



Consett Junior School- September 2023 Newsletter

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of the new year.

I am overjoyed to welcome our new children and their families to Consett Junior school - it is always lovely to welcome families to our school for the first time, as well as welcoming back those who have been before. I do hope you all managed to get some quality time with each other over the summer, whether it was pottering around at home or further afield.

We are also lucky enough to welcome three new members of staff to school for the start of term; Miss Riley has joined our Year 3 teaching team, Mrs Eddy and Mrs Slight to our lunch team - a big CJS welcome to them all. I am sure that they will all be happy here.

The Autumn term is a busy one, with all our clubs and groups starting, it is an exciting time, we are always conscious of the changes that affect children, so for the first few weeks will be keeping a close eye on them as they settle, obviously if you have any issues, please let us know.

As we move forward across the term, I am sure that I will have the opportunity to catch up with you all, I look forward to this.

Please take care,

Mr Paul Dixon

Head Teacher

Attendance

At Consett Junior School attendance has always been a focus for us and we strive to go above 96% attendance each month. For families new to our school, we wanted to emphasise this and the rewards we have in place for promoting excellent attendance. We have monthly class and year group treats; termly individual rewards as well as whole school year individual rewards. The children love these and respond well to them. It is also an excellent way of making the children aware of how important attendance at school is, not only for their education but for friendships.

Our drive on attendance is more important than ever due as we strive to catch the children up with their learning and relationships following the significant impact of covid school closures. We need to ensure our children do not suffer anymore from the amount of school they have already missed. We will continue to offer the rewards as we previously did, where it is safe to do so.

Our rewards are always popular, best monthly class attendance receive a free non-uniform day; best year attendance receive cakes/fruit/treats; termly attendance is a raffle ticket and celebratory hour where children with the highest attendance can win £20 to spend on amazon and we also celebrate 100% over the full year with a meal out with some staff.

There are several ways of monitoring attendance and there are also systems in place for monitoring patterns of absences, i.e., always a Friday or always the same type of illness. Whilst we are very aware that most cases of absence are genuine, there is a minority where this is not always the case. We have a legal duty to ensure that you bring your child to school each day. We have and will do house calls on families we are concerned about, and we will involve all

parents/carers who have parental responsibility should we have concerns. We are here to support you but most important of all, we want your child in school, so they make progress and flourish.

In 2022 DfE (Department for Education) started a consultation process that was expected to be in the Autumn term 2022 with legislation progressing through Parliament in preparation for September 2023, however, we are yet to receive any outcome about this. There are likely to be some changes to attendance and the process for issuing FPN's (penalty notices) and how we manage this in school. Once we receive this it will be shared with families.

Holidays in term times are not permitted and we do refer families who do hit the number of days absence for an FPN. More details on attendance can be found here <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/about-us/school-attendance/>

Mrs Raine – Attendance Champion

Contact Details

Following the return to school after such a prolonged period, your circumstances may have changed. You must ensure you have made us aware of any changes. It is vital we have the correct contact information on file for your child. This could include a change of address, contact numbers, your listed emergency contacts, or a separation of parents/change to children's living arrangements. If your child does not live with you and you require additional information posted/emailed to you, this can also be arranged i.e., school reports.

Appointments

Where possible can you ensure any medical appointments are made outside of the school day. We completely understand that some appointments can only be made during school time. Where this is the case can you ensure copies of appointments are provided.

School Dinners

School dinners are £2.50 per day, and this must be paid on ParentPay, please try to keep your balances in credit. The current menus, which are likely to be in place until half term can be found here on the app – hub – spring/summer menu w/c 17th April 2023. School dinners are on offer for all children, but you must inform Mrs Raine if you want your child to access them, likewise, if your child is changing to packed lunches, a two week notice period must be provided.

Children eat their meals in the school hall and there are no rules in place that children must sit together by meal arrangements. Lunchtimes are for the children to socialise and if this means children sitting where they are happy, then we very much promote this.

Children have the independence of choosing their own school meal options every morning through 'cypad' this links to ParentPay and charges for the day appear on there from 3.00 p.m.

