



Consett Junior School - October 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families,

What a fantastic first month we've had at our school! I'm delighted to share some wonderful highlights from our recent experiences.

Our pupils have been absolutely outstanding, demonstrating exceptional behaviour and settling beautifully into their new classes. The energy and positivity around the school have been truly inspiring. It's been a joy to witness the warmth and enthusiasm as our pupils adapt to their new learning environments.

One of the most delightful sounds filling our corridors has been the school band practising. Their dedication and emerging musical skills bring such vibrancy to our school community. Additionally, the start of the football season has been exciting, with pupils eagerly participating in afterschool clubs and showcasing their sporting spirit.

I'm particularly proud to highlight our breakfast club, which has been brilliantly attended, with 90 children starting their day together. This provides a wonderful opportunity for pupils to connect, enjoy a nutritious meal, and prepare positively for their learning.

Meeting new families has been another heart-warming aspect of this month. We're thrilled to welcome new members to our Consett Junior School community and look forward to supporting their educational journey.

Our pupils continue to be our greatest source of pride - wonderful, engaged, and full of potential.

Paul Dixon

Headteacher

Attendance

As we progress into Autumn 2, I would like to take the opportunity to discuss the vital importance of regular school attendance for your child. While academic achievement is understandably a priority, there are numerous other enriching experiences and benefits that highlight why daily attendance is so crucial. From social interactions to extracurricular activities, school provides a nurturing environment that fosters growth and development in various dimensions of a child's life.

It is essential to note that Mrs Raine monitors attendance closely, and as a result, some families may be requested to come into school for an attendance meeting (unless the sole reason for low absence has been a holiday). This practice is in line with the Education (Student Attendance) (England) Regulations 2006, ensuring we provide support where needed. Each family's situation will be considered individually, and for those who are new to our school, we will reflect on previous attendance patterns to gain a comprehensive understanding of your child's needs.

As we strive for a whole school attendance target of 96%, our current attendance record stands at 96.9%, outperforming the national average of 95.5%. This figures highlights our commitment to fostering a culture of attendance and engagement. For clarity, this means that out of 2,270 possible attendance marks, 2,200 were recorded as present—a commendable achievement.

We understand that children can occasionally become unwell, and we encourage families to consult the NHS guidelines regarding whether their child is too ill for school, accessible at [NHS Live Well](#). Additionally, for

children with medical conditions that may impact attendance, our staff is dedicated to working collaboratively with families to create tailored support plans.

We truly value your partnership in encouraging regular attendance, as it plays a significant role in your child's overall experience and success in school.

September Attendance Results

We are pleased to present our attendance report for September. This month, our overall attendance stands at an impressive 95.6%, which is slightly below the national average of 96.1%. Year to date, this places us at a national percentile of 61, indicating that we are performing well relative to other schools in our phase.

The attendance value represents the total number of present marks out of the total possible attendance marks taken at each roll call point throughout the day. This data accounts for all types of students, including guest students.

It is important to note that under the Education Act 1996, parents can face fines for their child's absence from school without valid reason. Each absence session can significantly impact a child's learning journey. Regular attendance is essential as it helps foster a consistent educational experience and contributes to a child's overall achievement.

Looking into individual performance, all children with 100% attendance to date are in the running for six raffle tickets at our autumn term attendance assembly. It's vital that students understand the importance of attendance – those who maintain 100% attendance all year will be rewarded with a special meal in July.

As we reflect on September, we are genuinely impressed with how well our students have started the academic year. Consistent attendance lays the foundation for success, and we encourage everyone to strive for high attendance levels moving forward.

The following tables illustrate the attendance statistics across various year groups and classes, detailing the percentage of students present, unauthorised absences, and instances of lateness.

Class Results

The registration group winner is Class 2, with an outstanding attendance rate of 97.84%. As a reward for their efforts, Class 2 will enjoy a free non-uniform day.

Class	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Class 2	97.84%	0.0%	6
Class 6	97.56%	0.0%	2
Class 5	97.11%	0.88%	1
Class 1	96.98%	0.97%	2
Class 7	96.1%	1.44%	3
Class 4	95.45%	0.61%	7
Class 3	94.92%	2.73%	17
Class 8	93.25%	4.39%	2

Year Group Results

In terms of year group attendance, we commend Year 3 for achieving the highest attendance at 97.42%. As a reward, they will enjoy sweet treats on Friday, 3rd October. Year 5 also exhibited great effort; we encourage them to maintain this momentum as we aim for another reward next month.

