

Th August 2024)



## Consett Junior School

### April 2024 Newsletter

I hope all our families enjoyed the Easter holidays in whatever they did together, we now lead ourselves into the summer term and its already looking busy! Please take a moment to read this newsletter and make a note of dates applicable to your child.

#### Attendance

The attendance for March was quite impressive based on the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, overall, the attendance for the month was 96.06% which is above the government target of 96%. I passionately believe that this is because we all worked together to establish and treat cases of Scarlett Fever, including following the advice of the Health Protection Team. Thank you to all families for working with us to prevent and treat this illness as we could not have done this on our own.

Over the next two weeks we will be looking at all individual attendance's again (summer term review) and will need to invite several families into school for a meeting to discuss support and strategies to improve attendance. I am proud to say that most meetings held for children in the spring and autumn terms were positive and improvements have been noted, thank you to those families.

Some families may remember me reporting to on attendance regulations two years ago, the governments push was to make their '*working together to improve attendance*' **legislation rather than guidance**. Two years on and this has now become mandatory (as of 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024) and with it there are changes that will affect all families.

#### Some of the key changes are:

- A fine to parents must be considered if a child misses 5 days of school for unauthorised absence, this is currently 7 days.
- Absence fines charged to parents will **rise from £60 to £80, or £160 if not paid within 21 days**.
- From Autumn term 2024, **only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period**. Any notice thereafter will **automatically be charged at £160**.
- From September, schools will **have to consider a fine if a pupil misses 10 sessions** (half days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of **10 school weeks**. This includes '**late**' absences after registers are closed ('U') codes
- We already do this, but all schools **must share daily attendance data with government from September**.

Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

As you are all aware, we regularly promote and support families and children with attendance and educate the children about the importance of being in school regularly and on time, in March there were 68 'late' marks recorded, remember that children not in school before 9.15 a.m. are marked as 'unauthorised' (U) which means they arrived at school but too late, these 'U' codes count as sessions missed and will count in the process of issuing 'FPN's'. Our incentives are enjoyed by the children, on many occasions I have needed to promote our strategies with the LEA as they often do not

feel rewarding children is the way forward, but our monthly, termly, and annual rewards are welcomed. We currently have 34 children with 100% attendance for this entire school year, these children, if still at 100% will be taken out for a meal, by staff, at the end of the year. Last year only 13 children achieved this, so I am already negotiating booking the entire restaurant!

### March attendance results...

What a close race this month, Year 6 have topped the charts with 97.3% attendance, therefore their treat day is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, children in Year 6 will have a selection of goodies to enjoy that day.

The registration group reward was remarkably close indeed; however, Class 5 DID IT AGAIN! They are phenomenal, they achieved 98.3% attendance in March and were closely followed by Class 7 who achieved 98.2%...well done again Class 5, enjoy a free non-uniform day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Year Group	% Attendance	Unauthorised absences (marks)	Lates (marks)
3	95.9	0.4%	14
4	95.4	0.3%	30
5	95.9	0.1%	3
6	97.3	0.2%	21

### School Fund – March

Thank you to the families who have contributed towards school fund on ParentPay this month. We received £149.69 in March which went towards homework treats, Easter treats for all children and competition prizes. There is no expectation for families to pay school fund, it is completely voluntary.

### Dogs on the school premises- REPOST

It seems that families are not aware that dogs on school premises are not permitted, this has previously been shared on the school app since September. There are also signs at the entrance to school by the parent shelter. We ask that you please take note of these and DO NOT bring dogs onto our premises.

### School Dinners

As already informed, the daily cost for dinners has risen again and is now £2.81, this is sad news but out of our hands and due to the cost of food prices. On return to school after Easter children can also choose a 'school packed lunch' option. We are a pilot school for this school meal and their push is to try and help FSM families with children that bring in a packed lunch each day.

### Parents, Carers and Childminders Drop-In (Send and inclusion team)

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, from 1pm-3pm we are holding a Parents, Carers and Childminders Drop-In and Chat Coffee afternoon with Sabrina Basra and Theresa Eastaugh who are Advisory Inclusion Teachers from the SEND & INCLUSION team at Durham County Council. This will be an informal group chat where we can talk about challenges, difficulties, and solutions offering support and guidance and signposting to other agencies/professionals. No need to book - just turn up any time. We look forward to seeing you there!