Voluntary School Fund

School fund is particularly important to us and what we can offer our children. Often school budgets are restricted, so those smaller treats and resources that we need in school, even subsidising the cost of trips, is paid for through the school fund. Christmas time and end of school year are times that this fund is heavily used. You can pay school fund on ParentPay, and it is a voluntary fund and entirely your choice if you contribute. For things that require payment, i.e., a trip, we will inform you of this.

Robinwood Residential Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Our Year 6 residential to Robinwood is all booked but there are still places available. The final date to pay the full remaining balance (originally £285) is Friday 26th April 2024. We cannot stress enough that this is the final date to pay, if balances are not cleared in full by that day, then your child will not be able to attend. Please ensure you pay off little and often to make this more manageable.

School Uniform for September 2023

We have stressed our expectation of wearing the correct uniform (including PE kit) for some time now. If children are

not wearing the correct uniform, then we will send letters/messages home and if necessary, ring parents/carers. We will be monitoring this over the next few weeks and will contact you should we need to, here is also a link to our uniform requirements <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/parents/our-school-uniform/>

Please place orders online at <https://totstoteams.com/consett-junior-school> however, there is no expectation that you make your purchases from this shop, other high street stores sell our colours and some at a cheaper rate.

If your child has grown out of their current uniform, please can you consider donating this to the Willowburn Charity Shop in Consett, as they sell them for a very small amount.

'Reach more Parent's (Consett Junior School App)

I wanted to remind/inform families that they have the opportunity to enable other users to have some access to their child's account.

One of the good features of our current app was that anyone can download it as long as they have an access code, therefore allowing extended family members or childminders to be informed of things happening in school i.e., coffee mornings, cancelled clubs etc - which is useful if parents/ carers are busy at work and may miss an alert (rest assured, important whole school messages are shared using ALL methods of communication).

We can add others as 'guest' users which will let them open an account and see information relating a specific child. Sensitive information, such as parent/carer contact details, attendance reports, absence reporting etc will not be made available, but the general news alerts, posts, photos, and calendar events that relate to that child will be visible.

If you are a family that would like a 'guest' user added to their child's account, can you please email me their full name and their email address to consettjunior@durhamlearning.net

PLEASE NOTE – IF YOU DO NOT ACTIVATE YOUR WEDUC ACCOUNT WHEN THE LINK IS SENT TO YOU, YOU WILL MISS OUT ON VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

After School Enrichment Clubs all end at 4.30 p.m.

We do not offer 'childcare' based clubs, for this you would need to make other arrangements. We do offer some enrichment clubs which will start after the Autumn half term.

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

Monday - After school Mindfulness club.

Tuesday – After school Karate with Ross Temple for existing members.

Tuesday – After school cross-country with Mrs Raine and Mrs Hannant for selected cross country team members only

🏃 THIS IS ONLY FOR INVITATION ONLY MEMBERS. Other members run on a Wednesday lunchtime. Our Year 5 runners will only run on lunchtime initially so we can see the ones who will manage a Tuesday.

Tuesday - After school Lexia Club (online English support) with Miss Atkinson and Mrs Watson.

Tuesday - After school Crochet Club with Miss Thompson (**for members who came last term only**).

Wednesday - After school Rugby Club.

Wednesday - After school outdoor multi-skills Club.

Thursday - After school Online Games Club.

Thursday – After school Bootcamp sessions.

Friday – After Baseball Club.

Swimming Sessions - Important Update for Year's 5 (Class 5)

Mr. Meadows' class will swim this half term (end date to be decided). Families have been informed of their child's

swimming day.

Most children in the school will have an opportunity to swim throughout the year.

Please ensure you make a note of your child's swimming day as they MUST come to school with their swimming costumes (no bikini) and a towel. Children not swimming due to illness will remain at school while their class swims.

Inhalers in School for Children with Asthma

Please ensure your child brings an inhaler into school if they have a doctor's diagnosis of Asthma. Children should have taken their inhalers home at the end of term. Please check the expiry date and return one with them ASAP.

If your child needs an inhaler in school, it must be prescribed by their GP, therefore have their name on. Labels are usually on the box, if you have disposed of the box, you can put their name on the inhaler itself. You should also complete a school Asthma form, if you require this form, please speak to Mrs. Raine.

