



**Headteacher: Mr. P.J.T. Dixon (B.Ed. Hons)**

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6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all and to thank you for choosing Consett Junior School for the next stage in your child's education. We have an amazing team of staff here at Consett Junior School who are always focused on the children in our care. I am sure your child will have a great four years at our school.

Secondly, I'd like to introduce myself to those who don't already know me. I have been Headteacher at Consett Junior School since May 2017, prior to that I worked for 18 years in Ashington. My children attend both Consett Infant School and Consett Junior School - I am so very proud to be a Headteacher in my home town.

As a school we pride ourselves not only on the delivery of a well-rounded academic curriculum, but also in providing a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, both during the school day and after. We offer a range of sporting, art and music opportunities throughout the year. I am also doubly proud of our school band, which is led by Miss Waters, our Deputy Headteacher.

In terms of transition we are working very closely with the Infant School staff to ensure the Year 2 children move to us with as little stress as possible. Our Year 3 teachers, Mrs McMahan and Miss White will be working closely with Year 2 teachers to ensure that this is achieved.

We are very lucky this year that Consett Academy are offering a three-day transition for our current Year 6 children (28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June), which means that we have three days where our current year groups can move up to their new class. In turn this frees up our Year 3 team who will dedicate their time to our Year 2 children and families. We are arranging a coffee morning, afternoon tea, a full move up day, opportunities for our current Year 3 teachers to come to the Infant school to meet and spend time with the children, additional visits to our school for children with SEN or anxieties.

Please add these important transition dates to your diary:

- Date tbc - Mr Dixon to visit Year 2 at CIS to do an assembly. Please encourage your children to be prepared with any questions they may have; no question is a silly one and Mr Dixon has an excellent way of making the children giggle! As the date is to be confirmed can you please start having this conversation with your children now.
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – 1.30 p.m. Afternoon Tea at Consett Junior School. Parents/carers can spend time in our school getting to know the key members of staff that you will come to know, this includes Mr Dixon, Miss Waters, Mrs Raine and the Year 3 team. This afternoon will also be an opportunity for you to return your paperwork.
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June – 9.30 a.m. Coffee at Consett Junior School. [This is an alternative date and time from the Afternoon Tea, so if you came yesterday you do not need to return.](#) Parents/carers can spend time in our school getting to know the key members of staff that you will come to know, this includes Mr Dixon, Miss Waters, Mrs Raine and the Year 3 team. This afternoon will also be an opportunity for you to return your paperwork.
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Mrs McMahan and Miss White will spend the afternoon at Consett Infant school and will inform the children (and give a note) to announce who their class teacher will be for Year 3.
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Transition day. Year 2 to spend the day at Consett Junior School, 9.30 a.m. – 2.50 p.m. The CIS staff will bring children down to us for 9.30 a.m. they will spend the day with their new teacher doing exciting

'getting to know you' activities. All children will have access to a free school meal on this day but if children have any dietary requirements can you please inform us about this in advance (they can bring a packed lunch if they prefer). They must wear their usual CIS uniform they must be collected from Consett Junior School by their parents/carers. A member of staff will greet you at the entrance to show you the way.

- Miss Waters has already spent time at Consett Infant school, meeting the parents/carers of children with SEN. Current Consett Infant school staff will do short SEN visits to our school with the children over the next few months. There will also be a video shared so all children can watch this over the summer, this will help children to remember key areas and staff in our school. This will be uploaded to our CJS YouTube channel.
- Tuesday 6th September – School starts for the new academic year. Children are to be here for between 8.40 and 8.55 a.m. as the bell rings at 8.55 a.m. and lessons begin at 9.00 a.m. On the first day Year 3 staff will be present in the yard. Mr Dixon will greet you on arrival and show you where the children are to go, we will be prepared for a few tears (from children and parents), but this is the first step into an amazing four years at our lovely school.

Like the Infant School we are a two-form entry school and for September we will be at full capacity in Year's 3, 4 and 6. We have a very structured school day, which is set out in the school brochure.

Our classes are not streamed, but are of mixed ability. Our aim is to ensure the children in our school receive the very best education possible. The makeup of the classes will be very different to the Infant school – we do speak with the Infant staff, but look to split the classes with an even mix of abilities, as well as SEND and sporting abilities – this is to ensure that our classes have are appropriately balanced. The classes work closely together and share breaks and lunchtimes with each other, so this has little impact on overall friendships.

We have previously sent a message on the Class Dojo app regarding uniform. It is very important you order uniform as soon as possible as the summer is a very busy time for uniform suppliers. Like the Infant school we use Tots to Teams, however, you do not need to buy exclusively from these suppliers, many local shops sell our school colours. Children will need to wear school PE kit two days a week, so please consider this when buying your uniform. Children in Year 3 do swim, but this will not be until the summer term.

All children should be in the school yard before the bell rings at 8.55 a.m., the gates open at 8.40 a.m. as we like to encourage playtime before lesson time. We do not tolerate persistent late arrivals but do understand that this can happen on occasion. The school day for Years 3 and 4 ends at 3.20 p.m.

Lastly, please ensure you make a note of the specified transition dates and events, talk openly with your child about our school and ensure you complete the forms that we require and bring to Consett Junior School before 30<sup>th</sup> June – this will help us prepare for the new school year, confirming contact details, email address etc. Our main form of communication is our school app, we use a platform call Weduc who have designed our own bespoke app which you download to your device. We use this heavily alongside the school website. The app will give you reminders and updates of any changes. Mrs Raine is our amazing School Operations Manager and a great source of knowledge. Please feel free to email the school on the above address should you require any additional information.

Please take care, have a lovely summer, and I look forward to welcoming you all to Consett Junior School.

Kind regards,

*Paul Dixon*

Headteacher