## [Around the World in Sporty Ways- American Football](#)

On Monday 15th April, which is the first day back after the holidays, we have a special sporting event happening in school.

On this day, we have an external coach with a sporting theme of 'Around the World' they have chosen to come in to teach all classes how to play American Football! Children can come to school on this day wearing their normal PE kits, or if they wish to, they could wear the colours of the American flag (red, white, and blue), they could come dressed as an American footballer or they might want to wear a football kit they already own.

## [Safeguarding update](#)

**We have been asked to share this by DCC**

We have been made aware of some social media platforms where children of primary school age are encouraged to join groups and then to self-harm.

We would ask you to be extra vigilant over the Easter holidays with regards to your child's online activity, so that they are not drawn into these groups.

If you need extra information on how to support you child, then the following link to the NSPCC site may be useful:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/inappropriate-explicit-content/promotion-self-harm/>



## [Year 5 and 6 Maths Ambassadors](#)

👍👍👍 Introducing our Y5/6 maths ambassadors 👍👍👍  
Jack, Alfie, Scarlett, Rubie, Amelia, Amber, Holly, Jacob, Toren,  
Chester, James, Caleb and Hayden 👍👍👍 Our ambassadors will  
be peer tutoring some of our Y3/4 children 👍👍👍 They will be  
passing on their love of maths whilst helping to develop the maths  
skills of younger pupils 👍👍👍 CJS are very proud of you  
👍👍👍

## [Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2024 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024](#)

The deadline to pay in full is **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April** to ensure your child can go. **FAILURE TO PAY IN FULL ON THIS DATE WILL RESULT IN YOUR CHILD LOSING THEIR PLACE.** Please log in and check your child's balance, there are still families that have only paid their

deposit, so it is imperative to check. If you do not pay in full by end of day on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April then your deposit will be lost and all funds you did pay (if any) will be refunded back to your ParentPay account that day, we will also remove your child's details from the portal we share with Robinwood. When you completed the form to request a place last year you accepted the payment terms stated.

## [Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2025 – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025](#)

Deposits are due on or before 26<sup>th</sup> April and the final balance is to be paid by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025. If you do not pay your £25 deposit by 26<sup>th</sup> April then your child's place on ParentPay will be removed, therefore, removing their place from the trip in 2025.

## [School uniform ordering – September 2024](#)

I know you might feel like it is too far away to think about or may even not want to believe we are nearing the end of a school year. But from my experience it is always worth a little reminder that it is best to be prepared and start thinking about ordering uniform for September sooner rather than later. July and August are remarkably busy months for all uniform providers, and I would not want you to leave it too late so that it does not arrive in time for September. Delivery can be made to home or school but if you are ordering for delivery to school, please **do not** choose this option if placing orders in July.

There is NO expectation that you purchase uniform from our providers, many high streets stores stock our colours of uniform. All we do expect is that children do wear our colours.

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

<https://totstoteams.com/consett-junior-school>

## [White River Brass event 2024](#)

The concert will take place at Consett and Blackhill Park, today Friday June 21st from 2pm.

Children in the band will receive workshops from world famous brass players in the morning and then on the afternoon the school band will perform together with White River Brass at the park.

All children who play in the band will perform.

All our parents are welcome to attend as this will be a lovely afternoon listening to the music and spending time together (fingers crossed for glorious weather!) All children from school will attend the event and will be walked down to the park by the staff in school. They will then need to be picked up from Consett Park at 3pm.

Any children not picked up from the park will walk back to school with their teachers. This is a free event but there will be an opportunity for you to donate money to support Consett Brass. Clubs are not on today but Infant school after childcare is and children will be walked there with staff.

## [Reminder of 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/>

## [Enrichment Club w/c Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 \(all clubs finish at 4.30 p.m.\)](#)

Below is a reminder of the enrichment clubs for Summer 1. Some families booked spaces but did not meet the payment deadline, we did leave this open for an additional 10 days and sent reminder messages. **Those places have now been removed.**

**Monday** – SATS booster club (this will be on TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL for one week only)

**Monday** – After school Band

**Monday** – After school Jigsaw club

**Monday** – After school Mindfulness colouring club

**Tuesday** – After school Crochet club

**Tuesday** – After school Karate with Ross Temple **for existing members**. The grading will be after school on Tuesday 16th July. **There is no after school karate on Tuesday 30th April as Ross is unavailable.**