If your child is new to our school and you need support with this, please ring.

School Photographs - Tuesday 12th September

Local photographer, Mark Wilkinson, will be in school on the morning of Tuesday 12th September to take 'individual' and 'siblings' photographs of all the children in school. If children have PE on this day, they must bring their kit to school in a separate bag, therefore all children must be in their school uniform on this day.

If you have children in different schools and you would like them to have their photograph taken as a family, there will be a queueing system from the main reception at 8.35 a.m. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE ANY SOONER AS THERE IS NO ACCESS TO THE HALL UNTIL THEN. Please ensure that your child's school is made aware that they will be late for school. In previous years this has been popular so please be prepared to queue with your child. If you have several children in our school then they will be photographed together as well as on their own, you do not need to bring them in for the earlier session.

If you are a family where parents are separated and need two copies, please let Mrs. Raine know (this is only applicable to families that are new to our school)

Children will receive a proof order later. All bulk orders can be made through school by a set deadline, alternatively, please make your order directly with the local shop (Middle Street).

Ordering details will follow after the 12th of September.

Flu Immunisation programme

The flu nasal immunisation team will be in school on Monday 2nd October, further information will follow, as well as a link/letter to give permission for your child to receive this immunisation. Although not painful, the nasal spray can be tickly and cause irritation, this can unsettle children. If you opt to give permission, can you also discuss the procedure with them prior to the day to reassure them. Without permission children WILL NOT receive this immunization.

Term dates

Currently there is no change to future term dates that have already been shared. A copy of all term dates can be found on the website 'Parents-School Holidays' or in the 'Info' section of the School App.

However, below is a direct link to a list of all term dates and training days for 2022/23/25.

<https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/parents/school-holidays/>

School breaks up to end the first half of the autumn term at 3.25/3.30 p.m. on Thursday 26th October 2023.

School reopens for the second half of the autumn terms on Monday 6th November 2023.

School breaks up for Christmas on Tuesday 19th December 2023 and reopens on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Bringing Bags and fidget toys into School

Could we remind you that children should only be bringing packed lunches, morning healthy snacks (fruit/cereal bar) and water bottles in from home. No pencil cases or large bags which are empty are necessary. Therefore, children on school meals should only have their water bottle/snack, children with 'carry handle' packed lunches should not have large bags.

Apart from the fact we are trying to keep our school as clean as possible, these items are not necessary and are creating issues with regards to safety as well as space in classrooms/cloakrooms.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5th September – After school clubs commence.

Tuesday 5th September – Secondary school applications open today.

Tuesday 12th September – 'Photo Day', all children must be in school uniform (bring PE bags in if applicable) for school photographs day. Children with siblings within the school will also have their photo taken individually and separately. Siblings not in our school can be taken as a family from 8.35 a.m. (see information within the newsletter).

Tuesday 12th September – Vicki Lydon (Anti-Bullying) to work with friendships groups and do assembly with Year 5 (re-scheduled from last term).

Monday 2nd October – Flu immunisation team in school – details to follow.

Thursday 26th October - Halloween Party Day – details to follow but £2 charge on ParentPay now.

Thursday 26th October – School closes for half term at 3.25/3.30 p.m. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this.

Monday 6th November – School reopens for the second half term at 7.45 a.m. for breakfast club.

Tuesday 14th November – M & M productions in school performing the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast'. Details will follow but if your child does not like loud noises can you speak to Mrs Raine. School fund will subsidise the cost of this pantomime so there is no cost to families.

Tuesday 31st October – Last day to apply for your child's secondary school place.

Tuesday 5th December – last after school karate session

Wednesday 6th December – Christmas Lunch Day (children can wear a festive jumper today!)

Tuesday 12th December – karate grading, expected to be after school till 4.30 p.m.

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Party Day – details to follow

Tuesday 19th December - School closes for the Christmas holidays at 3.25/3.30 p.m. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this.

Thursday 4th January - School reopens for the First half term at 7.45 a.m. for breakfast club.

Watch out for sports event dates coming soon. We love being ahead of the game and booking things in fast. We will give you as much notice as possible for these events.

The 2023 KS2 SATs will take place in the week commencing 13th May 2024. The tests will take place over four days.