



CROSSHALL CONNECTS

A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior School

This issues highlights

♦ Head Teacher Message	♦ TTRS and Numbots	♦ Art Competition Winners
♦ Key Dates	♦ AR and Century	♦ Grandparents Who Read Event
♦ Digital Office	♦ Praise Postcards	♦ Podcasting
♦ Student Achievements	♦ Celebration & Head Teacher Awards	♦ Attendance Awards

Remember to check the Year Group Blogs for updates on learning and activities *Click on icons below*



HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our first edition of the **Crosshall CONNECTS** for 2024!

NEWS

- **Crosshall 50th Anniversary.** This year will be a special year for both Crosshall Infants and Crosshall Juniors as we mark our fiftieth anniversary of the Crosshall site. We are working with Mrs Sawford and her colleagues on some fantastic events to celebrate this amazing achievement, and will be sharing details over the next few weeks and months. We are keen to hear from former pupils and staff who may have photos and stories from their time at either school. Please get in touch by emailing: crosshallat50@crosshallinfant.co.uk
- **Spring Term Clubs** start from week commencing 22nd January . You can register your child's interest in a club via our website [HERE](#)
- This term, our focus is on **Resilience**. Within our community, we have many people who demonstrate resilience in very real ways: coping with illness or bereavement; keeping on going during difficult times; asking for help when needed. Please get in touch if your family is going through any hardship, as we can offer support in a myriad of ways.
- **Year Five York Trip.** As we move through this term, our Year Five staff and children will be heading off on their residential trip. These trips are a fantastic experience for children and staff. For some children it can be an opportunity to practice their resilience as they face the challenge of being away from home; it is always great to see them step up and succeed!
- Another opportunity we shall be rolling out this term is **podcasting**. We have a new room, made by the talented Mr Bruce and supported by Crosshall PTA funds. See page 6 for more details.
- **Future Me Talks** will start this term. These talks, delivered by people who work across a wide range of industries,

are designed to give our children insight into what working in a variety of different vocations is like. Our first one, for example, is about being a pilot. If you are able to come and deliver a Future Me Talk, please get in touch via the school office.

We are confident that this will be a fantastic month of learning and fun.

We strongly believe in the importance of working together so please do get in touch or speak with your child's class teacher if you have any worries or concerns.

Dan Ainscow and Liam Murphy
Assistant Head Teachers



OUR SCHOOL MEALS

DID YOU KNOW?

An adult
two-course meal
is only

£5

Celebrate family birthdays, special occasions,
or your child receiving an award or achieving
something...

or just to enjoy time together having a

hot lunch meal



All our school meals are

home-made

by Jean and her catering team every day

Every half term, we make over

12,000 dinners

Come and join us for a

**two-course
meal**



Book in advance via

School Office on

01480 475972 or email at

office@crosshall.junior.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.

KEY DATES

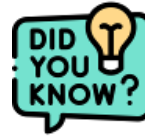
FOR YOUR DIARIES

Upcoming events in the school calendar

Please note:

#AskCJS has been postponed. New date to be confirmed.

PCLR Week will be after half term due to Year Five York Trip wc 12th February



ONLINE CALENDAR

Subscribe to [our Calendar](#) on our website to receive all key dates and activities synced direct to your

10th - 17th January	Spring Term Clubs - book online HERE
By 19th January	Spring Term Clubs - places to be confirmed by email or text
22nd January	Spring Term Clubs Begin
26th January	Celebration Assembly Three - Invite Only
12th-15th February	Year Five York Residential Trip
19th February - 23rd February 2024	Spring Half Term
26th February	Back to School

OUR WEBSITE



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 Crosshall Junior School.

Every letter that we send out is stored in the [Digital School Office](#), under [Letters to Parents](#), which are organised by Whole School and Year Group.

Some of our letters will require you to **return a reply slip**. If you are unable to print off the letter, simply write the required information on a piece of paper and return it to the necessary person (i.e. your child's class teacher).

DONATIONS NEEDED

UNWANTED BOOKS & SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please consider donating good condition, no longer needed, LEGO, school uniform and children's books to the school. We are in particular need of books for older children (Year Five & Six). Drop any donations into the school office and we will put them to good use. Thank you!



