



Consett Junior School- November 2023 Newsletter

Hello and welcome to the November newsletter

It has been an amazingly busy half term and long one! The children and staff are ready for the half term break, and I hope they all have a relaxing and lovely break, hopefully we may see a little sunshine...or at least less rain.

The children have been amazing this half term, behaviour, effort, and attitude across the school have been outstanding, I am so proud of them all. I know the staff have been really pleased with how everyone has settled. I am one, immensely proud Headteacher....

The next half term, although much shorter, is equally busy, we will be starting to plan and practice our Christmas plays, dances and singing, which as you can imagine takes a fair bit of time! I must place on record a big thank you to Consett Academy for allowing us to use their Auditorium to perform our Christmas plays.

We will be sharing some interim report cards with parents towards the end of the next half term - a brief summary of how your child is doing. Obviously, if anyone has concerns, we are always happy to talk through any issues and try and help where possible.

Can I also thank everyone for their continued support, our school community is very warm and a special place to work - you support is very gratefully received from myself and my staff - thank you.

Have a great half-term and stay safe.

Mr Dixon

Head Teacher

[October Attendance Overview and Rewards](#)

The whole school attendance for October was 95.47%, which is just slightly below the governments floor target of 96%. However, in October 2022 it was 95.17% so still an increase on last year. Please ensure you let us know if your child is off unwell.

Attendance meetings

Please can all families go into their child's profile on the app and view their child's attendance. All attendance should be above 96%, anything below this we are monitoring. Recently we have wrote out to parents/carers where there are attendance concerns. Not all families with under 96% attendance received a letter. If you are already following our absence reporting procedures, staying connected about the genuine reasons for absences or there have been holidays we have been made aware about - then it is unlikely we will contact you. But please be mindful that your child's attendance is still of concern and requires improvement. If you do get a letter, please act on what is required of you, as this is start of the monitoring process and road to improvement.

The Year with the best attendance was Year 5, they managed an amazing 96.2% -! They can have a 'tasty treats' on Monday 6th November.

Year Group	% Attendance	Unauthorised absences	Lates – this is the number of children late to lesson per year group. This disturbs the learning of all children in school on time.
3	95.0%	8.9%	9
4	95.9%	5.2%	20
5	96.2%	1.6%	10
6	94.6%	4%	8

The class with the best attendance was Class 5, they managed a staggering 97.1% - WOOP! They can have a free non-uniform day on Monday 6th November.

Class Group	% Attendance
1	93.1%
2	96.8%
3	96.3%
4	95.5%
5	97.1%
6	95.2%
7	94.8%
8	94.5%

More details on our school attendance can be found here <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/about-us/school-attendance/> and https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1099677/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance.pdf

Mrs Raine – Attendance Champion

[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 (originally £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.

[School Dinners](#)

School dinners must be paid for using ParentPay, you can find a link to ParentPay via the app 'hub.' We will remind families who have arrears more than £10/£15 every Friday. If your child's school meals arrears start to exceed £40 - £50 we will remove the school meal option until the arrears are paid.

What a week of Halloween themed meals, well done to our cooks Pip and Nicky who are ready for a well-deserved rest. There were an additional 30 children on school meals each day this week. If your child enjoyed them why not change them to school meals, even if this is just for the 'Fun Friday.' Give Mrs Raine a ring for more details.

[Poppy Appeal 2023](#)

On 25/10/2023 we began selling poppy merchandise in school and will continue to after half term, suggested donation as follows:

Reflectors: 50p

Zip Pull: 50p

Silicon wristband: £1

Snap band: £1

Children can make purchases in the hall during the first morning break until stock runs out, but the correct change is required as the coins go into a charity box. Poppies will also be on sale for a small donation.

[M & M Productions – Beauty and the Beast](#)

On Tuesday 14th November M & M productions will be visiting our school during the morning to put on a spectacular performance of Beauty and the Beast. We have used this company for many years now and they never fail to impress or humour the children (and staff!). We choose to bring the '*oh no she isn't*' experience to our school as we feel that the local pantomime is usually enjoyed as a family. We pay for the cost of this production from our school fund to ensure no child is left out - should you wish to donate please do so under 'school fund' on ParentPay.

<https://www.magicoftheatre.com/>

[Children in Need 2023](#)

On Friday 17th November CJS will come together to raise money and awareness for Children in Need.

The school council have met recently to agree the fundraising activities we will do in school:

1. On Friday 17th November children have the option to come to school wearing 'spots' or 'fancy dress'

2. On the day they will all have the opportunity to participate in a design a T-Shirt competition during the school day
3. There will be a chocolate raffle - please can we ask all families to send in donations for our chocolate raffle (all children will get a raffle ticket regardless of donations made) please send donations in before Wednesday 15th November so they can be added to the raffle.
4. From now until the day all children are taking part in a daily 'burpees' challenge.

We are a cashless school so please can all families who would like to or are able to donate, no matter how small, do so through our designated ParentPay link below. You will not find this link on your usual ParentPay - it is a bespoke link that allows funds raised to go immediately to the cause <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/>

As always thank you for supporting us in raising funds as well as awareness.

Christmas Shows – Monday 18th December

The moment so many have been waiting - Christmas Show Time! 🎄❄️

At Consett Junior School, we pride ourselves on putting on the ultimate Christmas shows to entertain our families and this year will be no different! Sorry, this has taken a little longer to inform you than previous years, but it has taken a little more planning this time round. We are aware that this means two shows in one day for families with children in lower and upper school, we are sorry about that, but it is unavoidable.

