



## Consett Junior School Christmas 2019 Newsletter

To all our parents, carers and families

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2019 – it really doesn't seem that long since we celebrated Christmas in 2018.

As we move into December and countdown to our Carol services, Christmas parties and Christmas Shows it would be remis of me not to look back on the previous year and share some of my highlights...The attitude and behaviour of the children, the enthusiasm they have for learning, the amazing amount of effort that goes into fundraising and helping others. The wonderful atmosphere we have created as a school and a community; our staff for all their amazing work and effort. Consett Junior school is an amazing place with amazing people, supported by our wonderful families, friends and governors.

Thank you all for your continued support across the year past and as we move forward into 2020, I hope to welcome you all into our school in the new year.

I look forward to catching up with many families over the next couple of weeks, but if I don't manage to catch you, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful and restful Christmas holiday. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Merry Christmas  
Mr P Dixon  
Head Teacher

### November Attendance

The whole school attendance for November was 94.91%, a significant drop to October and taking us well below our floor target of 96%. Last November the attendance was 95.79% and the winter virus was the reason for last years drop. The respiratory and noro virus have been the cause of the low attendance this month. These are winter viruses that are at large in the community. Please follow the advice we have sought from HPA, which you can access here <http://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/community-noro-and-respiratory-virus-important-information/>. However, it was very disheartening to find that the attendance today, Friday 29th November was considerably low in comparison with all other days this week and many families failed to contact the school with valid reasons for absence. The Academy was closed today, and nine of our absent pupils have siblings at the Academy. Their closure is not a reason to keep your child off school, those absences have been recorded as unauthorised. Please continue to keep us informed if your child is absent due to illness, as this ensures any registration marks applied are correct.

Year 6 have achieved the best attendance overall (95.40%) for November and each child were given a giant muffin, (Friday 29th) as their reward. Class 8 also achieved the reward for the best class attendance for November at a brilliant 97.60% (was on target to be almost 99% but today's unauthorised absences have significantly impacted on this), and the children came to school in non-uniform for free today (Friday 29th November). Year 3 have the lowest attendance at 92.32% for November, however, class 1 were worst affected by the viruses.


There are children in ALL year groups who are absent without providing a valid reason, and we have addressed this with the families.

There are children arriving late in ALL year groups, and this is monitored, families will have this stated on their attendance letters when they go out in a few weeks, and we do hope this will improve and you use us to support you, which is our main goal. Remember, if/when children move up to the Academy, lessons start at 8.30 a.m!

The autumn term attendance letters will go out to all families. Schools are responsible for monitoring their own attendance and to support and set targets where necessary. Part of this monitoring means we will send letters home twice a year so that you know where your child's attendance stands, and if further action is required, we have opportunity to support you though the process. Our letters are colour coded using a traffic light system, green if above 96%, orange if between 90 - 96% and red if below 90%. Autumn term letters are based on attendance since September, so if your letter at this point in the year identifies a low % it means that there are still two terms for this to improve. If your letter advises you contact the school to arrange a meeting, we urge you to do this.



