



Consett Junior School

Christmas 2023 Newsletter



With only two- and a-bit weeks left of the Autumn term, it is a suitable time to look back and reflect on what has been a busy but productive term.

Firstly, we have been so impressed with our new year 3 pupils. They have settled so well, the majority come in by themselves, leaving their parents at the gate, they are articulate, passionate, and hardworking - Mrs McMahon and Miss Riley love them.

Secondly, the overall behaviour of the children in the school is amazing, the children are polite and well-mannered, love to talk and share their stories from home, they are growing up to be amazing role models and future leaders.

Thirdly and most importantly they are kind, a trait they will most certainly get from home, reinforced by our wonderful staff here...the children genuinely care for each other and for the adults in school. It is most heart-warming and makes our school a special place to work.

Looking forward to December, I am really looking forward to the next couple of weeks, our tree will be up and decorated by Mr O'Dowd, it is always amazing and looks spectacular. The school band have been practising intently, ready for their Christmas performances on top of the various year groups preparing for their whole school shows.

With Christmas parties, lunch, and jumper days ahead it will be a fun-filled couple of weeks.

I look forward to catching up with you all over the next couple of weeks,

Please take care,

Mr Paul Dixon

Head Teacher

Attendance

The whole school attendance for November was 95.47%, last November was 95.52%, so it is marginally lower than last November, however this does not consider this afternoon registers so will likely be similar. The whole school attendance so far, this academic year is 95.47% so still just slightly below the government's target of 96% but this time last year it was 95.26% so a slight improvement on that. November has been a month hit by various illnesses, mainly feeling sick, high temperatures and sore throats. It seems to be over the worst of it now and children are feeling better ready for all the Christmas celebrations. **Year 4 were significantly impacted so all I can say to that is Year 4 will surely be the attendance winners for December!!**

“What are the risks of missing a day of school?”

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total.

The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.”

On a **VERY** positive note, it is amazing that we have **74** children who have been in school 100% since September - not one day off! At this rate we are going to need to book the entire restaurant in July 2024 when we take qualifying children for their 100% attendance celebration meal. Just to put this into perspective, this time last year we only had **45** children with 100%. AWESOME!

Autumn Attendance Reward

On Friday 15th December, we will celebrate our autumn term attendance. **All children** will be part of an attendance assembly to promote the importance of being in school regularly and on time. Children will be provided with raffle tickets as follows:

Below 96% = 1 ticket; +96% = 2 tickets; +97% = 3 tickets and so on till 100% (6 tickets). There will be a lower and upper school draw in the assembly and the winner will see me the following day to purchase a prize up to the value of £20 on Amazon. This will give the child the time at home to choose something.

Throughout the day ALL children will also be rewarded with treats and refreshments and will have an hour of crafts/movie/music during class time.

Any child can be unwell at any time during the year, 96% is a reasonable target that takes into consideration that someone can be unwell but still achieve 96%. Sadly, it is not the child's fault if they are absent, but they can be involved in the process of the importance of coming to school regularly and on time, where they are fit to do so. This day not only promotes good attendance overall, but it also promotes much improved attendance of children where we have identified there is concern.

All schools choose their own procedures on rewarding and promoting attendance - most do not reward anything other than 100%.

November attendance overview

The November attendance results are in, and it was a scraping win for...YEAR 6? 🙌 Sorry Year 5, this month you JUST missed out!

The November year group attendance reward, for the first time ever in their CJS history, was a year group that is flying this school year 🙌👏. Well done Year 6 your reward is 'sweet treats' this Friday, 1st December.

The November class group attendance goes to Class 7, Miss McNeill 🙌👏, an excellent, a phenomenal, an AMAZING 98.1%. Their reward is a free non-uniform day on Friday, 1st December. Well done to everyone!

Year Group	% Attendance	Unauthorised marks	absence	Lates – this is the number of children late to lesson per year group. This disturbs the learning of all children in school on time
Year 3	94.6%	17		26
Year 4	92.8%	27		23
Year 5	96.8%	7		19
Year 6	96.9%	11		19

Year 4 – danger zone!