KEY INFORMATION

TERM DATES & STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Our [2024-2025 terms dates](#) are live on our website, along with current school year information for [2023-2024 terms dates](#).

PARKING



Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking your cars for drop off and pick up; and mindful of all pedestrians that will be walking around school.

The school car park is for staff use only.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Every child needs a named glue stick, a water bottle, headphones, and an art apron/ shirt in school.

Children with packed lunch should use their water bottle during lunchtime and refill as needed.

SCHOOL POLICY



Prime bottles are not allowed at school and will be confiscated if brought in.

Nail polish is not permitted.

Earrings must not be worn for P.E., swimming day(s), or when on the Adventure Playground.

ACHIEVEMENTS

LATEST STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to Isabella, 4CHe who has received a Blue Peter badge for writing a book review on 'Gangsta Granny Strikes Again!' by David Walliams.



PODCASTING

FIRST PODCAST RECORDED

Our first podcast was recorded this week by Beau, Naomi, and Nathan, all from 6BC. The facility has been provided through funds raised by our Crosshall PTA and is an exciting first for the school!

The topic for the broadcast was on a proposal to extend break times. As part of a writing skills exercise, the team spent time drafting a persuasive case for extending break times which they then used as their script for an enthusiastic and engaging podcast.

Details on how you can listen to the podcast to follow in next week's newsletter.



LATEST NEWS

GRANDPARENTS WHO READ, WEDNESDAY 10th JANUARY 2024

On Wednesday 10th January, we held our first library event of 2024. Thank you to everyone who attended. We had around twenty families making use of our wonderful library and its resources. The children and their grandparents shared stories, looked for books and made use of the library system for checking books in and out. We even had one grandparent visiting from Canada and another from London! We are very proud and appreciative of our library resources. The buzz and enjoyment of reading amongst those present was clear to see.



LATEST NEWS

ART COMPETITION - WINNERS

Well done to everyone who entered our annual Art Competition at the end of last term! During Monday's assembly, the winners for each year group were announced.

In the **Observational Drawing and Painting Category**, the winners were:

	YEAR THREE	YEAR FOUR	YEAR FIVE	YEAR SIX
1st	Harriet, 3CD	Marina, 4JE	Fraser, 5AM	Georgia, 6BC
2nd	Andrew, 3LR	Evie, 4Che	Lilia, 5MM	Elsa, 6PM
3rd	Neha, 3LR	Macdara, 4Cho	Finn, 5AC	Nyla, 6BC

In the **Textile Art Category**, the winners were: 1st: Indie, 6BC and 2nd: Ella, 5MH

All placed entries can be viewed on our website under [Currently at Crosshall](#)

All first place winners will now be entered into the Cambridgeshire Area Young Artist of the Year Competition. The CAYAC is now in its tenth year, and St Peter's School, Huntingdon will be hosting the exhibition of all works entered on Saturday 2nd March with the award ceremony at 3pm.

More details [HERE](#)



Harriet, 3CD



Marina, 4JE



Fraser, 5AM



Georgia, 6BC



Indie, 6BC

WEEKLY RESULTS

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	<i>Nicolas G-D</i>
COINS	<i>Callum P</i>
IMPROVED	<i>Summer H</i>
NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE	
<i>Edinburgh v London</i>	



NUMBOTS

Addition & Subtraction. Solved.



COINS

N/A



IMPROVED *James S*



MONTHLY RESULTS

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)

MOST QUIZZES PASSED

Joakim M (24)

MOST POINTS EARNED

Miles S (44.4)

Crosshall Junior School Reads!



In December 2023, students have read...

1,258 Books

10,760,147 Words

for **20** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

MONTHLY RESULTS

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

HIGHEST 'TOTAL STUDY TIME' IN DEC 2023

Sanjavi R

MOST NUGGETS COMPLETED IN DEC 2023

Esele F

MOST QUESTIONS ANSWERED CORRECTLY IN DEC 2023

Marina G

CENTURY - AUTUMN TERM OVERVIEW

A very positive start to the school year last term, as pupils completing almost 40,000 nuggets and answering almost 375,000 questions collectively across the term! Well done everyone.

