



Consett Junior School

February 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the February Newsletter,

The dark winter days are hopefully beginning to end, and we can all look forward to some lighter nights and better weather...

We are almost halfway through the school year, a scary thought, especially when many of us are awaiting new of secondary school places for our year 6 children! When I look back to September, it almost seems an age ago, the nervous faces of both parents and children waiting to enter the school, for many for the first time; now I see happy and relaxed souls walking past me at the gate most mornings.

I know we have recently released our latest round of extra-curricular clubs; it is great to see the children attend these and get a great deal of enjoyment out of spending their time with their friends and staff. I must thank staff for their commitment in running these, I know that they are all busy people, many with families of their own - I really do appreciate their efforts. We have added a couple of new clubs this half term, Nerf battles, and the return of Quiz club...both quite different! If your child has any suggestions for a club we have not ran before, please encourage them to speak with Mr Dixon and/or Mrs Raine and we will see if it is possible to run one.

I know several families have received attendance letters, sharing some concerns and asking families to contact us, please be reassured that this is only procedure and that we must follow the guidance set by the LA; we try to make these catch-up meetings as informal as possible and very much want to support you. If in doubt, please feel free to ring and have a chat with myself or Mrs Raine.

Last week, Mrs Wilson, who works in breakfast club left, it is always sad to see people leave and it was lovely for the children to be able to present her with some flowers and a card at breakfast club - I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her the best for the future and good luck in her next endeavours.

As always, if anyone has any worries or concerns, please do either catch me at the school gate on a morning, give me a call or arrange to pop in a see me - I am happy to help.

Many thanks,

Mr Dixon

Attendance

The whole school attendance for January was 94.52% so we have a little bit to go to get above the government's target of 96%, January 2023 was 94.63% so a slight drop to last year. We have identified there are issues with attendance across Year 3, please ensure children are in school when well enough. There are concerns about children missing valuable learning time across this year group, and for some families this will be discussed in requested attendance meetings and/or parent/carers evening appointments. Can we please ask families of this year group to aim to have their children in school and on time, whilst we recognise children are absent due to illness, there are far too many persistent absentees across this year. We do look back at previous year's attendance and compare patterns of absence, this includes their previous school. Year 5 remain our strongest year for attendance, and this has been a pattern since they

started in year 3. Children who are not in school can fall behind very easily and they miss gaps of learning which they struggle to catch up.

January attendance results...

The **year group** in first place, by quite a clear margin was Year 5 🤝😊. Well done to all of Year 5 for such a great effort, 95.1% and the reward is 'sweet treats; this Friday (2nd February) 🍰🍪🔍

The **registration group** race was close, 3rd was Class 6 at 95.2%, 2nd was Class 3 at 95.3% the WINNERS were Class 8 at 95.9%. Therefore Class 8 (Miss Waters) can have a free non-uniform day this Friday (2nd February).

Year 3 are causing some concern and many attendance meeting requests have been in this Year group, please use the support we are able to offer to improve your child's attendance, working with us can help identify any barriers to the children coming to school.

Year Group	% Attendance	Unauthorised absences (marks)	Lates (marks)
3	93.9%	14	19
4	94.6%	27	33
5	95.1%	21	18
6	94.4%	23	21

School Fund – January

Thank you to the families who have contributed towards school fund on ParentPay this month. We received £73.87 in January, and this supports us to make purchases for the children in our school. There is no expectation for families to pay school fund, it is completely voluntary, but the more we get means we can keep other costs for families to a minimum.

Comic Relief 2024

The school council will be meeting this week to discuss ideas to support and raise funds for Comic Relief, on Friday 15th March. Once the council have debated and agreed the events of the day, we will inform families via our App.

Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings

We have now scheduled and shared with parent/carers evenings as below:

Year 3 - Wednesday 6th March

Year 4 - Wednesday 6th March

Class 5 - Wednesday 6th March AND Thursday 7th March

Class 6 (Mr Moore) - Thursday 7th March

Year 6 - Thursday 7th March

Letters to book your appointment times were handed out on Monday 15th January. If your child was absent, please ensure they ask for their letter on return to school. Appointments have been given on a first come basis and teachers

have endeavoured to give you an appointment as close to your selected time. Children should have brought home your allocated appointment time so please check their bags.

