



# CROSSHALL CONNECTS

A monthly magazine from Crosshall Junior School

## This issues highlights

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



## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

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

We have been identifying more links to help the children understand the purpose and importance of their lessons.

- **Crosshall On Air.** Our 'podcasting studio' is now up and running. The purpose of this is to give the children a context for their work (the recording) and an audience (publishing), leading to better understanding of why they are doing their work and the outcomes.
- **Year Three Firework Poems.** Our Year Three pupils have written and created some beautiful poems over the last few weeks. These have been distributed to local care homes, and this has been another way our children have been able to grow their understanding of why they are doing their work and their outcomes. See more on page seven.
- **Head Teacher Awards.** Mr Murphy and I have been thrilled this week to send out many Head Teacher Awards. We give these when a teacher highlights some excellent effort from the children. Recently, we have seen speeches, poems, test results and art. When a child receives an award, they get a special sticker, some house points and a text to the parent. We hope to send many more over the next few months!
- **Meals Reward Card.** We welcome parents and family to come and enjoy a school meal with their child(ren). This week we have launched our Meals Reward Card - it's a way of saying thank you for supporting the school with a free meal on your sixth visit with us. We look forward to seeing many of you during lunchtimes.
- This year is the **50th Anniversary** of the Crosshall schools. Both schools are coming together to celebrate this, so please look out for dates and requests in our newsletters.
- In addition, the **CJS Giraffe** will soon be out and about on the trail in Cambridge and we hope to see many photos from families visiting them.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Last week, we mentioned the importance of following the school rules. We have noticed that, on P.E. days, some children are coming to school in sports clothing that does not match our uniform policy. Often this takes the form of wearing football kits. Please may we ask parents to ensure their child wears clothing that matches the expectations set out in our uniform policy. Full details on our website [HERE](#).

We and the school value all you do to support us and the children.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend!

**Dan Ainscow and Liam Murphy**  
**Assistant Head Teachers**



# Free School Meal

WITH OUR CJS

**MEALS**

**REWARD  
CARD**

**Collect a stamp each time you join us for  
lunch with your child(ren)**

**On your sixth visit, bring your Meals Reward Card  
to get a FREE school meal**

Card is non-transferable. Booking in advance is essential.

School reserves the right to withdraw offer at any time. One stamp maximum available per school lunch meal visit. Only cardholder whose name is on the reward card can collect a stamp. When redeeming free school meal no stamp can be collected. Cardholder must dine with us five times, and on sixth visit may redeem their card for free school meal.

## KEY DATES

### FOR YOUR DIARIES

Upcoming events in the school calendar



### ONLINE CALENDAR

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

12th-15th February	Year Five York Residential Trip
19th February - 23rd February 2024	Spring Half Term
26th February	Back to School
27th February	Year Three Burwell: <b>deadline for £107 final payment</b> <a href="#">LETTER</a> Year Three Fitzwilliam & Zoology Trip (3RP & 3LG) <a href="#">LETTER</a>
29th February	Year Six ROCK UK: <b>deadline for £60 final payment</b> <a href="#">LETTER</a>
1st March	Cardiff Bonus Day 3LR, 4Cho, 5MM, 6MR wear token yellow i.e. hair bobble, socks
wc 4th March	PCLR Week Join for Mother's Day Lunches - book in advance via the school office
wc 11th March	Join for Mother's Day Lunches - book in advance via the school office
7th & 8th March	PTA Mother's Day Shop
19th March	Year Six Eat 'N' Bowl Social Event <a href="#">LETTER</a>
20th March	Mums Who Read - Library Event 3:20pm
22nd March	Celebration Assembly - invite only
26th March	Year Three Fitzwilliam & Zoology Trip (3CD & 3LR) <a href="#">LETTER</a>
29th March - 15th April	Easter Holidays
15th April	<b>Staff Training Day - school closed</b>
16th April	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.*





# Let's celebrate Mother's Day

WITH A SCHOOL LUNCH

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

**Adult £5.00**

**Child £2.50**

Available from  
Monday 4th to Friday 15th March



**To book: ring or email The School Office  
01480 475972 or [office@crosshalljunior.co.uk](mailto: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.

## LATEST NEWS

### CROSSHALL ON AIR - GOES LIVE!

Our new podcast, [Crosshall On Air](#), is now live.

Head to our [YouTube channel](#) to listen to our latest podcasts including a persuasive speech by Lara, 6MR titled 'I have a dream...'

