



Consett Junior School

May 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the May Newsletter...

I can't quite believe that we only have 3 and a bit weeks until Summer half term, I'm not sure where the time is going? Although I am, like everyone else, waiting for the weather to improve and allow us some warmth and sunshine.

Our Year 6 children have been working very hard getting ready for their SATs, alongside their teachers I have great faith in them to do as well as they can; we really don't want the children to stress over them, but to relax and do their best. A relaxing weekend before, some fresh air and plenty of sleep will be beneficial to the children.

The following week, some of the staff and children are travelling to Robinwood for a few days of adventure, I'm excited, so I am sure the children will be. The rest of the school will be taking part in DT week in preparation for our Family Fest afternoon on the 24th May at Consett Rugby Club.

Thanks for all who have donated raffle prizes, it is very much appreciated, we just need to cross our fingers for some fine weather.

Also, a big thank you to people who have been in touch to arranged attendance meetings, I know these letters can sometimes be a bit of a shock, but we need to be proactive in our support, so that we can help support families. I know I have shared this before with families, but as the Local Authority can see our attendance live, we have little to no leigh way with how we record attendance, so it is beneficial for all of us that we have those strong relationships.

Anyway, please take care and enjoy the bank holiday weekend, when it arrives...

Mr Dixon

Attendance

The attendance overall for April was 96.67%. For the entire year so far, it is 95.4% so we have a bit to go to get above the 96%.

Over the last few days, we have been writing out to families for several reasons regarding attendance. You can check your child's attendance on the app. The government's target is for children's attendance to be above 96% - sadly, due to individual circumstances, some children can fall below this. However, our role is to monitor and improve attendance and because of this, we do need to alert families where attendance is low.

We will write to you for one of these reasons:

- Invite to a meeting
- Alert you that your child's attendance is lower than the expectation. These letters will be written to acknowledge individual circumstances i.e. on-going health concern, a holiday has caused attendance to drop
- If you had a meeting with us last term and attendance has improved. It is equally important to acknowledge where improvements have been made, these are positives. Unless, since the meeting, there has been no improvements

If you **do not** get a letter, it is because we understand why attendance is low and on comparing with previous year's attendance, we can see there is no pattern.

We are requested to act where attendance falls below 96% - while we do monitor this, it is completely unrealistic for us to invite families of all children below 96% to a meeting. We know our families well enough to intervene at any time we feel there are concerns. I understand that receiving these letters can frustrate families, we are simply doing our job.

If you are invited to a meeting it is vitally important that you arrange this meeting, our data links to the LEA so we are your first port of call to get support and we would much prefer it comes from us and not escalated to County level.

Meetings will be held with either myself, Mr Dixon, or us both.

[April attendance results...](#)

Another close race this month, Year 6 have topped the charts AGAIN with 97.48% attendance, even higher than last month, therefore their treat day is this Friday 3rd May, children in Year 6 will have a selection of goodies to enjoy that day.

The registration group reward was extremely close, and this month Class 5 have been knocked off the top spot, CLASS 7 have put an end to their winning streak. They achieved an amazing 98.91% attendance in April and were closely followed by Class 5 who achieved 97.48%...well done Class 7, enjoy a free non-uniform day on Friday 3rd May.

| Year Group | % Attendance | Unauthorised absences (marks) | Lates (marks) |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 3 | 97.05 | 0.08% | 11 |
| 4 | 95.73 | 0.67% | 7 |
| 5 | 96.56 | 1.75% | 2 |
| 6 | 97.48 | 0% | 4 |

[School Fund – April](#)

Thank you to the families who have contributed towards school fund on ParentPay this month. We received £24.62 in April which went towards class lesson resources.

[School Dinners](#)

The school dinner pilot scheme to provide packed lunches to children as well as school meals is quite a hit. Please consider using this if your child is on home packed lunches but are entitled to free school meals.

