



Consett Junior School

January 2024 Newsletter

Welcome back to school and the start of a new year. We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and welcomed the new year in safely.

This is a short newsletter, containing a few reminders and dates to be aware for this month.

Emergency Contacts

As you are aware, we use a school app to communicate with families. This is used for general day to day communication and reminders. In an emergency of an individual child, the text message service would not be used in the first instance, telephone contact would be made in priority order, to all numbers on the child's file. If it is a whole school emergency, and evacuation is necessary, then the app, email and text message system would be used simultaneously. We understand that, due to the nature of some families' jobs, they cannot have their phone to hand. If this is your scenario then please inform school if you have not already done so. These parents/carers details will also be added to a contingency list which will be in the evacuation emergency pack. Our school app and website remain the main and first form of communication to families when communicating whole school/year group information. Please actively refer to these systems. If you have changed your number or moved address, please ensure this information is given to Mrs Raine or updated on your side of the app.

Spring Attendance Reward

From Thursday 4th January all children are back in the attendance draw for the Spring term. Therefore, if their attendance was lower than hoped last term, they have a fresh start at gaining more raffle tickets for the Spring Term reward. Therefore, all children are in with a chance of being awarded 6 raffle tickets. Children who achieved 6 last terms will need to keep their excellent attendance level this term.

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%.

There are also several children arriving late for school each day. We will be contacting families about that this term. Children can become very embarrassed when entering a class late, it disrupts the lesson and sadly often these children

are arriving at school unprepared. The registers close at 9.15 a.m., so children arriving at school after this time will have an unauthorised mark applied, these marks are referenced should a referral for a fine be necessary. Unauthorised marks count when referrals are made to process fines.

School Dinners

We continue to have almost half of the school children on school meals each day, with Friday still an extremely popular choice. Please ensure you inform Mrs Raine when your child changes meal arrangements as your ParentPay account will be charged. There are several families that are in arrears on ParentPay for school meals and/or breakfast club, can you please ensure your accounts have enough credit for the services you use. Moving forward we will be reviewing these arrears and regular prompts for payments at the Finance Committee, the administration time to send prompts to the same families each week is becoming problematic.

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

Just a reminder that you can pay little and often from your child's Robinwood 2024 balance. The full amount must be paid by Friday 26th April 2024 to ensure your child can go. There are less than four months left to pay and there are many families who have so far only paid their child's deposit. Please do not get to the point where children will be unable to go. After February half term we will be sending home emergency contact and medical diet forms, it is important you complete and return these. Alongside this there will be a 'suggested' clothing list issued to help you get prepared.

Robinwood 2025 – for current Year 5

During this half term we will be sending out further information about our current Year 5 children booking a place to go on the residential trip to Robinwood in 2025. We try to give over a year notice so that you can pay off the balance little and often. Information on booking a place will be sent out in due course, I have the preliminary interest details, I am just waiting for the Centre to confirm dates and costs.

Class of 2024 Leavers Hoody Ordering

Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing a booking form (online) for Year 6 families to order Leavers Hoodies for their children. We will only be taking orders; payment will not be required until Friday 26th April. We order the hoodies early to ensure they are delivered to school in time to give to the children on completion of their May SATS. If you place an order and do not pay, we will not be able to give out their hoody.

December Voluntary School Fund

In December we received £96.51 which was used to subsidise the cost of the recent Christmas events.

Mobile phones and smart watches

Following the children's return after Christmas, more children are likely to bring their mobile phone into school. Whilst we have no objection to this, we do insist on children following the school policy if they choose to bring their phones to school. All phones must be turned off on entering the grounds and handed to their teacher, they can collect them at

the end of the day and must not turn them on until out of the school grounds. Cellular smart watches are not permitted due to Safeguarding.

School Uniform

As this is the start of the new term, you may need to order more uniform. This is done online at <https://www.totstoteams.com/schools/consett-junior-school/> We noticed some children were starting to wear 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.

Class Timetables

Class timetables may have changed, if I have been provided with new timetables they have been added to the app, the app 'hub' and the school website. If this applies to your child's class and no new timetable is updated, teachers have been requested to add a post to the newsfeed, so you are aware of your child's new PE days.

Clubs' commencing Thursday 4th January 2024

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. **Our clubs are now full and new ones will be shared for Spring half term 2 in approx. four weeks.**

Clubs for Spring Term 1 commencing 4th January:

Monday – Construction club until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Hughes.

Monday – After school band until 4.30 p.m. **for existing members only.** Please pay Miss Waters £1.50 per week (Starts Monday 15th January).

Monday – After school computing club until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon.

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 board games club until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Atkinson.

Tuesday – After school crochet club until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Thompson.

Wednesday – After school Falcon's rugby club until 4.30 p.m. for existing members.

Wednesday – After school 'Just Dance Video Sessions' until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Raine.

Wednesday – After school French club until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Pattinson.

Thursday – After school colouring club until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Watson.

Thursday – After school mindfulness club until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon.

Friday – After school jigsaw puzzle club until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Moore.

Friday – After school gymnastics with an external coach.

Swimming

Swimming continues for Class 6 (Mr Moore) for this half term. Children will remain in the same groups as last half term.

Sports events

We have several sports events this term, if your child has been selected then individual messages will be sent and the date added to the app calendar.

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.

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.

Thursday 4th January – Class 6 swimming lessons re-commence.

Thursday 4th January – Enrichment clubs re-commence, if you have not paid for your child's place then it has been removed.

Wednesday 17th January – Selected Year 3 children will participate in a Gymnastics Festival at Northern Hope, Birtley. Families will be notified if this applies to their child. Children must be in school before 8.30 a.m. on this day as the coach leaves at 8.40 a.m. Children will be back in time for lunch.

Thursday 18th January – Selected Year 5 children will participate in a Gymnastics Festival at Northern Hope, Birtley. Families will be notified if this applies to their child. Children must be in school before 8.30 a.m. on this day as the coach leaves at 8.40 a.m. Children will be back in time for lunch.

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.

Friday 1st March – Secondary school places are announced.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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