[School Dinners](#)

We have more than 100 children currently accessing school meals, almost half of the school. There are still families who send their child in with packed lunch when they are eligible for free school meals. We understand that this may well be personal preference, but it is also an added cost to you. Why not try them for a week or access the fun Friday meal? We are more than happy for more children to access school meals every week.

Our Christmas dinner order form has now closed. **Christmas dinner day (and Festive Jumper day) is Wednesday 6th December. Payment for this is under the usual 'school meals' option.**

[Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day](#)

Thursday 7th December, children can replace their school jumper with a Christmas Jumper **again**. We are asking for a £1 contribution to the Save the Children charity - a payment item is on ParentPay, if you cannot see it then you have already paid it.

Children must still wear their usual school uniform with their jumper, if they have PE, they can bring in a spare school jumper for their session, if you prefer.

Children can replace their gold/yellow polo top with a plain t-shirt if their jumper is too warm or they would prefer not to show the polo collar.

[CJS App](#)

It is great to see so many of our families engaging with the school app. We have 226 children on roll in our school and the data shows that 219 children (98%) have at least one primary carer that are using the app (which means only 1 family has not engaged). This is amazing. I know events in school can be difficult to keep on top of, but everything is in one place and as the Academy use this app it means you will all be professional at navigating it if your child goes to that school. If anyone is struggling to use the app, please make an appointment with Mrs Raine.

[Robinwood Residential Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May 2024](#)

Our Year 6 residential to Robinwood is all booked but there are still a few places available. The final date to pay the full remaining balance (£300) 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.

[Salvation Army Toy Appeal](#)

Thank you to all the families that have already donated to this appeal. We are still taking donations until 30th November, but you can still donate directly to the Salvation Army in Leadgate. We are impressed by your support.

[November Voluntary School Fund](#)

In November we received £130.99 which will be used to subsidise the cost of our amazing school Christmas tree, Christmas gifts for children and the remaining cost of the disco on party day.

[Children in Need 2023](#)

We raised £218 for Children in Need this year, thank you very much for all your hard work and donations. The children had a wonderful day raising money for a much-needed cause.

[Clubs' commencing – Thursday 4th January 2023](#)

We offer enrichment only after school clubs, this means that they are changed regularly and offered to different year groups each half term. They are not suitable for families who require regular childcare. These clubs can only operate

at the discretion of staff members giving up their spare time at the end of the school day. [Booking forms for these clubs will go live on Thursday 7th December at 6.00 p.m.](#)

Clubs for Spring Term 1 from 4th January:

Monday – Construction club until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Hughes - a practical club using construction kits like Lego, kinex for **Years 3/4**. The cost of this club is £1 per child which works out at £1 per week. This club is limited to 24 children. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

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

Monday – After school computing club until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon for **Years 5/6**. The cost of this club is £1 per child which works out at £1 per week. This club is limited to 28 children. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Tuesday – After school Karate with Ross Temple **for existing members**. The spring term after school sessions start on Tuesday 9th January and will run for 10 weeks. The grading will be after school on Tuesday 26th March. **There are 5 spaces in this club, please contact Mrs Raine.**

Tuesday – After school cross-country with Mrs Raine and Mrs Hannant **for selected cross country team members only**. Children are back to school for collection at 4.30 p.m.

Tuesday – After School board games club until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Atkinson. 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. This club is limited to 24 spaces. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Tuesday – After school crochet club until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Thompson. If your child attended last half term, please complete the booking again form for this half term. 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 Falcon's rugby club until 4.30 p.m. for existing members. There are 7 spaces available and the booking form for this free club will go live with the others. **This club will end after this half term.**

Wednesday – After school 'Just Dance Video Sessions' until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Raine. 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. This club is limited to 16 spaces. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Wednesday – After school French club until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Pattinson. 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. This club is limited to 24 spaces. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Thursday – After school colouring club until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Watson. The cost of the club is £7 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place. This club is limited to 24 spaces. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Thursday – After school mindfulness club until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon. The cost of the club is £7 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place. This club is limited to 30 spaces. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Friday – After school jigsaw club until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Moore. The cost of the club is £7 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place. This club is limited to 24 spaces. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Friday – After school gymnastics with an external coach for **Years 4/6**. This club is limited to 24 spaces. We are funding this club through our PE Budget, so it is free for children.