Next month, we look forward to recognising Year 5's continued efforts, as their determination and commitment to attending school will undoubtedly put them in contention for the reward. Let us all aim to improve our attendance further and promote a positive learning environment. Thank you for your support in fostering a culture of attendance at our school.

Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Year Y3	97.42%	0.48%	4
Year Y5	97.28%	0.46%	7
Year Y4	95.18%	1.71%	24
Year Y6	94.69%	2.89%	5

School Dinners

Parents are reminded to monitor their ParentPay accounts to ensure they remain in credit at all times. Accounts falling into significant arrears, where parents do not respond to requests for payment, may unfortunately result in the termination of meal services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

On the last day of this half term, 23rd October, the school will host a Halloween themed meal. Children on school meals will receive this automatically, while those on packed lunches can opt in by completing the form below by Friday, 10th October.

<https://forms.office.com/e/JMcBW4kKcq>

Year 3 Settling in Drop In

The school is pleased to announce a Drop-In session for Year 3 parents on 15th October, from 3.30pm to 5.00pm (last entry by 4.50pm). This informal opportunity allows parents to chat with the class teacher and view their children's work. Overall, the students have settled well and are producing excellent work. No booking is necessary; parents are welcome to arrive within the specified timeframe.

Toy Appeal Support 2025

As the festive season approaches, the school wishes to acknowledge, "Christmas". For those who may be facing financial difficulties during this time, it is encouraged to reach out for support. The school is committed to ensuring that every child experiences the joy of the season. Recognising that pride may prevent some families from asking for assistance, they emphasise the importance of communication regarding needs. In previous years, they have partnered with the Salvation Army and generous donors. This year, a similar approach will be taken. For confidentiality, a designated form is available, and donations of new toys or gifts are warmly welcomed.

<https://forms.office.com/e/3XMSnjjuft>

Voluntary School Fund

The school expresses heartfelt gratitude to families for their generous contributions to the private school funds. Such support significantly enhances the children's experience, allowing for additional purchases and festive treats, including Christmas celebrations, pantomime outings, gifts, daily rewards, and class incentives. These contributions are particularly valuable during this festive season. It is important to note that whilst this fund is voluntary and not a requirement for all families, it undeniably enriches the educational environment for every child. In September we received contributions of £102.19.

Halloween Party Day

On Thursday 23rd October, the school has an exciting day planned for the children, featuring a day of spooky celebrations. Party entertainer DJ Paul Watson will host Halloween parties for each year group throughout the day. Should any child wish to opt out, they will be provided access to a quieter area for alternative activities. A contribution of £2 per child is requested, with a payment item available on ParentPay. Children are invited to wear their 'spooky outfits'; however, masks must not be worn in the yard or classroom. Non-uniform is acceptable for those not wishing to dress up. There will be no change to the school day timings, and clubs will continue as scheduled. Please note, if a child has PE, it is unlikely to take place due to the parties in the hall.

We are not requesting any party food for this event.

Year 6 Robinwood Residential – Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Just a reminder that the final date to pay the remaining balance is Friday, 24th April 2026. It is crucial to note that this is the last date to pay; if any balances are not cleared in full by this date, your child will regrettably not be able to attend. Spreading costs is encouraged where possible.

BBC Children in Need 2025

Children in Need is Friday 14th November, the council will meet over the coming weeks to decide how we will raise funds in school, the theme is "Challenge yourself 25". Aside from this there will also be a themed school meal on that day. Details will follow but I have heard there is pumpkin designing competition in the running...

School Uniform

Families are kindly requested to ensure their children are dressed in the correct school uniform and that all items are clearly named. There has been an unprecedented increase in lost property after just four weeks, with many items unlabelled. Furthermore, named items are frequently not being returned after they go home with children. Additionally, it has been noticed that some children are wearing football strips for PE, which is against school policy. Please make sure that your child's PE kit complies with the established guidelines found on the school website: [School Uniform Policy](#).

Reach More Parents – Consett Junior School App

As you are aware, the school utilises *Reach More Parents (Consett Junior School app in app store)* to communicate with families. This app provides up-to-date information, event details, and a facility to contact the office, as well as report absences. Any adult with parental responsibility can access the app; however, it is common for only one parent to enrol, which is acceptable provided at least one parent follows the communications. During busy periods, such as this, failing to engage with the app may result in missing essential information. Notifications can be disabled, but doing so may lead to missed school events.

