
for **27** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

Special congratulations to:

Most Quizzes Passed (20):

Andria A, Year Five

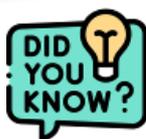
Most Points Earned (87.5):

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:

<i>Elijah T,</i>	<i>Lara D-S,</i>	<i>Ava B,</i>	<i>Emilia-Rose F,</i>
<i>Isabella D,</i>	<i>Ellia F,</i>	<i>Penny G,</i>	<i>Elizabeth A,</i>
<i>Ava W,</i>	<i>Eloise F,</i>	<i>Teddy A,</i>	<i>Henry E,</i>
<i>Cameron C,</i>	<i>Dylan F-W,</i>	<i>Ella-Louise M-D,</i>	<i>Theo B,</i>
<i>Olivia C,</i>	<i>Derick I,</i>	<i>Christian C,</i>	<i>Edward U,</i>
<i>Oscar M,</i>	<i>Josie K,</i>	<i>Rebecca B,</i>	<i>Lily V</i>
<i>Miles S,</i>	<i>Amelia L,</i>	<i>Finn G,</i>	
<i>Sophie C,</i>	<i>Isla T,</i>	<i>Mason L,</i>	
<i>Robbie R,</i>	<i>Freya W,</i>	<i>Teddy J,</i>	
<i>Isla C-M,</i>	<i>Zachary O,</i>	<i>Immy H,</i>	

CELEBRATION AWARDS

Below our details of all our students who were presented with our first Celebration Awards for 2023/24. These awards were given for “showing leadership skills and independence”

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

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



Winners: **Otis K, Olivia W, Harry M, David P**



Winners: **Bella-Mae R, Evie G, Marina G, Rupert W**



Winners: **Max W, James L, Ekrem H, Sienna G**



Winners: **Josie K, Naomi T, Luke N, Bella G**

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, Blake S, Katie V, Neha B, Nathaniel R, Naomi T, Beau Z, Noah B, Samuel H, Millie H, Ellie M, Callum P, Santino B, Vaibhav B, Daniel C, Ella F, Dylan F-W, Hollie H, Derick I, Josie K, Rares P, Matthew H, Isla C-M, Lola C, Luke N, Ben T, Leo T, James W, Ollie C, Maiya W, Freyja C-S, Franklin D, Finley M, Miles S, Max J, Harley Y, Otis K .



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.



APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Take a quick look at the link below to see if you might qualify for Free School Meals allowance

[CLICK HERE](#)

free
school
meals

could save
you up to
£450
a year
per child

To apply, visit
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Cambridgeshire
County Council

HOLIDAY VOUCHER SCHEME

To apply for CCC Holiday Voucher Scheme

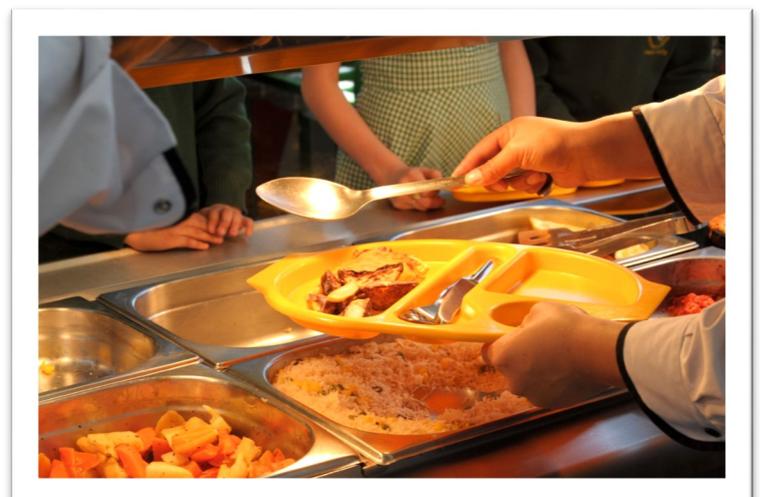
[CLICK HERE](#)

Latest letter for Christmas HAF scheme

[CLICK HERE](#)

Poster of information

[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 REQUIREMENTS

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 REQUIREMENTS (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.



GUIDANCE ON ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

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.