### December 2019

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
24 sleep 23 2 sleeps!	23 sleep 22 2 sleeps	22 sleep 21 2 sleeps	21 sleep 20 2 sleeps	20 sleep 19 2 sleeps	19 sleep 18 2 sleeps	18 sleep 17 2 sleeps	
<p>23 2 sleeps!</p> <p>Whole school Christmas Show rehearsal at Consett Academy. Children must have a coat and will be back for the end of the school day.</p>	<p>22 2 sleeps</p> <p>Band and school fund money due</p> <p>1.30 – Selected band members Brookwell court care home with Miss Waters and Mr Jackson.</p> 	<p>21 2 sleeps</p> <p>Final karate after school karate session until January 14th</p> <p>2.30 p.m. Carol service years 5 &amp; 6 at the Salvation Army. Children can go home with parents/carers from the SA or they will be walked back to school at 3.30 p.m.</p>	<p>20 2 sleeps</p> <p>Cross Country Short Route</p> <p>1.15 p.m. – Selected Year 6 band members At Consett Methodist Church.</p>	<p>19 2 sleeps</p> <p>Cross Country Long Route</p> <p>10.45 a.m. Selected Year 6 band members at Tesco's with Mr Jackson and Miss Waters</p> <p>Cross Country Long Route</p> <p>Week 1 - Polar Express Movie Club – children can bring FRUIT ONLY 5.15 p.m. finish. Children must have previously paid to attend this club.</p>	<p>18 2 sleeps</p> <p>Cross Country</p> <p>11.14 sleeps</p> <p>Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day. Children must still wear their usual uniform other than their jumper/polo. There is no charge for wearing a jumper on this day.</p> <p>No Cross Country</p> <p>Children on packed lunches must have already booked to have a lunch on this day, should they wish to.</p> <p>1.30 - Selected Year 6 band members Greenways care home with Miss Waters and Mr Jackson.</p>	<p>17 2 sleeps</p> <p>Cross Country</p> <p>12.13 sleeps</p> <p>Cross Country Long Route</p> <p>Week 2 - Nativity Movie Club – children can bring FRUIT ONLY 5.15 p.m. finish. Children must have previously paid to attend this club.</p> <p>13.12 sleeps</p> <p>Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – children to donate £1 to wear their Christmas Jumper again. All money raised will go to the charity. Children must still wear their usual uniform other than their jumper/polo</p> <p>2.30 p.m. Carol service years 3 &amp; 4 at the Methodist Church. No swimming on this day. Children can go home with parents/carers from the church or they will be walked back to school at 3.30 p.m.</p> <p>6.30 p.m. Year 5 &amp; 6 Christmas with the Salvation Army – If you have given permission for your child to go they need to be there at 6.30 p.m. and collected at 8.15 p.m.</p>	<p>16 2 sleeps</p> <p>Cross Country</p> <p>19 2 sleeps</p> <p>Whole school Christmas Party Day. Children can come to school in party clothes. Please send in £1 donation towards the cost of the hired party entertainers.</p> <p>Years 3 and 5 to bring savoury items and years 4 and 6 to bring sweet items. Letters to follow.</p> <p>No Cross Country</p> <p>Final day to send in new and unused toys for the Salvation Army Toy appeal.</p> <p>Week 3- Elf Movie Club – children can bring FRUIT ONLY 5.15 p.m. finish. Children must have previously paid to attend this club.</p>
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January 2020 key events: Tuesday 7th - School re-opens for breakfast club at 7.45 a.m.; All after school clubs re-commence on Monday 13th January 2020. Details of new clubs will be circulated w/c 2nd December 2019. School closes for one week on Friday 14th February for Spring half term and re-opens on Monday 24th February.



## November attendance overview

Class 8 have achieved the highest % attendance for November and their non-uniform day reward was Friday 29th November.

Year Group	% attendance	Unauthorised absences	Lates
3	92.32	12	41
4	94.59	14	28
5	94.76	16	19
6	96.40	8	15

## School Dinners

*“We are looking forward to giving the children their Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 11th December and watching them get into the festive mood! It is always a busy, but very enjoyable day, welcoming students who are on packed lunches, hoping they will enjoy the change. If your child is on packed lunches and you have NOT ordered a Christmas lunch you must ring Mrs Raine. With a ‘cold snap’ hitting us we have seen a rise in the number of children enjoying a hot meal, our Mince & Dumplings and Rice Pudding being a particular favourite, but it appears that nothing beats the Hot Roast Wednesdays!*

*Just as a reminder, if your child is on packed lunches they are welcome to join us for a meal on a Friday (Fun Friday) as long as you order it with Mrs Raine on the Monday of the same week, alternatively why not make this a permanent arrangement. This allows children to access a hot meal with no obligation to commit to dinners for a full week, we have more than 30 children who do this each week.”*

## Travelling Book Fair

The travelling book fair was in school from Monday 25th November to Friday 29th November. Due to your book sales, of £370 we were able to buy books from the fair to the value of £108, which benefits all the children in our school. Thank you.

## School Fund

Please remember to send in £1 (or less if you have small change) each week which can be put in the ‘spinner’, we will be using fund to buy presents for the children, resources to make lovely decorations, class treats, xmas movies, party food and prizes. In November we raised £87.50 school fund.

## Charity and Supporting Good Causes

### Children in Need

Thank you so much to everyone who supported us in raising money for this charity, the total received and forwarded to the charity was £518.00!

### Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Thank you to all the families who are sending toys into school. They will be collected from school on the 19th December. Details about this can be found on our App/website. We have received some so far, but need so many more. Toys/gifts up to the age of 14 are requested.

## Lower and Upper School Christmas Shows

Years 3 & 4 will perform their Christmas Show, ‘Stable Manners’, to their families on Tuesday 17th December, and years 5 & 6 will perform their Christmas Show ‘Will Santa Get Shot Down’ on Wednesday 18th December.