IMPORTANT: If you have not activated your Reach More Parents account when the link is sent to you, you may miss out on important information.

After School Enrichment Clubs – Autumn 2

This information will be reposted on the school app on Thursday 9th October at 6.00 p.m., directing you to ParentPay to book and pay for your chosen clubs. Please note that payment is required at the time of booking, as clubs will be added directly to your basket. We encourage you to spend time discussing these opportunities with your child. It is important to clarify that these clubs are solely for enrichment purposes and do not serve as childcare. As our staff members voluntarily give their time for these activities, please be aware that if you require a club mainly for childcare, you may not be able to secure your first preference; however, alternative clubs may be available. **Please mark your calendar: clubs will commence on Monday 3rd November, and there will be no clubs on Friday 19th December.**

Monday Clubs:

- **After School HYROX Club** – An engaging activity that alternates between outdoor running and exercise station workouts (until 4.30 p.m. with Miss White and Mrs Hannant)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 24 children. Full payment is required to secure your child's place.
- **After School Band** (until 4.30 p.m. for existing members only)
Cost: £1.50 per week, payable to Miss Waters.
- **After Seasonal Crafts Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Wearmouth and Mrs Slight)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 26 children. Full payment is required to secure your child's place.
- **After School TT Rockstars and Rollama Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Holden)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 children. Full payment is required to secure your child's place

Tuesday Clubs:

- **After School Karate** with Ross Temple (for existing members)
Limited to 4 places. Please contact Ross at ross@kenshokarate.net.
- **After School Stay and Play Club** (featuring Lego, colouring, iPads, and puzzles) (until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Atkinson and Mrs Slight)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 30 spaces.

Wednesday Clubs:

- **After School Nerf Club for Years 3 & 4** (until 4.30 p.m. supervised by an external coach)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces. This club is funded through our PE Budget, making it free for all children.
- **After School 'Walk and Talk' Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Raine, Mrs Gilray, Mrs Guy, and Miss V Waters for existing members)
This club is free and limited to 30 participants, with 6 spaces currently available. For this club, please reach out to Mrs Raine via the app. All children from previous terms will retain their places, which will be reflected on ParentPay.
- **After School Just Dance Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Pattison)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 16 spaces.

Thursday Clubs:

- **After School Seasonal Colouring Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Watson)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces.
- **After School Lego Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs McMahon)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 24 spaces.
- **After School Nerf Club for Years 5 & 6** (until 4.30 p.m. supervised by an external coach)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces. This club is funded through our PE Budget, making it free for all children.

Friday Clubs:

- **After School Homework Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Moore)
Cost: £6 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 22 spaces. Full payment is required to secure your child's place.
- **After School Seasonal Movie Club** (until 5.15 p.m. with Mr Dixon and Mrs Guy)
Cost: £12 per child (£2 per week)
Participants: Limited to 30 spaces. **Children may bring a snack for this club.**
- **After School Sports Hall Athletics Club** (with an external coach)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces. This club is funded through our PE Budget, making it free for all children.

School Photograph Ordering – Deadline date is Thursday 23rd October

On Monday 22nd September, children brought home photograph proofs from Mark Wilkinson. The last day to return orders to school is Thursday 23rd October. Any late orders must be sent directly to the shop. Only the plans outlined on the form can be ordered, and payment details are included on the form. Should you wish to have the photo retaken or if your child was absent on the day, please arrange an appointment with Mark in Middle Street. All payments will go directly to Mark via the school; the school does not receive any commission from these photographs, as per the agreement, enabling Mark to keep costs low for families. When making payments, it is essential to return the proof, fill in the form completely, and enclose the exact amount, as envelopes are not opened.

Parking on the Estate and around about

The school has received a request from the police to communicate an important message to families regarding parking on and around the estate. The current parking situation has become increasingly challenging for staff, as the staff car park has been out of use, necessitating that teachers park in the surrounding area. It is worth noting that there are potentially five schools in close proximity, further complicating the matter. Therefore, the school kindly asks that families refrain from blocking drives, as complaints from residents, councillors, and the police have been frequent. It is hoped that, upon reopening the staff car park, staff vehicles can be relocated from the estate.

Secondary School Applications

Below is information about applying for your child's secondary school place. One bit of advice, please ensure you click "submit" and check that you have received a generic email from the team.