To help you in remembering your time I will also add it to this app calendar. So, if your child is in Class 1 find Wednesday 6th March on the app calendar and you will see a schedule of times - your child's initials will be added to your appointment time

School Dinners

School dinners remain as popular as ever and children do enjoy the independence of choosing their meal from the menu each morning.

It is great to see so many families signing up for the themed events, a good way for children to sample various things from the menu, in fact, because of these themed days more children have signed up for the permanent Friday school meal option.

Please ensure you keep your ParentPay balances in credit to cover the cost of your child's school meals.

Year 6 trip to Robinwood – Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May 2024

Just a reminder (and encouragement) that you can pay little and often from your child's Robinwood 2024 balance. The full amount must be paid by **Friday 26th April** to ensure your child can go. **FAILURE TO PAY IN FULL WILL RESULT IN YOUR CHILD LOSING THEIR PLACE.**

Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2025

For children in current Year 5, we recently requested initial interest for a residential in May/June 2025. Based on the interest received we will be booking a residential in 2025. We are still to confirm the date next year, but this will not prevent us from making arrangements and requesting the £25 non-refundable deposit. If you showed an interest, you will be contacted when it is time to pay, if you did not complete the interest form, we will contact you to offer you a chance to book a place.

Update on school term dates and staff training days

Reminder that you can see our school term dates on the app calendar/website and our app 'notice' section or request a copy from school.

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

Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

All children in Year 6 have ordered their leavers hoody and the order has been placed (and received!). The deadline for families to pay for their child's hoody is Friday 26th April 2024. Hoodies will be given to children after their May SATS.

Enrichment Club w/c Monday 26th February 2024 (all clubs finish at 4.30 p.m.)

If it is a free club, you will have had a message to confirm your place on 31/01/2024.

If it is a paid club, you will have had a payment item assigned to ParentPay, if you cannot remember paying, please go to your ParentPay main page, scroll down, and check your 'paid items.'

Monday – SATS Booster club

Monday – After school Band

Monday – After school Quiz club

Tuesday – After school Karate

Tuesday – After school Cross-country

Tuesday – After school Art club

Tuesday – After school Crochet club

Wednesday – After school Nerf battle club

Wednesday – After school 'Joe Wicks Sessions'

Wednesday – After school French club

Thursday – After school Maths fun colouring club

Thursday – After school Lego club

Thursday – After school Multi-skills club

Friday – After school Computing club

Friday – After school Dodgeball

Swimming

Class 6 swimming sessions will end at February half term. These sessions will then move to Year 4, as follows:

Tuesday - all of Class 3 will swim last lesson.

Thursday - all of Class 4 will swim last lesson.

Children will need to be collected from the swimming baths on these days, if they have clubs or Infant school childcare they will be walked back to school.

School Uniform

We are continuing to see several children wearing clothes that ARE NOT school uniform. If you need to order more uniform for your child, this can be done online at <https://www.totstoteams.com/schools/consett-junior-school/> We have noticed some children were still wearing trainers on non-PE days and not the correct uniform items. Children not wearing the correct PE kit will be given spares to change into. There are several months to go before Summer and the policy must be followed. You do not have to purchase the uniform from Tots to Teams – most local stores stock our colours and they are very reasonably priced.

Children's Mental Health Day

We are going to celebrate Children's Mental Health Day on Friday 9th February. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters.' The children can come to school in something that they feel comfortable in, or they can come in something to 'express yourself.' They will be taking part in activities across the day linked to mental health and this year's theme.

CJS FAM FEST 2024

Please see below the initial details of our event...finer details will be provided nearer the time, which will include the festival theme, what to expect on the day and more...

"On Friday 24th May 2024 we are combining our mother and Father's Day event into one and will be holding this from 1.00 - 3.30 p.m. at Consett Rugby Club.

As we are providing a variety of things to engage all families with on the day, there is a cost, but we are trying to keep these costs to a minimum for families. Therefore, tickets to the event will be a one-off family charge of £10. This is for both adults and any children in our school. You can even bring a grandparent or younger sibling along at no extra cost. Wrist bands on entry will be provided.

