



Consett Junior School- September 2025 Newsletter

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year.

We are extremely excited to have all our children back this week and looking forward to welcoming our new Year 3 families and children into the CJS family. The first few days will focus on settling the children back into school and forming relationships with new peers and adults. Six weeks is a long time to be out of the school routine, so it is important this is done sensitively to ensure we get this right for all.

Attendance

At Consett Junior School attendance has always been an important focus for us and we strive to go above 96% attendance each month. For families new to our school, we wanted to emphasise this and the rewards we have in place for promoting excellent attendance. We have monthly class and year group treats; termly individual rewards as well as whole school year individual rewards. The children love these and respond well to them. It is also an excellent way of making the children aware of how important attendance at school is, not only for their education but for friendships.

Our rewards are always popular, best monthly class attendance receive a free non-uniform day; best year attendance receive cakes/fruit/treats; termly attendance is a raffle ticket and celebratory hour where children with the highest attendance can win £20 to spend on amazon and we also celebrate 100% over the full year with a meal out with some staff.

There are several ways of monitoring attendance and there are also systems in place for monitoring patterns of absences, i.e., always a Friday or always the same type of illness. Whilst we are very aware that most cases of absence are genuine, there is a minority where this is not always the case. We have a legal duty to ensure that you bring your child to school each day. We have and will do house calls on families we are concerned about, and we will involve all parents/carers who have parental responsibility should we have concerns. We are here to support you but most important of all, we want your child in school, so they make progress and flourish.

In 2022 DfE (Department for Education) started a consultation process that was expected to be agreed in the Autumn term 2022 with legislation progressing through Parliament in preparation for September 2023, however, there was a delay in this but as you may have heard in the news recently, this legislation was all passed and it commenced on 19th August 2024. There are many changes to monitoring attendance; providing attendance support and the process for issuing FPN's (penalty notices) and how we manage this in school. A separate post will be added to the app reminding you of the changes, as well as some fact sheets with further details.

Holidays in term times are not permitted and we do refer families who do hit the number of days absence for an FPN. More details on attendance can be found here <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/about-us/school-attendance/>

Mrs Raine – Attendance Champion

Contact Details

Following the return to school after such a prolonged period, your circumstances may have changed. You must ensure you have made us aware of any changes. It is vital we have the correct contact information on file for your child. This could include a change of address, contact numbers, your listed emergency contacts, or a separation of parents/change

to children's living arrangements. If your child does not live with you and you require additional information posted/mailed to you, this can also be arranged i.e., school reports.

Appointments

Where possible can you ensure any medical appointments are made outside of the school day. We completely understand that some appointments can only be made during school time. Where this is the case can you ensure copies of appointments are provided.

School Dinners

School dinners are £2.95 per day, and this must be paid on ParentPay, please try to keep your balances in credit. The current menus, which are likely to be in place until half term can be found on the app – hub – summer menu from April 2025. School dinners are on offer for all children, but you must inform Mrs Raine if you want your child to access them, likewise, if your child is changing to packed lunches, a two week notice period must be provided.

Children eat their meals in the school hall and there are no rules in place that children must sit together by meal arrangements. Lunchtimes are for the children to socialise and if this means children sitting where they are happy, then we very much promote this.

Children have the independence of choosing their own school meal options every morning through 'cypad' this links to ParentPay and charges for the day appear on there from 3.00 p.m.

Voluntary School Fund

School fund is particularly important to us and what we can offer our children. Often school budgets are restricted, so those smaller treats and resources that we need in school, even subsidising the cost of trips, is paid for through the school fund. Christmas time and end of school year are times that this fund is heavily used. You can pay school fund on ParentPay, and it is a voluntary fund and entirely your choice if you contribute. For things that require payment, i.e., a trip, we will inform you of this.

Robinwood Residential Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th May 2026

Our Year 6 residential to Robinwood is all booked. The final date to pay the full remaining balance is Friday 24th April 2026. We cannot stress enough that this is the final date to pay, if balances are not cleared in full by that day, then your child will not be able to attend. Please ensure you pay off little and often to make this more manageable.

School Uniform for September 2025

We have stressed our expectation of wearing the correct uniform (including PE kit) for some time now. If children are not wearing the correct uniform, then we will send letters/messages home and if necessary, ring parents/carers. We will be monitoring this over the next few weeks and will contact you should we need to, here is also a link to our uniform requirements <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/parents/our-school-uniform/>

Please place orders online at <https://totstoteams.com/consett-junior-school> however, there is no expectation that you make your purchases from this shop, other high street stores sell our colours and some at a cheaper rate.

'Reach more Parent's (Consett Junior School App)

I wanted to remind/inform families that they have the opportunity to enable other users to have some access to their child's account.

One of the good features of our current app was that anyone can download it as long as they have an access code, therefore allowing extended family members or childminders to be informed of things happening in school i.e., coffee mornings, cancelled clubs etc - which is useful if parents/ carers are busy at work and may miss an alert (rest assured, important whole school messages are shared using ALL methods of communication).

We can add others as 'guest' users which will let them open an account and see information relating a specific child. Sensitive information, such as parent/carer contact details, attendance reports, absence reporting etc will not be made

available, but the general news alerts, posts, photos, and calendar events that relate to that child will be visible.

If you are a family that would like a 'guest' user added to their child's account, can you please email me their full name and their email address to consettjunior@durhamlearning.net

PLEASE NOTE – IF YOU DID NOT ACTIVATE YOUR WEDUC ACCOUNT WHEN THE LINK WAS SENT TO YOU, YOU WILL MISS OUT ON VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

After School Enrichment Clubs all end at 4.30 p.m.