Both performances are at Consett Academy this year, ticket sales have been completed but if you would like more tickets, we still have some available from school. Both shows commence at 2.15 p.m., but there is no access to the Academy until after 1.45 p.m. Information about the afternoon has already been sent out, however, you can access it again from this link <http://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/christmas-show-productions-important-information/> On arrival at the Academy please see a member of our staff who will be waiting in reception to welcome you and register your arrival, before you go in to auditorium.

If you are not going to see your child’s show, you can pick them up from the Academy at approx. 3.20 p.m. (may have a short wait), so please watch for them coming out, alternatively they will be brought back to school for the usual collection at approx. 3.30 p.m.

## Donations

Please continue to send in donations of tissues and carrier bags, they are always in demand!



## Clubs

Swimming - **Year 4 swim last lesson on a Monday; Year 3 swim last lesson on a Thursday.** **THERE IS NO SWIMMING IN THE LAST WEEK OF THIS TERM.** **Swimming will re-commence on Thursday 9th January 2020.**

### Cross Country Training

Cross country training will continue on the usual days, it is colder now so a hat, jacket, gloves and appropriate clothing are essential.

### After school karate club - members only

This terms after school club will finish on Tuesday 3rd December and will recommence on Tuesday 14th January. The grading is during the school day on Tuesday 10th December. If your child is interested in joining they need to see Mrs Raine, who can provide you with further details.

### Band

Band rehearsals for all children are after school each Monday until 4.30 p.m. Band is £1.50 each week, if you think you are behind with payments please ask your child to speak to Miss Waters about how much is owed. Band will still be on in the last week of term and will re-commence on Monday 13th January 2020. Year 6 band members have been invited to rehearsals from 8.30 a.m. each morning until Christmas.

### After schools clubs

There are NO after school clubs in the last week of term (apart from band, movie and cross country). There will soon be information circulated for the next half terms after school clubs, although we can confirm that Art Club will continue for Year 3; Cross country will be the usual times and football training will also continue for current members. All clubs (except cross country) for the next half term will start on the second week back. After February half term the ‘Invitation only Nurture Club’ will be back...by popular demand! Details to follow closer to the time.

## Elf on the Shelf Competition

It’s almost Christmas - and with it comes Elf on the Shelf, sent by Santa Claus to check on children across the country.

For those not in the loop, the festive toy began as a children's book in the United States in 2005, telling the story of how Santa sends a "scout" elf to check whether your children are being "naughty or nice".

It has moved across to the UK in recent years, and rumours have it that many of our Consett Junior Families have an Elf!

Last year Mr Meadows and the children came into their class to find a very naughty elf hanging from the ceiling inside a glitter and snow filled balloon, which was then popped leaving a mess all over the floor...we can't wait to hear about all the naughty adventures this elf gets up to!

Based on this we are once again holding an 'Elf on the Shelf' competition. If you have a mischievous Elf at home, please email a photograph of their antics to [consettjunior@durhamlearning.net](mailto:consettjunior@durhamlearning.net) before Wednesday 18th December. Children of the top 10 naughty Elves will receive a prize!

## Whole School Party Day and Christmas Events

Please check the App and website for details of our party day (Thursday 19th December), children can come in party clothes for free, but please send in party food as specified (letters are ready and will be sent home on 2nd December), there is also a £1 charge for the ‘Winter Wonderland’ entertainers which can be sent into school before the day. Mrs Raine has a register of payments received.

There are two Christmas jumpers days, the first is Wednesday 11th, which is free, the second is the same week, on Friday 13th which is £1 for the ‘Save the Children’ charity. Please note, this is not non-uniform, it is only the school jumper that is to be replaced.

## Christmas Carol Services

Year 5 & 6 Carol Service is Tuesday 3rd December, children will walk to Consett Salvation Army for their Christmas Carol Service, which will start at 2.30 p.m. Parents/Carers are more than welcome to attend. It should be no longer than 45 minutes and the children will need to be collected from the Salvation Army (Sherburn Terrace), any children not collected will return to school with the teachers for the remainder of the day.

Year 3 & 4 Carol Service is Friday 13th December, children will walk to Consett Methodist Church for their Carol Service, which will start at 2.30 p.m. Parents/Carers are more than welcome to attend. It should be no longer than 45 minutes and the children can go home with you from the church.

If you are unable to attend your child’s service, any children remaining will walk back to school with the teachers. If you are going to the service and have children still in school in other years, please ensure they know to wait for you if no-one else can collect them.