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

We have 40 children going on their residential in a few weeks, they are feeling a mixture of excited and scared, but they will love it! Luggage labels will go home in the next few days. Children who are going must arrive at school on the Monday no later than 8.40 a.m. as the coach will leave just after 9.00 a.m., they can come in via the main entrance and place the cases in the hall. On Wednesday they will be back before the usual school end time and we will add a post once home so that families can collect them earlier than normal, if anything to have a good wash!

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

We have 50 children who have paid their deposit to go to Robinwood in 2025, it is important that you take advantage of the 'reducing payment' option on ParentPay to pay for this over the year, you can pay as little and as often as you like.

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

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. On Monday 29th April these dates were updated to include all holidays and inset dates until Summer 2026. These dates are also plotted through this app calendar.

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

[Enrichment Clubs \(all clubs finish at 4.30 p.m.\)](#)

Our current enrichment clubs will end on Thursday 23rd May. Next week we will share the range of clubs and the 'go live' date to book places for the final half term of this year.

[Swimming reminder](#)

Children in Year 4 will not swim after May half-term. Mr Dixon will confirm the next year group to swim.

CJS FAM FEST FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2024 – NOT LONG NOW...



In the next few weeks, we will share the final details of our Fam Fest event. Staff are working hard behind the scenes so that this is an amazing event for all the children and their families, we really cannot wait. All we are hoping for is a dry day, fingers crossed.

Sports Day 2024

On Thursday 4th July, we will be having our annual sports day at Consett Rugby Club. The event will start at 1:30pm and will see children compete in several events 🏈 🏊 🏏

This will be done as a carousel of activities so that all children get the chance to have a go at everything! Children will walk to the Club with their teachers after lunch.

For the event, could children please come to school wearing their house colours, appropriate trousers/shorts and trainers.

The house colours are as follows:

Dale - Yellow

Unsworth - Red

Ainsley - Blue

Edgar - Green

Children know which house they are in.

It is particularly important that children have a cap, water bottle and sun cream applied (if required).

Children can leave with you after the event. Children who still want to go to any booked enrichment clubs and any in after school childcare will walk back to school with staff.

We hope you can join us!

This means swimming is cancelled today.

Year 6 SATS

Year 6 have worked extremely hard this week on their last set of practise assessments before the real thing! The assessments that we used were last year's papers and they were tough, but the children are close now and need to continue to work hard over the next two weeks at home and at school. Please encourage the children to complete homework and read each night - little and often is the most beneficial.

To help ensure the children are on top form for SATS week, we are offering FREE breakfast club for Year 6 Monday 13th - Friday 17th May. Children can come to school any time after 7.45am and eat breakfast with their friends and teachers. This will be beneficial for the children as it will help them to relax and ensure they are in the best frame of mind to begin each of the assessments.

Please remind the children that the outcome of these tests is not relevant to the amazing children that they are, will continue to be and will be. They are government tests and do not consider the amazing qualities every one of them have and how successful we know they are going to be.

[Year 4 running trial dates](#)

Class 3 Monday 10th June

Class 4 Monday 17th June

Children in Year 4 who want to try out for the team need to come to school wearing their school PE kits on their allocated day, they need to see me at 12 noon (before they eat!), tell them that when the bell goes, they come to main reception.

We will take them through a gruelling running trial and will choose the **eight** best runners from each class to join the team. They will be told that day if they have made it and any child not successful can join a waiting list, sometimes when children know how hard and committed training can be they drop out, plus, training will be a Monday lunchtime so they will miss 20 minutes play. We not only choose children based on speed, but we also choose on their ability to listen and follow instruction and team encouragement.

Unfortunately, although I can choose the team now, due to limited staff runners, actual training cannot start until September but knowing they are in the team will give them time to practise.