Key Metrics This Academic Year



410

Unique Student
Logins



38,141

Nuggets
Completed



Mathematics

Most Popular
Subject



372,976

Questions
Answered



120

Assignments Assigned
& Planner Lessons



22

Unique Teacher
Logins

Source: CENTURY internal data
The accuracy of our login and page-view information can be influenced by device firewalls and browser extensions

AWARDS

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 lands on the doormat!



The [Students Achievements and Awards](#) section of our website is regularly updated with all winners!

Students who have received postcards so far in Autumn term were:

Elijah T,	Josie K,	Emilia-Rose F,	Ollie C,	Dylan G,	Ellie M,
Isabella D,	Amelia L,	Elizabeth A,	Hayden C,	Josie K,	Eddy N,
Ava W,	Isla T,	Henry E,	Erin S,	Maiya W,	Sophia L,
Cameron C,	Freya W,	Theo B,	Oscar W,	James W,	Clarke S.
Olivia C,	Zachary O,	Edward U,	Finley C,	Thomas G,	
Oscar M,	Ava B,	Lily V,	Harrison A,	Autumn E,	
Miles S,	Penny G,	Bibi L,	Ronnie B,	Hector W,	
Sophie C,	Teddy A,	Criston B,	Skyla G,	Lillian T,	
Robbie R,	Ella-Louise M-D,	Nuala C,	Miao Miao X,	David E,	
Isla C-M,	Christian C,	Emily B,	Bethany S,	Andria A,	
Lara D-S,	Rebecca B,	Alice H,	Kaleb C,	Sofia R,	
Ellia F,	Finn G,	Betsie-Mae A,	Dylan H,	Max W,	
Eloise F,	Mason L,	Thomas J,	Max C,	Matthew H,	
Dylan F-W,	Teddy J,	Gustavo R,	Jacob W,	Rares P,	
Derick I,	Immy H,	Haider A,	Jewel J,	Alice Z,	

AWARDS

CELEBRATION AWARDS

Each half-term one child from each class is chosen for this prestigious award

Our second [Celebration Awards](#) of this school year 2023/24 have been given for "**excellent work in history, geography and R.E.**". Details below:

 <p>A large white star with a blue outline, surrounded by colorful streamers (yellow, blue, pink, green) and smaller stars. The text 'YEAR THREE' is in a yellow box in the center.</p>	 <p>A large white star with a blue outline, surrounded by colorful streamers (yellow, blue, pink, green) and smaller stars. The text 'YEAR FOUR' is in a pink box in the center.</p>
<p>Winners: Tannen A, Rory L, Layla K, Harry B</p>	<p>Winners: Nicolas D, Lea J, Darcey B</p>
 <p>A large white star with a blue outline, surrounded by colorful streamers (yellow, blue, pink, green) and smaller stars. The text 'YEAR FIVE' is in a green box in the center.</p>	 <p>A large white star with a blue outline, surrounded by colorful streamers (yellow, blue, pink, green) and smaller stars. The text 'YEAR SIX' is in a blue box in the center.</p>
<p>Winners: Eleanor O, Miles S, Yoan S, Henry L</p>	<p>Winners: Athena C, Beau Z, Elsie P, Oscar W</p>

**Year Four: Recipient absent.

Award will be presented at next term's assembly

AWARDS

HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

Ms Eardley sends a congratulatory text message to parents/ carers and meets with the student to award him/ her with this great honour.

The latest recipients of this award for Autumn Term are listed below and on our website under [Head Teacher's Award recipient list](#)



The recipients of a Head Teacher Award in Autumn term were:

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, Naomi T, Maia W, Roxee J, Teddy C, Millie H, Primrose S, Jaxon C, Maxwell O'H, Elijah T, Roxy B, Ava W, Summer H, Lea J, Ella-Louise M-D, Henry L, David E, Maisey S, Erva A, Hayden C, Adam M, Raphen G, Miles S, Roma B, Tilly-R N, Olivia F, Imogen B, Emilia J, Elsa O, Elsie P, Izaak J, Alice G, Alice W, Miao Miao X, Emily B, Teddy A, Neha B, Harrison A, Ellie-Mae S, Callum P, Bethany M, Leo T, Ben T, Eva H, Alice G, Cameron D, Ava P, Hannah W, Luke N, Zaki R, Mila H.