Swimming

Swimming for class 6 will continue after Christmas, we anticipate this to be for the first half term.

[Band coffee morning](#)

On Tuesday 12th December the band will be hosting a festive coffee morning where they will play some Christmas carols. All children who play an instrument will be involved in this and all families of these children are welcome to come along. Sadly, due to the number of children in the band this is not open to the rest of the school. On the day cash donations can be made to Consett Junior Brass and we will also have Christmas cards for sale. The event starts at 9.30 a.m., but you can enter the hall from 9.00 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

[Staff car park - Reminder](#)

If you have been given permission to park in the car park by Mr Dixon or Mrs Raine, please contact school ASAP for your permit/pass.

Due to on-going issues with parents/carers using the staff car park, we are working with the Nursery to establish and share between us a list of car types and registrations that have permission from either school to use our facility. These families will be provided with a permit to display on their dashboard which informs staff from both schools they are permitted to use the car park. If your car does not show this permit, you will be reminded that you are not permitted to use the car park. This rule is in place between 7.45 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. when staff and deliveries need access.

We fully understand that on rare occasions parents/carers do need to use the car park i.e. you have been called to school as your child is unwell.

[Drop-in cafés](#)

We have decided to hold some drop-in cafés throughout the year which will provide a relaxed and safe environment for parents/carers to chat with each other as well as some of the staff in school. The purpose of these drop-in cafes is NOT to discuss your child's work but more of a chance to meet and catch up with other people/parents/carers who live in the local area and seek advice and support as parents. To cater for all families, we have varied the dates and times across the year.

Mrs Raine will be available for anyone who need a little 'admin' help, so if you are struggling to use the app, ParentPay, or any other queries, she will happily support you if you bring your devices.

Come along and bend an ear or two, our first one is in a few weeks, and you can see our beautiful Christmas tree 🎄

It is good to talk

Our first session is - Wednesday 13th December - 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

[Christmas Shows – previously shared on the app](#)

Our Christmas Shows are as follows, please take a few minutes to read this information to ensure the day runs smoothly

On Monday 18th December your children will all perform on stage in the theatre at Consett Academy

Year 5/6 - "*Home for Christmas*" - 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

Year 3/4 - "*Stable Manners*" - 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.


- Both shows are going to be held at Consett Academy and will follow the same procedures.
- Consett Academy is closed to their students on this day so they have said families can use their car park, which includes the leisure centre car park too. Entrance is through their main school door into reception
- On entering the main lunch hall, Mrs Raine will need to sign you in - you will already have provided the details of who is attending so this will be a fairly quick process. Please do not walk past Mrs Raine, it is imperative you are signed in.

- Take a seat in the lunch hall and enjoy a cuppa! You will be called into the theatre for the start of the show.
- Entrance to the Academy will be from 9.15 a.m. and 1.15 a.m. so leaves plenty of time to check in with Mrs Raine prior to the performance
- Enjoy the show - If you are attending the afternoon show and have siblings in Consett Infant School, we will ask them to hold your child back.
- At the end of the afternoon show children will have their belongings with them and will be excused from the stage by class and can go home with their adult
- Tickets are now on sale for £3.00 each via ParentPay, there are 300 seats available for each show, we have put a limit of 2 seats per child per show. There is no option to choose your seats, just the number you buy. Therefore, if you have one child in school you can purchase two seats. After a few weeks of monitoring sales, we will remove the limit on how many seats you can purchase.
- Important - as well as purchasing your tickets through ParentPay you must complete the online booking form (below). The Academy need to know who is in their building for Health & Safety. If you purchase two tickets, you only complete one form with their names on. If you then purchase additional tickets, you will need to complete this form again adding their names. If you do not do this, it will cause problems on show day, and delay entry. If the person you name changes before the show you must inform us. DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU HAVE NOT PURCHASED TICKETS.
- **You will not receive physical tickets; your ParentPay is your receipt and the register we hold will record the number of seats allocated.**
- If children need to wear specific things for the show it will be shared by teachers on the app.
- As you have been informed, there are no clubs on this day. After school childcare remains the same.
- This will not impact on the usual school meal arrangements.
- If there are children in the show with no adult present, they will return to school with class teachers for collection.
- **You must not video or take photos of your children during the performances - we have a duty to safeguard children in our care.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/r2caj3Kpj5>