Please discuss this with your child as it may not be for everyone, and please also stress the importance of road safety when they start in September. We do stress this and our children are excellent but sometime newer members get a little excited 😊

[CC team 7 mile run to Lanchester](#)

On Wednesday 15th May we are planning a 7-mile run (approx.) with selected members of our CC team. We will be running from school at approx. 2.00 p.m. to the Play Park in Lanchester. We will access this route by running to the petrol station roundabout at Morrisons joining the cycle path by to run the line to Lanchester.

We will all run as a team and run backs to those at the back are essential, we estimate it will take about an hour and a half. Once at the Play Park we will have sweets and drinks from the local shop (paid through school fund). We will have a coach booked to bring us back to school and estimate this will be a 4.30 p.m. return.

If we think your child will be able to manage this run, we shared a form to complete on 24/04/2024. If you are unsure and want to talk about it give Mrs Raine a ring. If you have not received this form, it is either because we feel that it is too far for your child OR they have only recently started to train with us. If the weather is not on our side, we may need to rearrange.

[Whole school move up day](#)

On Wednesday 26th June Year 6 will go the Academy (if that is their chosen school), Year 2 will spend the day with us, and all other classes will spend the day in their new class. We are finalising classes for next year and an app post will be added to the newsfeed with details of your child's next teacher in the coming weeks.

Summer Term Attendance Reward

On Wednesday 17th July, we will celebrate our summer term attendance. All children were part of the attendance assembly to promote the importance of being in school regularly and on time. All children were 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. Last term Owen and Henry won this prize and enjoyed choosing their reward.


Throughout the day ALL children were rewarded with treats and refreshments and had 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%.

Can I also take this time to thank our families for supporting our attendance goals and keeping us informed if children are absent. We will soon catch up with families who we met with in the spring term and arrange meetings with families where attendance either continues to be a concern, or ones that have caused concern during the spring term.

Celebrations – 100% attendance and our annual Special Recognition Awards 2023/2024

On Thursday 18th July we will be holding our annual Special Assembly in school. This assembly is to praise all children who have achieved 100% attendance for the **whole** school year and for children who have been nominated for a recognition award. The recognition award acknowledges that a child has shone  over the year, this could be kindness, academic ability, and progress, or just generally being so wonderful that it has been noticed.

If your child is going to receive a special award you will be informed, we will not tell the children about this, so it is a surprise. You can check if your child has 100% attendance on the app, but we will also send these families a message, we have 33 children so far, last year only 13 achieved this.

If these awards apply to your child we will reserve two seats per child for the assembly, which will start at 9.10 a.m. (after registration) - there will be an opportunity for photos after the event.

The assemblies will be split in two as follows:

If your child is in Year 3 or 4 their assembly will be 9.00 - 9.30 p.m. and two adults can attend.

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 their assembly will be 9.45 - 10.15 a.m. and two adults can attend.

It does not end there, on the evening we will also take all these children for tea at Sambucas, a pre-order menu will be sent home beforehand so we can have this in place for the evening. Children are to be brought to the restaurant for 5.45 p.m. and collected again at 7.30 p.m.

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 3rd May – Class 7 free non-uniform day for the best attendance in April

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.

Friday 17th May – Final day to send in donations of raffle prizes for our CJS Fam Fest.

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.

Monday 10th June – Class 3 running trial for the CC team

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.

Monday 17th June – Class 4 running trial for the CC team

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 25^h June – Quad Kids event for selected Year 3/4 children. Details to follow.

Wednesday 26th June – Class 4 running trial for the CC team

Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th June - Year 6 transition days for Consett Academy

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

Thursday 4th July – Sports day (p.m.) Details in this newsletter.

Friday 5th July – Year 6 sleepover in school

Tuesday 9th July – Last after school karate session. The grading is after school next Tuesday.

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

Friday 12th July – All ParentPay arrears must be cleared, especially Year 6.

Friday 12th 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 16th July – After school karate grading

Wednesday 17th July – Summer term attendance celebration day – raffle like previous terms.

Thursday 18th 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 19th 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 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.