**Tuesday** – After school Comic strip/Superhero colouring club

Tuesday – After school Lego club

Wednesday – After school cross-country with Mrs Raine, Mrs Hannant, and Miss V Waters for **selected cross country team members only**. Children are back to school for collection at 4.30 p.m. **This used to be a Tuesday but moving forward will always be a Wednesday.**

Wednesday – After school Nerf battle club

Wednesday – After school Quiz club

Thursday – After school 'Around the World' club

Thursday – After school Cricket club

Thursday – After school Multi-Skills club

Friday – After school Computing club. **Due to the FAM FUN FEST, there are no clubs on Friday 24th May.**

Friday – After school Volleyball. **Due to the FAM FUN FEST, there are no clubs on Friday 24th May.**

### Swimming reminder

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. These swimming sessions will be for summer term 1 only. Mr Dixon will inform families who will swim in summer term 2.

### CJS FAM FEST FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

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.

<https://forms.office.com/e/JA2dLBxpji>

Payment is also due for this event on ParentPay on or before Friday 26th April. Several families have completed this form but have not yet made payment. We are relying on these payments to fund the activities on offer during the afternoon.

If you have any raffle prize donations, please can these be sent into school from now until the day of the event.

### Summer dates still to confirm

Below are many dates to add to your diary for the whole summer term, some of these events do require us to share more details. We still need to plan and inform you of Whole school 'Move-up (Transition) Day, Sports Day, and the Year 6 sleepover.

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.

**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 in this newsletter

**Monday 15th April** – American themed school meal for children on school meals and those who have ordered one

**Monday 15th April** – Mrs Taylor has arranged for Animal Exotics to visit school for Year 5 children (reptiles)  
<https://pineappleexoticsuk.wordpress.com/>

**Tuesday 16th April** - Parents, Carers and Childminders Drop-In (Send and inclusion team)

**Friday 19th April** – Class 5 (Mr Meadows) free non-uniform day for fabulous attendance

**Friday 26th April** – Last day to pay for Robinwood 2024 – current Year 6

**Friday 26th April** – Last day to pay for Year 6 Leavers Hoodies. Hoodies will not be given out without payment

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

**Friday 26th April** – Last day to pay the deposit for Robinwood 2025 – current Year 5

**Tuesday 30th April** – No after-school karate, this was shared to families by school and Ross mid-March.

**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.** Year 6 children will have free breakfast club this full week.

**Friday 17th May** – Children who have ordered and paid for their hoodies will receive these today. Mark Wilkinson will also be in school to take our annual Year 6 group photographs.

**Monday 20th – Wednesday 22nd May** – Year 6 residential to Robinwood. Children should come to school for their usual start time and bring their luggage into the hall. Luggage labels will have already been provided. The coach is leaving at 9.00 a.m. Children will be back to school for 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday.

**Friday 24th May** – Last day of Spring Term 2. Children can come to school in festival wear!

**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.

**Thursday 6th June** – Athletics event for selected Year 5/6 children. Details to follow.

**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

**Wednesday 12th June** – Tennis event for selected Year 6 children. Details to follow.

**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.

**Friday 14th June** – Girls TAG rugby event for selected Year 6 children. Details to follow.

**Wednesday 19th June** – Hockey event for selected Year 5 children. Details to follow.

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

**Thursday 20th June** – Netball event for selected Year 4 children. Details to follow.

**Friday 21st June** – White River Brass event – see this newsletter for details

**Friday 21st June** – No after-school enrichment clubs due to White River Brass event. Childcare at the Infants still on.

**Tuesday 25th June** – Quad Kids event for selected Year 3/4 children. Details to follow.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Year 6 transition days for Consett Academy

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

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Last after school karate session. The grading is after school next Tuesday.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – End of year school reports out today

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – End of Year 6 Summer Show, due to the Empire being closed, tickets will be allocated to Year 6 only initially, then opened on a first come basis after that. This will be at Consett Academy and the main parts for the show will go to Year 6 children. Details to follow.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July – After school karate grading

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Summer term attendance celebration day – raffle like previous terms.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Celebration assembly for children who have been nominated (special recognition awards) and those who have achieved 100% attendance over the year. There will also be a meal arranged for the evening. Details to follow nearer the time.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of term, all ParentPay balances must be paid in full. This is a non-uniform day, payable on ParentPay. **There are no enrichment clubs today.**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.