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>

Swimming Sessions - Important Update for Year 5 (Class 5 & 6)

Mr. Meadows' class have now finished their swimming sessions. Mr. Moore's class will swim w/c 6th November 2023 on either Tuesday or Thursday, families have already been informed of their child's swimming day.

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 swim.

School Photographs

The final day to place your order for school photographs was Thursday 26th October. Any late orders will need to be taken directly to Mark Wilkinson, Middle Street. Late orders may not be back at school with the orders in on time.

Harvest Collections – THANK YOU



Thank you to all of the families who donated to our Harvest Appeal. We took 115.12 kilos to Consett Food4U! This will help so many of our local families

Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Every year we try to support our families who may need a few extra Christmas gifts for their children. If you need help this year, please get in touch and we can complete a referral form for this appeal. This is a confidential and sensitive process that has benefited many of our families before. Similarly, we are collecting donations of new and unused toys to take to the Salvation Army. If you can donate, please do so by bringing items to our school from 6th to the 30th of November.

Term dates

Below is a direct link to a list of all term dates and training days for 2023/24/25.

<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 at 3.25/3.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19th December 2023 and reopens on Thursday

4th January 2024.

Secondary Admissions Application Process for 2024

The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st of October 2023, we have a portal we can access that allows us to see if parents/carers have applied for their secondary school place, if this portal shows a '0' return has been made I have contacted you to remind you.

If you have any questions relating to this, please contact admissions via telephone on 03000 265893 or by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk

October Voluntary School Fund

Just a quick thank you to all families that have sent in school fund for October, we have received £93.56 in School Fund contributions so far. This is used for the benefit of all pupils at the school. Examples include; attendance rewards, dip in the box prizes, subsidising the pantomime, Christmas gifts for children and resources for themed days. Often, these things cannot be purchased through our school budget.

Clubs' w/c 6th November

All current half-term only enrichment clubs for this half term ended on Thursday 26th October, except for band, cross country, crochet, rugby, or karate. Details of new enrichment clubs have now been shared and places allocated. Please ensure clubs are paid on or before 31st October 2023.

Reminders of clubs for Autumn Term 2:

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

Tuesday - After school Crochet Club.

Tuesday - After school Board Games Club.

Wednesday - After school Rugby Club **for existing members only**.

Wednesday - After school Christmas Movie club - **please collect at 5.15 p.m. for the first week and each week teachers will add an app post to state the movie and finish time. Children can bring movie snacks.**

Thursday - After school tabletop sports club.

Thursday – After school Bootcamp sessions - cancelled and alternative club offered to those who completed the form.

Friday – After school Indoor Athletics Club.

Friday - After school Homework Club.

Bonfire Safety

Around 1,000 people are injured by fireworks every year - 5% of those injuries are serious. The majority of firework-related injuries happen at family or private parties and around half of those are to children under the age of 17.

Did you know? A rocket can reach speeds of 150mph, and sparklers are five times hotter than cooking oil.

The safest way for your staff and students to celebrate bonfire night is to attend an organised display. You can find out where your nearest display will take place at <http://durham.gov.uk/fireworks>

The Fire and Rescue Service also deal with hundreds of nuisance incidents each year relating to bonfires. You can support them by reporting any illegal bonfires you may see to Durham County Council on 03000 260 000 or online at Report a bonfire.

Dates for your Diary

These dates are correct at the time of print, other events, especially sports events, are due to be added once details are confirmed. If there are any changes, we will inform you via the app.

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

Tuesday 31st October – Last day to pay for Autumn 2 enrichment clubs.

w/c Monday 6th November – new half term enrichment clubs commence this week for families that have booked, had confirmation, and paid for their child's place.

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

Monday 6th November – Class 5 free non-uniform day for the best attendance in October.

Monday 6th November – Poppy sales continue while stocks last. Cash only as it goes into a charity box.

Tuesday 7th November – Selected Y5/6 children will attend a TAG rugby event (this was previously scheduled for 24th October).

Thursday 9th November – Year 4 Cross Country event for selected children.

Friday 10th November – Year 5 will go to the theatre at Hexham Forum to see Teenage Ninja Turtles. Mr Meadows has already shared details on the app. School will cover the cost of the coach.

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

Wednesday 15th November – Last day to send in donations of chocolate for the raffle (Children in Need).

Wednesday 15th November – Vicki Lydon from 'Smile' anti-bullying service will be in school to do an anti-bullying assembly and a 'buddy' training session with our Year 6 buddies.

Friday 17th November – Children in Need (see content in newsletter).

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

Monday 4th December – What is twinkling in the school hall today?

Tuesday 5th December – last after school karate session

Wednesday 6th December – Christmas Lunch Day (children can wear a festive jumper today!). Details on how to pre-order lunch for children on packed lunch will go out after half term.

Thursday 7th December – Save the Children Xmas Jumper day (yes two days in a row), this is for charity and a £1 payment

item will be assigned to you on ParentPay.

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

Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Party Day – details to follow, party food items requested.

Friday 15th December – Autumn term attendance celebrations, raffles and a 'treat' hour.

Friday 15th December – School interim reports out.

Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December – No after school enrichment clubs for the last two days.

Monday 18th December – Its SHOW TIME! Details to follow but Year 5/6 show will be in the morning and Year 3/4 will be in the afternoon. 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.

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

There are more dates to add to October, November, and December but they are not known at the time of this Newsletter, this includes, sports events, Christmas etc. Once known they will be added to the app calendar and a newsfeed post applied.