



Consett Junior School

March 2022 Newsletter

Welcome everyone to the March Newsletter,

Hopefully, you all managed to have an enjoyable half-term - despite the weather being one of the windiest I have ever seen.

As always, we have a busy half term planned with school visits, sporting events and of course World Book Day ahead of us.

Our Year 6 children are off to Beamish on Friday as part of their local history project work - they should have a fantastic day. On Friday 11th March our Boys Cross Country team are competing at the County Cross Country Championship, I wish them all well, they, as usual will be accompanied by Mrs Raine, Miss Oselton and Mrs Hannant. This Thursday we are celebrating World Book Day, whilst we are always amazed by the amazing costumes, we really do appreciate the costs involved, there is no pressure that children must dress up for these events.

These are just some of the events taking place this term, we have many more planned - please do keep up to date by ensuring you have the school app.

As always, if you need anything, please do get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mr Dixon

Attendance

February attendance reward for the best year group goes to...Year 3 AGAIN! The children will be provided with a lovely selection of cakes and cookies this Friday. It really is wonderful to see our children embrace school life and want to come to school to learn and build amazing friendships. Thank you to our parents/carers for recognising the importance of school and supporting us in helping your children to achieve their absolute best.

The best class group reward goes to Miss White (Class 2) AGAIN! However, it was so remarkably close...Class 1 were 2nd with 96.89%

Children in class 2 can wear non-uniform this Friday (4th March) as their reward. Well done Class 2 for achieving AN AMAZING 97.01%

The attendance for February was slightly higher than January - the whole school was recorded at 93.60%. We are confident that this will continue to rise and hope to add another 1% whole school increase at the end of March.

The table below shows that Year 4 are our poorest attending year group and we have identified persistent absentees in this Year. It would be fantastic if we could see Year 4 achieve the best attendance for March.

Year Group	% Attendance	Unauthorised absences	Lates
3	96.95	3	3
4	89.08	12	16
5	94.28	7	22

6	92.87	15	11
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CJS App

We have now been using our new App for almost six months, we can see the families that use the app regularly and those who have not actually downloaded our bespoke app. If you have downloaded the app through Weduc you will still be able to see the communication shared, but it is not as user friendly as our bespoke CJS app (found in the app store of your device). We also, at times, receive phone calls asking about events that families say did not know about, but these items are on the app and within the app calendar. We appreciate that it can be overwhelming, and some months are exceptionally busy, but if you do not check your app at least twice a week or read your app messages, you are at risk of missing essential information.

School Fund – February

Thank you to all families who have paid school fund on ParentPay this month. We received £170 in February from ParentPay donations as well as £160 from the auction of *Jamaal Lascelles* signed football shirt. We have used this to pay for Crazy Creatures (Year 4), whole school Easter treats and other class rewards. Thank you all very much.

Comic Relief

The school council members have had a meeting and discussed the things they are planning for Red Nose Day on Friday 18th March.

They have debated, agreed, and disagreed and have finally chosen the following to do on the day:

- Design a superhero in class - prizes for the winners
- Comic relief quiz
- Dress up as a superhero or wear red
- Best joke competition - prizes for the winners
- Pip and Nikki are also cooking up a very 'red' themed lunch so if your child is usually on packed lunch and would like to give a school meal a try, please complete this form before Wednesday 9th March.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENhzGYEp0zDERAnxWCoX5eIjVUQTILOVA5ODdDWFFKNEZVV0JGVjJGRFUzRy4u

AND sell red noses - Mrs R has a very 'disappointed red face' as the noses we have ordered will not arrive until after half term despite incredibly early ordering...

To donate for these things planned for the day please only use this ParentPay link - it is not an item on your own ParentPay

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=6319>

All children will participate in these events, regardless of payment.

If you are buying red noses after half term then that is a separate payment item, and you will find that option once the item goes live - I will keep you informed...WHEN I EVENTUALLY GET MY NOSES!

School Dinners

We have recently been informed by DCC that the cost of school meals will increase from £2.15 per day to £2.20 per day from 1st April 2022. This will automatically be updated on ParentPay from 1st April.