AWARDS

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Pupils who achieve 100% attendance each half-term are recognised in their Year Group assembly. The list of recipients from Autumn Term Two is below and on our website under [Student Achievements](#)

More information on [Attendance](#) is towards the end of this magazine

Full detail on our [Attendance Policy](#) can be found on our website

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Pupils who have achieved 100% attendance record in Autumn Term Two:

Lila-Rose A, Harrison A, Tannen A, Scarlett A-W, Ali A, Erva A, Zehra A, Nahia A, Freddie B, Toby B, Charlie B, Darcey B, Harry B, Freddie B, Ruben B, Ianis B, Alfie B, Ava B, Cameron C, Luke C-S, Max C, Olivia C, Casian C, Daniel C, Megan C, Harry C, Finn C, Lola C, Lara D-S, Cecily E, Henry E, Jess F-C, Everlie F, Bethany G, Logan G, Indie G, Marina G, Alice G, Evie G, Henry G, Penny G, Nyla G, Hollie H, Axel H, Harper H, Alfie H-G, Derick I, Florence J, Thomas J, Ella J, Izaak J, Josie K, Otis K, Joe K, Gilson K, Owen L, Henry L, Henry L, Evie M, Louisa M, Oscar M, Macy M, Esme M, Alice M, Oliver M, Eddy N, Luke N, Zachary O, Evie O, Harriet P, Ben P, Willow P, Thomas P, Elsie P, Nathaniel R, Sofia R, Zakariya R, Jack R, Robbie R, Ava R, Carmen S-B, Lilly S, Clarke S, Blake S, Ally S, James S, Finnley T, Noah T, Naomi T, Katie V, Finlay W, James W, Oscar W, Tyler W, Dvir Z, James Z.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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](#)



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](#)



ATTENDANCE

CROSSHALL JUNIOR SCHOOL GUIDANCE

Attendance is a national priority and this week the government has launched a new campaign 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'.



All schools must submit data (both in an aggregated form and on an individual pupil basis) every term to the Department of Education. It is a key indicator of an effective school and, as such, will be scrutinised by OFSTED. Full copy of our Attendance policy is available at the bottom of this page and under [POLICIES](#).

Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect his/her learning. Any pupil's absence or late arrival disrupts teaching routines and so may affect the learning of others in the same class too.

Please see table below which explains the ratio between number of lessons missed and your child's attendance percentage:

If a child's attendance over a school year is...	...he/she will miss this many days... (approx.)	...and this many lessons...	Descriptor
98% or above	0-3	0-15	Excellent
95% (to 97.9%)	4-9	20-45	Good
92% (to 94.9%)	10-15	50-75	Concerns
Below 91.9%	15-19	75-95	Serious Concerns
Below 90%	19+	95+	Persistent Absentee

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that children of compulsory school age attend on a regular and full-time basis under Section 444 Education Act 1996.

See our website for full details, under [Digital Office](#) > [Attendance](#)

This includes information on [Types of Absence](#), [Lateness](#), [Absence due to sickness or medical appointment\(s\)](#), and also Additional Support from our [Learning and Wellbeing Mentors](#).



TERM TIME LEAVE GUIDANCE

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ADVICE TO PARENTS:

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.

TERM TIME LEAVE GUIDANCE

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 they 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.

UNIFORM GUIDANCE

SCHOOL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

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

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

Children should come to school in their P.E. kit on their P.E. Days:

Monday: 6MR & 6PM **Tuesday:** 6BC & 6KW **Wednesday:** Year Five **Thursday:** Year Four **Friday:** Year Three

There are several benefits to coming in P.E kit on these days:

- more time for P.E. - rather than spending time changing in and out of kit;
- fewer worries for some students - no changing with other people around;
- better hygiene - the P.E. kit is washed each week

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

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.

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. 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/ Competitions/ 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.

Day to Day Uniform Requirements:

- jade or navy sweatshirts/ cardigans (navy sweatshirt 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;
- jade or blue-check summer dresses;
- plain, dark, sensible footwear - **NOT** trainers with coloured markings (i.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 polish, jewellery (other than stud earrings), or make-up

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 be rectified.

Many thanks for your continued support and help in keeping our community looking smart, being safe, and feeling comfortable - and all on a small budget! We have much to be proud of at Crosshall Junior School!



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.