"The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2026 Intake begins on 01 September 2025. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31 October 2025. If parents do not wish to apply online, they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team from 01 September 2025. These application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Please note that if you have any year 6 pupils who live in another local authority but attend your school, the parents should contact their Home Local Authority (i.e., the authority to which they pay their council tax) to request an application form, even if the parent would like to apply for a Secondary School in County Durham.

Thank-you for your co-operation with this matter, it is much appreciated. If you have any questions relating to this, please contact me via telephone on 03000 265893 or by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk "

Robinhood - Pantomime visit to school

Today (Tuesday 4th November) M & M productions will be visiting our school during the morning to put on a spectacular performance of Robinhood. 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 make a donation please do so under 'school fund' on ParentPay.

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

Term Dates

Currently, there have been no changes to the future term dates already shared with families. You can find a comprehensive copy of all term dates on the website under 'Parents-School Holidays' or within the 'Info' section of the School App.

The following is a direct link to the schedule of all term dates and training days for academic years 2025, 2026, and 2027: [Term Dates](#).

School will finish for the first half of the Autumn term at 3:25 p.m. on Thursday 23rd October 2025. We will then be closed for a staff training day on Friday 24th October 2025. We will reopen for the second half of the Autumn term on Monday 3rd November 2025. The last day of term is Friday 19th December 2025, with school resuming again on Monday 5th January 2026.

Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 3rd October – Class 2 (Miss Thompson) free non-uniform day for winning the September class group attendance
- Friday 3rd October – Year 3 sweet treats for winning the September year group attendance
- Thursday 9th October – Autumn 2 enrichment clubs go live at 6.00 p.m. payment is immediate when you book
- Friday 10th October - Final day to order a Halloween themed meal
<https://forms.office.com/e/JMcBW4kKcq>
- Wednesday 15th October - Year 3 drop-in - Wednesday 15th October from 3.30 p.m. and ends 5.00 p.m.
- Friday 21st October – If your child is on packed lunches and you pre-ordered a Halloween meal, a confirmation message will be sent today.
- Thursday 23rd October – Halloween party day; details to be shared soon. Party food is not required for this event.
- Thursday 23rd October – Last day to return photo orders to school
- Thursday 23rd October – Last day of Autumn Term 1. Children may come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine; payment option is available through ParentPay.
- Friday 24th October – School closed for staff training—one day only.
- Friday 31st October – Deadline to apply for your child's secondary school place (applies to Year 6)
- Monday 3rd November – School reopens for Autumn Term 2.
- Tuesday 4th November – M & M Productions will be performing 'Robinhood' in the school in the morning.

- Friday 7th November – Details not yet shared but today is the final day to order a school packed lunch for the Year 5 cinema trip <https://forms.office.com/e/MUbU4eBztk>
- Friday 14th November – Children in Need 2025. Details to follow.
- Tuesday 18th November – Year 5 cinema trip. Details to follow. Children will need a packed lunch on this day.
- Friday 21st November – Last day to request help from the Salvation Army Toy Appeal <https://forms.office.com/e/3XMsniuft>
- Monday 24th November - Year 5/6 Basketball Event - Selected children. Details not yet shared.
- Wednesday 26th November - Year 5 Basketball Skills Event - Selected children. Details not yet shared.
- Monday 1st December – Something twinkling and magical will be in the hall today...
- Tuesday 2nd December - Last after school karate session this term. Grading during after-school session next week
- Tuesday 9th December – After school karate grading
- Tuesday 9th December – Whole school Archery Day. Details to follow.
- Wednesday 10th December – Christmas dinner day, children can replace their school jumper with a festive one today; details to follow.
- Thursday 11th December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day £1; details to follow.
- Friday 12th December – Interim report out to children in Year 4, 5 & 6.
- Wednesday 17th December – Christmas party day; more information to follow. Contributions of party food will be required.
- Friday 19th December – Last day of the Autumn term. Children may come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine; payment option will be available through ParentPay.
- Monday 5th January - School reopens for all students again. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking.
- Friday 20th February - Last day of the Spring 1 half term. Children may come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine; payment option will be available through ParentPay.
- Monday 2nd March - School reopens for all students again. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking.

The statutory key stage 2 tests are scheduled from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026.

The statutory key stage 2 tests are again slated for Monday 10 May to Thursday 13 May 2027.