Covid

As you will be aware, on Thursday 24th February all Covid isolation rules ended. For all the changes please visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

[Year 6 trip to Robinwood – Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th May 2022](#)

Just a reminder (and encouragement) that you can pay little and often from your child's Robinwood 2022 balance. The full amount must be paid by **Friday 29th April 2022** to ensure your child can go. **FAILURE TO PAY IN FULL WILL RESULT IN YOUR CHILD LOSING THEIR PLACE. There are just over 8 weeks left to pay in full.**

[Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2023](#)

For children in current Year 5, we recently requested interest to enable us to book a Year 6 residential trip for May 2023. We received interest forms for 46 children and have now secured our booking. Children will go to Robinwood the week after the May 2023 SATS on Monday 15th May – Wednesday 17th May 2023. If you completed the interest form, we have allocated your child a space and set a Payment item on ParentPay. We have now had the cost of the trip confirmed and it is £285 per child (we said approximately £280). This does not include the cost of the coach, but school fund will cover the full amount.

The payment item on ParentPay is set as a 'reducing' balance, therefore you control how much you pay as and when. To secure your child's place we require a £25 deposit, paid using the payment item on ParentPay before Friday 20th May 2022. The full amount must be paid before Friday 28th April 2023. Failure to pay will result in the place being revoked.

[Year 6 Leavers Hoodies](#)

We are now the proud owners of all the Year 6 leavers hoodies! These hoodies will be given out on a date after SATS and only if payment has been received. The deadline for families to pay for their child's hoody is Friday 29th April 2022.

[Reminder of clubs this half term](#)

Here is a reminder of the after-school clubs running this half term. If you have booked a club and been successful, you will have received an app message and payment must have been made to secure the place. Please note, this reminder may not be equivalent to you.

Monday – After school band until 4.30 p.m. for existing members. Please pay Miss Waters £1.50 per week.

Tuesday – After school Art club until 4.30 p.m. for Years 3 and 6. This club is limited to 20 spaces on a first come basis and ten places are allocated to each year group. The cost of the club is £12 per child which works out at £2 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place. We have one space left in Year 3.

Tuesday – After school Karate until 4.30 p.m. with Ross Temple for existing members. The spring term after school sessions re-commence on 1st March and will run until 29th March. The grading will be during school afternoon on Tuesday 5th April. This club is full.

Tuesday – After school cross-country with Mrs Raine, Miss Oselton and Mrs Hannant, for selected cross country team members. Children are back to school for collection at 4.15 p.m.

Tuesday – After school Crochet club until 4.30 p.m. for Years 3 and 4 with Miss Thompson. This club is limited to 14 spaces. The cost of the club is £6 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Wednesday – After school multi-Skills club until 4.30 p.m. with Chris Shield for Year 3. This is an on-going club and is already full. This club ends at Easter.

Thursday – After school Lego and Rubik's Cube club until 4.30 p.m. for Year 4 with Mr Moore. This club is limited to 20 spaces. This cost of the club is £6 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Thursday – After school Bootcamp sessions with Matt for Year 5 Class 6 for six weeks. Booking details to follow so please do not request a place until this is sent out to the full year group. This club is limited to 12 spaces on a first come basis. We are funding this club through our PE Budget, so it is free for children.

Friday – After school Badminton Club until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon for Year 5. This club is limited to 12 spaces. The cost of the club is £5 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place. This club is not running on the last day of term.

Household Support Grant

Before Christmas we received and forwarded codes to eligible families for the 'Household Support Grant', at that time we were informed that there was possibility of another grant to support vulnerable families during the spring term - once again through the Government's Household Support Grant.

We have now had confirmation that this support will be available, and we have been asked to forward these codes to families who receive Free School Meals. The vouchers are not to cover free school meals during holiday periods but are there to help families with the costs of fuel and food through the winter.

The last round of vouchers sent out before Christmas resulted in the highest redemption rate ever, and for this reason they are sending all vouchers out again. We have been told that they will be sent in one batch during the weeks beginning the 28th of February and 8th March 2022. The value of each voucher, per child, will be confirmed once more information is received about the grant.

As this is not a holiday payment, we have flexibility as to when to distribute the vouchers to families providing it is before the end of March 2022. However, I assure you I will make it my priority to email them to families once I receive them.

Any family to receive a voucher will need to have been identified as 'eligible for FSM' by 20th January 2022. It will not be possible for us to order vouchers for additional families identified after this cut-off date.

These vouchers will be emailed using the same email address used before Christmas, so if you have changed your email address it is especially important you inform me.

Swimming

Swimming for the second half of the spring term (until Easter) will continue as follows:

Year 4 will continue to swim on a Wednesday afternoon.

Year 5 will continue to swim on a Tuesday afternoon.

Year 3 will swim for the final term, over the two days, and this will be split over four sessions. All swimming sessions will continue to be held at Catchgate pool and no parents/carers are permitted to supervise.

Get Fit 4 PE

Thank you to all children and families who took part in our two weeks 'Get Fit to get Equipment' sponsored event. Our children raised £504, and this was broken down into year groups.