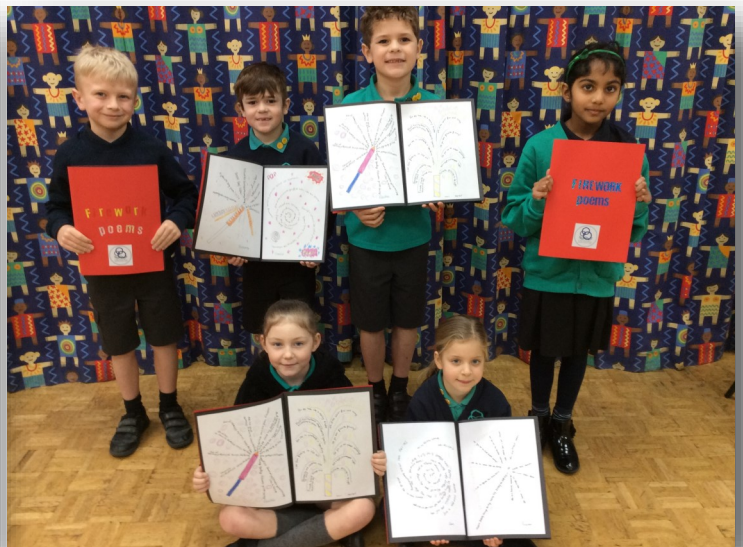


## LATEST NEWS

### YEAR THREE - FIREWORK SHAPE POEMS

Our Year Three pupils have recently worked on some exciting Firework Shape Poems

As part of this project, we collated a selection of poems into books and have sent them to six local care homes for their residents to enjoy and read.





## ONLINE SAFETY



### NSPCC KIDS ONLINE SAFETY RESOURCES

The NSPCC will be running Kids Safety Net Workshops for Parents/ Carers on:

**Monday 5th February 2024 - 6pm to 7pm**

[Kids Safety Net Workshop Tickets, Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

**Wednesday 20th March 2024 - 6pm to 7pm**

[Kids Safety Net Workshop Tickets, Wed, Mar 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

The workshops are **45 minutes** and **FREE**. They can be **accessed by Zoom** and are designed to help parents/carers to:

- Understand how children and young people access the online world,
- Explore a range of resources and tools that can be used to help keep children and young people safe online,
- Have informed, constructive and positive conversations about online safety

Further details about the Kids Safety Net Campaign across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can be found here:

[NSPCC Kids Safety Net Campaign 2024 - Healthy Schools \(healthyschoolscp.org.uk\)](https://healthyschoolscp.org.uk)



## 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:

<b>SPEED</b>	Maxwell O'H
<b>COINS</b>	Stanley D
<b>IMPROVED</b>	Sam H
<b>NEXT WEEK'S BATTLE</b>	
Cardiff v London	



# NUMBOTS

Addition & Subtraction. Solved.



**COINS**

Archie T



**IMPROVED**

Stanley D



## 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

*Elijah T (22)*

### MOST POINTS EARNED

*Edward U (126.3)*

## Crosshall Junior School Reads!



In January 2024, students have read...

**1,840** Books

**20,345,410** Words

for **30** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)

## MONTHLY RESULTS

### 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)

### HIGHEST 'TOTAL STUDY TIME' IN JAN 2024

*Esele F*

### MOST NUGGETS COMPLETED IN JAN 2024

*Esele F*

### MOST QUESTIONS ANSWERED CORRECTLY IN JAN 2024

*Esele F*

### 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 Spring term were:

Ava R,  
Jessica S

## AWARDS

### CELEBRATION AWARDS

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

Our third [Celebration Awards](#) of this school year 2023/24 have been given for "**progress in English, maths and/or science.**". Details below:



Winners: Ellie M, Jacob W, Sebastian S-R, Lyra A



Winners: Daisy W, Lily-Mae D, Gilson K, Criston B



Winners: Lila-Rose A, Marnie C, Mia D, Raphen G



Winners: Freya W, Edward M, Elsa O, Maisey S



## AWARDS

### HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

When a child receives an award, they get a special sticker, some house points and a text to the parent(s). It is a great honour and something that recognises their achievements in school.

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



**The recipients of a Head Teacher Award in Spring term were:**

*Eddy N, Naomi T, Beau Z, Nathan A, Dante S, Isobel N, Ellie B, Frankie W, Eddy L, Matthew H, Alfie C, Derick I, Eleisha B, Sophie C, Vespa S, Oscar W, Betsie-Mae A, Rebecca B, Sam J, Santino B, Rares P, Franklin D, Lara D-S, Nicolas D, Millie H, Mia C, Lily-Mae D, Roxy B, Ellis F, Zoe G, Lilly M, Anthony M, Ava H, Ilay M, Summer H, Martha H, Ella-Mae S, Criston B, Frankie W.*

## 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](#)

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'.

**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
<b>98% or above</b>	<b>0-3</b>	<b>0-15</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>95% (to 97.9%)</b>	<b>4-9</b>	<b>20-45</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>92% (to 94.9%)</b>	<b>10-15</b>	<b>50-75</b>	<b>Concerns</b>
<b>Below 91.9%</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>75-95</b>	<b>Serious Concerns</b>
<b>Below 90%</b>	<b>19+</b>	<b>95+</b>	<b>Persistent Absentee</b>

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](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.*