Christmas Party Day

We have arranged the Christmas party day for all children on Wednesday 13th December. Children can come to school in party clothes, but they will need suitable outdoor clothing and footwear for break time and lunchtime. Parties for the whole school will be all day with classes taking part in activities/games in the classroom and taking turns to use the school hall; the party will end at 3.30 p.m. as normal.

We want to make every child have a special day over the festive period, and although many children will be blessed with celebrations galore, some children may not be so fortunate. With this in mind, we have once again booked DJ Paul Watson to provide each year group with a party to remember... 

The company is going to spend the entire day in school and will entertain each year group in turn with games, music, props, prizes and more! The cost of this is £1 per child, which should cover some of the cost; the rest will be paid from our Private School Funds. This £1 is to be paid via ParentPay.

Children will have their normal meal (school dinner/packed lunch) at lunchtime and the party food at about 2.30 p.m. Could we please ask for donations for the party tea from parents as follows (to be brought in that morning or the day before if containers are sealed).

Year 3 and Year 5 savoury items (items that require cooking, must be cooked before bringing to school). 

Year 4 and Year 6 sweet/cake items 

Donations of food help to keep the costs of events for families to a minimum, this is already an expensive time of year.

[Uniform reminder](#)

We are finding some children who are not in the correct uniform. Full uniform, regardless of PE days, must be worn. Please ensure children are warm when in school due to the colder weather.

[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.](#)

[Thursday 30th November](#) – Final day to make donations of new and unused toys for the Christmas Toy Appeal

[Thursday 30th November](#) – Limit on tickets sales removed, when they are gone, they are gone...

[Friday 1st December](#) – Well done class 7, today is your free non-uniform day for the best attendance in November.

[Monday 4th December](#) – What is twinkling in the school hall today?

[Tuesday 5th December](#) – Last after school karate session, grading next week.

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

[Thursday 7th December](#) – Selected Band children at Consett Infant School, these families have been informed and understand the collection is at CJS at 4.00 p.m.

[Thursday 7th December](#) – Save the Children Xmas Jumper day (yes two days in a row), this is for charity a £1 payment item has been assigned on ParentPay.

[Thursday 7th December](#) – Spring 1 after school clubs go live at 6.00 p.m.

[Tuesday 12th December](#) – Karate grading, as part of an after-school session till 4.30 p.m.

[Tuesday 12th December](#) – Band members coffee morning, entry to the hall from 9.00 a.m. for 9.30 a.m. start.

[Wednesday 13th December](#) – Christmas Party Day – details already shared; party food items requested.

[Wednesday 13th December](#) – Please come along to our first drop-in café, 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

[Friday 15th December](#) – **Show rehearsal day, children need their outfits in school on this day.**

[Friday 15th December](#) – Autumn term attendance celebrations, raffles and a 'treat' hour.

[Friday 15th December](#) – School interim reports out for year 4, 5 & 6.

[Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December](#) – **No after school enrichment clubs for the last two days.**

[Monday 18th December](#) – Its SHOW TIME! Details already shared, Year 5/6 show will be in the morning from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. and Year 3/4 will be in the afternoon between 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. Both shows are to be held at Consett Academy.

[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.



Tuesday 2nd January 2024 - Payment of clubs for Spring term 1 must be made by today or your offered place will be removed.

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

Friday 16th February – Last day of Spring Term 1. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this.

Monday 26th February – School reopens for the first half of the Spring term at 7.45 a.m. for breakfast club.

Thursday 28th March – Last day of term, Happy Easter. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this.

Monday 15th April – School reopens for the second half of the Spring term at 7.45 a.m. for breakfast club.

Friday 26th April – Last day to pay for Robinwood 2024

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