We do not offer 'childcare' based clubs, for this you would need to make other arrangements. We do offer some enrichment clubs which will start in the Autumn half term. These places have already been offered and secured. If you did not pay in time, then the place has been removed and you will have been sent a message to inform this.

If you have forgotten, free clubs message confirmations were sent on 10/07/2025 and paid clubs were assigned to ParentPay. You can see your paid for clubs at the bottom of your main page on ParentPay. There is also a clubs display in school for children that need a reminder. All clubs end at 4.30 p.m. and for sports clubs' children should come to school wearing their school PE kit.

Monday Clubs:

- After School Animation Club
- After School Band
- After School Computing Club

Tuesday Clubs:

- After School Karate
- After School STEM Club
- After School Colouring Club
- Crochet Club (external club)

Wednesday Clubs:

- After School Dodgeball Club - Years 5/6
- After School 'Walk and Talk' Club
- After School Just Dance Club

Thursday Clubs:

- After School Food Technology Club
- After School Lego Club
- After School Dodgeball Club - Years 3/4

Friday Clubs:

- After School Quiz Club
- After School Ball Skills Club

Swimming Sessions - Important Update for Year 4 ONLY

Swimming lessons were due to resume in the first full week of term (therefore Monday 8th September 2025) and for the first term this was for Year 4 (Class 3 swim on a Monday and Class 4 swim on a Tuesday). Since setting this timetable the Council have informed schools and the wider public that their facilities will be closed for ten weeks. Mr Dixon will share information to Year 4 on our next steps, if any. To date, I have no information about if or where children will be

allocated to swim.

Inhalers in School for Children with Asthma

Please ensure your child brings an inhaler into school if they have a doctor's diagnosis of Asthma. Children should have taken their inhalers home at the end of term. Please check the expiry date and return one with them ASAP.

If your child needs an inhaler in school, it must be prescribed by their GP, therefore have their name on. Labels are usually on the box, if you have disposed of the box, you can put their name on the inhaler itself. You should also complete a school Asthma form, if you require this form, please speak to Mrs. Raine.

If your child is new to our school and you need support with this, please get in touch.

School Photographs - Wednesday 10th September

Local photographer, Mark Wilkinson, will be in school on the morning of Wednesday 10th September to take 'individual' and 'siblings' photographs of all the children in school. If children have PE on this day, they must bring their kit to school in a separate bag, therefore all children must be in their school uniform on this day.

If you have children in different schools and you would like them to have their photograph taken as a family, there will be a queueing system from the main reception at 8.35 a.m. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE ANY SOONER AS THERE IS NO ACCESS TO THE HALL UNTIL THEN. Please ensure that your child's school is made aware that they will be late for school. In previous years this has been popular so please be prepared to queue with your child. If you have several children in our school then they will be photographed together as well as on their own, you do not need to bring them in for the earlier session.

If you are a family where parents are separated and need two copies, please let Mrs. Raine know (this is only applicable to families that are new to our school as Mrs Raine knows current family arrangements)

Children will receive a proof order on a later date. All bulk orders can be made through school by a set deadline, alternatively, please make your order directly with the local shop (Middle Street).

Ordering details will follow after the 10th of September.

Flu Immunisation programme

The flu nasal immunisation team will be in school on Friday 19th September, further information will follow, as well as a link/letter to give permission for your child to receive this immunisation. Although not painful, the nasal spray can be tickly and cause irritation, this can unsettle children. If you opt to give permission, can you also discuss the procedure with them prior to the day to reassure them. Without permission children WILL NOT receive this immunization.

Term dates

Currently there is no change to future term dates that have already been shared. A copy of all term dates can be found on the website 'Parents-School Holidays' or in the 'Info' section of the School App.

However, below is a direct link to a list of all term dates and training days for 2025/26/27.

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

School breaks up to end the first half of the autumn term at 3.25/3.30 p.m. on Thursday 23rd October 2025.

School closed for one day, staff training, on Friday 24th October 2025.

School reopens for the second half of the autumn term on Monday 3rd November 2025.

School breaks up for Christmas on Friday 19th December 2025 and reopens on Monday 5th January 2026.

Bringing Bags and fidget toys into School

Could we remind you that children should only be bringing packed lunches, morning healthy snacks (fruit/cereal bar) and water bottles in from home. No pencil cases or large bags which are empty are necessary. Therefore, children on

school meals should only have their water bottle/snack, children with 'carry handle' packed lunches should not have large bags.

Apart from the fact we are trying to keep our school as clean as possible, these items are not necessary and are creating issues with regards to safety as well as space in classrooms/cloakrooms.

Dates for your Diary

September – Secondary school applications open, separate post will be added to the app.

Thursday 4th September - School reopens to all students today (Thursday 4th September). Breakfast club starts at 7.45 a.m. and there is no need to pre-book a place.

Monday 8th September – Autumn 2 enrichment clubs commence from today. If you have not paid your place has been revoked.

Wednesday 10th September – School photo day.

Friday 19th September – Flu immunisation team in school – details to follow.

Thursday 23rd October – Halloween party day. Details to follow. Party food not required for this event.

Thursday 23rd October – Last day of Autumn Term 1. Children can come to school in non-uniform/Halloween outfits for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this (under non-uniform fines).

Friday 24th October – School closed for staff training – one day only.

Monday 3rd November – School reopens for Autumn Term 2.

Tuesday 4th November – M & M Productions will spend the morning in school performing in Robinhood!

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas dinner day. Details to follow.

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas party day. Details to follow. Party food contributions required.

Friday 29th December – Last day of the Autumn term. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this.

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

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

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 10 May to Thursday 13 May 2027.