Each year group will use their raised amount to choose break time equipment.

Thank you everyone.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 3rd March. This year the theme is 'You are a reader'. On the day, the children can come to school dressed as their favourite storybook character! You can get ideas for exciting homemade costumes by visiting the link below.

The children will spend the day completing activities linked to reading and developing their love for reading. Some of these activities include a reading café and 'The Masked Reader'!

During the afternoon, all children will be taking part in the recycling challenge.

They will be designing and creating a prop for their book character using recyclable materials. Two winners will be selected from each class.

Children will receive a planning sheet so that they can begin to design their prop and think about what materials they will need to create it. School will provide basic art supplies but if you could send in any recycling materials to help with this project, then that would be great!

We cannot wait to celebrate World Book Day together again this year!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas/>

[World Kidney Health for All Day - reminder](#)

We have been asked by one of our parent's if we can support the family of one of our pupils, Evan from Year 5. Her lovely little boy has a rare kidney disease, and she is hoping we can come together on Thursday 10th March to raise awareness, as well as some funds, to support and educate everyone about kidney health.

This is a small ask, wear purple on this day. When Evan started with us in Year 3, we did not know him and did not know that his swollen face was cause for concern, but when other symptoms began to present and with Mam's fast acting, they were able to get him the treatment he required. Mam has also included some photographs of Evan, the photograph with Evan in his yellow school polo shirt is a poignant reminder of how poorly he was at the start of this roller-coaster journey.

Please can children wear purple for school on this day (not purple hair if it is a swimming day!) and donate directly to the link Mam has set up. Thank you in advance!

Please visit to app newsfeed and calendar for Evan's Story and photographs.

<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/kidney-research-uk/world-kidney-day-2022/evans-kidney-campaign>

<https://www.worldkidneyday.org/2022-campaign/>

Key Dates and events for you to be aware of, please note that they are correct at time of print. Some dates may be subject to change. Please also refer to the calendar on the school app.

Monday 28th February – School reopens for the second half of the spring term.

Tuesday 1st March – Offers for Secondary school places are opened today

Wednesday 2nd March – Selected Year 3 children at North Durham Academy for a Dance Festival. They will be back in school for the usual finish time.

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day, children can come to school today dressed as a character from their favourite book. Miss McNeill shared information prior to half term on the app (included in this newsletter).

Friday 4th March – Year 6 children will be spending the day at Beamish Museum. The coach will leave at 9.30 a.m. and will return in time for 3.30 p.m. collection. There is a payment option on ParentPay for sweets (like last time), limited to £2 per child. The cost of the trip and the coach will be paid for by School. If you have not ordered a school packed lunch, then please ensure your child has one today.

Friday 4th March – Class 2 (Miss White) had the best attendance for February so can come to school in non-uniform. All Year 3 will receive a 'sweet' treat as Year 3 had the best Year group attendance again.

Tuesday 8th March – A tennis coach from Shotley Bridge tennis club will be in school all day working with the children. All children need to come to school wearing their school PE kit.

Tuesday 8th March - Selected Year 6 children at North Durham Academy for a Basketball event. They will be back in school for the usual finish time.

Thursday 10th March – Wear purple for World Kidney Day, please make donations to

<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/kidney-research-uk/world-kidney-day-2022/evans-kidney-campaign>

Friday 11th March – This morning we will be taking our winning Cross-Country boys' team to New College Durham to take part on the County Cross Race. We are really excited about this! It is going to be a memorable day.

Friday 18th March – Red Nose Day (see details within this Newsletter).

Friday 1st April – School meal price increase from £2.15 to £2.20.

Tuesday 5th April – Karate grading during the school day. No after school karate today.

Friday 8th April – Last day of Spring term – Easter holidays. This will be a non-uniform day and fines can be paid for on ParentPay under 'non-uniform fines.' There are no after school clubs today.

Monday 25th April - School reopens for the summer term.

Friday 29th April – Robinwood 2022 balances must be paid for in full today. There is no flexibility on this date and there are children on the waiting list so places will be offered to those children.

Friday 29th April – Year 6 leavers hoody's must be paid for by today.

Monday 2nd May – School closed for one day (May Day).

Friday 20th May – Year 5 children going to Robinwood in 2023 must have their £25 deposit paid before today.

Thursday 26th May - Last day of the first half of the summer term, school is closed for one week and two days. This will be a non-uniform day and fines can be paid for on ParentPay under 'non-uniform fines.' Please note that Friday 27th May and Monday 6th June we are closed for staff training.

Tuesday 7th June - School reopens for the second half of the summer term.