On the day there will be food carts and stalls available but are additional purchases, as we are a cashless school, you would need to pay for these things to the stall holders on the day. If you know of anyone that might like to host a stall,

please contact Mrs Raine.

To allow us to have an idea of the number of adults attending, please can you complete this form on or before Friday 26th April.

Payment is due for the event on ParentPay on or before Friday 26th April"

World Book Day- Thursday 7th March

Our literacy coordinator, Miss McNeill will be sharing details shortly – keep checking the app for her post as details about the day are in the planning process.

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

Friday 2nd February – Miss Waters class can come to school in non-uniform as their reward for the best attendance in January.

Wednesday 7th February – Pancake school meals for children on school meals and those that placed and order and received confirmation

Friday 9th February – Children with support plans (SEN) will receive their updated copies today

Friday 9th February – Mental health day

Tuesday 13th February – Breakfast club pancake day, £2.50 on ParentPay or free for FSM/PP. No need to book a place.

Wednesday 14th February – Spring 2 enrichment clubs must be paid for by today

Wednesday 14th February – Valentine's Day school meals for children on school meals and those that placed and order and received confirmation

Friday

Friday 16th February – Whole school maths day (details shared on app) children to come to school dressed as Rockstar's

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.

Friday 23rd February – Final day for Year 3 to order a packed lunch for their trip to The Hancock Museum on Friday 8th March.

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

Friday 1st March – Secondary school places are announced.

Wednesday 6th March – Selected Year 3 children will participate in a Basketball event at North Durham Academy

Wednesday 6th March – Parent/Carer consultation evening for Year 3, Year 4, and some of Class 5

Wednesday 6th March – No Nerf club today

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day in school; details to follow

Thursday 7th March – Parent/Carer consultation evening for Year 6, Class 6, and some of Class 5

Thursday 7th March – No Multi-skill club today

Friday 8th March – Year 3 will spend the day at the Hancock Museum; Mrs McMahon will be sharing details on the app

Friday 15th March – Selected qualifying children to participate on the County Cross Country finals. All team members in upper school will go, regardless of if they are running, this is due to being a supportive team. Year 4 children will be notified prior to this event. It will be an earlier arrival at school due to coach times.

Friday 15th March – Comic relief, the school council will meet shortly and let us know the plans for the day.

Tuesday 19th March – Final after-school karate session, grading during after school time next week.

Tuesday 26th March – Karate grading.

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.

Monday 15th April – Around the World in Sporty days...details to follow but an active day to 'kick off' the summer term.

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

Friday 26th April – Last day to pay for Year 6 Leavers Hoodies.

Friday 26th April – Last day to pay for your CJS Fam Fest tickets on ParentPay

Monday 6th May – School closed for one day (Bank holiday).

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

Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May – Year 6 residential to Robinwood

Friday 24th May – Last day of Spring Term 2. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this.

Friday 24th May – CJS Fam Fest 2024

Monday 3rd June – School reopens for the first half of the summer term at 7.45 a.m. for breakfast club.

Tuesday 11th June - Consett Academy are holding TWO parent information evenings sessions for current Year 6, the two times available are 4.00 - 5.00 p.m. or 5.00 - 6.00 p.m. These are just drop-in sessions so no need to book a place

Thursday 13th June - Consett Academy are hosting two parent/carer coffee mornings for current Year 6, the first is 13th June between 9.00-10.00 at the Academy. The second is next week, 20th June.

Thursday 20th June - Consett Academy are hosting their second parent/carer coffee morning between 9.00-10.00 at the Academy.

Tuesday 2nd July - Consett Academy uniform session for current Year 6. This is at the Academy between 4.00 - 6.00 p.m.

Friday 12th July – End of year school reports out today

Friday 19th July – Last day of term

Thursday 5th September - School reopens to all students today (Thursday 5th September). Breakfast club starts at 7.45 a.m. and there is no need to pre-book a place.

*Wednesday 4th September is a staff training day and closed to pupils.

Please ensure children return on the same school meal arrangements to prevent charges on ParentPay. Contact Mrs Raine if you would like to change.