



Consett Junior School - November 2025 Newsletter

Dear Families,

I am delighted to share the exciting developments and achievements from our school over this busy half-term.

Our school community has been incredibly active, with numerous events and accomplishments marking these past weeks. The Halloween disco has provided a wonderful finish to our half-term, bringing pupils and staff together in a spirit of fun and celebration.

Our sporting achievements have been particularly noteworthy. The boys' football team demonstrated remarkable skill and determination, securing a credible 4th place in the league. Their performance in the cup competition was equally impressive, reaching the semi-finals and only being eliminated by the eventual tournament winners, Tanfield. This represents a significant achievement for our pupils.

We are also immensely proud of our cross-country runners. Two of our pupils, Oscar and Enya, have qualified for the County Cross-Country finals in Peterlee. This continues our school's strong tradition of excellence in running and represents a tremendous personal achievement for these pupils.

In academic achievements, I am particularly pleased to announce that Mr Moore has successfully secured the Primary Science Quality Award. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and commitment of both our pupils and staff, with Mr Moore playing a pivotal role in driving scientific standards within our school.

Our school band is already in early preparation for the Christmas period, and auditions for school performances have commenced. These activities provide wonderful opportunities for our pupils to develop their creative and performance skills.

We continue to offer a broad and enriching educational experience that supports the holistic development of our pupils.

Have a lovely half term break and I look forward to catching up with everyone during the next half-term.

Paul Dixon

Headteacher

Attendance

We would like to take this opportunity to share some important information regarding school attendance for this academic year. As of today, our school attendance stands at 95.8%, which is slightly below the national average of 96.3%. Out of 227 pupils this level of attendance reflects our commitment to ensuring that every child is supported in their learning journey.

Please remember that school attendance is crucial for your child's academic success, social development, and future opportunities. Regular attendance helps students grasp key subjects, build essential social skills, and demonstrates reliability to future employers.

Families can easily check their child's individual attendance by logging into the school app. We encourage you to stay informed about your child's attendance record.

As we have completed seven weeks of this academic term, we will be closely reviewing attendance data. For families with noticeably low attendance or patterns of absences, we may arrange a meeting to discuss ways we can support you and your child. If your child had a low attendance rate last year and was on an attendance contract, please remember that this must still be followed.

We understand that occasional absences may occur due to holidays or legitimate health conditions, provided that we have received the necessary documentation. In such cases, a meeting will not be required. However, we will also address any ad-hoc days missed in our attendance review process.

October Attendance Results

We're thrilled to announce the results of our October attendance challenge! Drumroll, please! 🥁 This month, **Class 1** has emerged victorious, achieving an outstanding attendance rate of **98.15%**, earning a well-deserved free non-uniform day on **Friday 7th November!** A fantastic effort that has seen them knock Class 2 off their previous top spot!

Hot on their heels, **Class 3** was just a fraction behind with an impressive **98.11%**, showcasing the competitive spirit in our school. It was so close, in fact, that I had to wait for the afternoon marks before finalising this announcement!

In our year group category, **Year 3** takes the crown again for the second consecutive month, with an incredible **97.91%**. They will be treated to some delightful sweet treats on the same day. Congratulations to all our classes for your dedication and hard work! Keep it up! 🎉

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 1, with an outstanding attendance rate of 98.15%. As a reward for their efforts, Class 1 will enjoy a free non-uniform day.

Class	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Class 1	98.15%	2	4
Class 3	98.11%	2	14
Class 2	97.69%	0	2
Class 5	96.75%	11	2
Class 7	96.58%	2	7
Class 6	96.22%	16	7
Class 4	94.12%	8	3
Class 8	94.02%	34	4

Year Group Results

The year group winner is Year 3, with an outstanding attendance rate of 97.91%. As a reward for their efforts, Year 3 will enjoy sweet treats.

Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Year Y3	97.91%	2	6
Year Y5	96.49%	27	9
Year Y4	96.19%	10	17
Year Y6	95.32%	36	11

School Dinners

As the colder months approach, we are excited to announce our new autumn/winter menu, designed to provide your children with wholesome, nutritionally balanced meals. Starting after half term, children can look forward to heart-warming dishes such as Roast Chicken with Potatoes and Gravy, Spicy Pasta Bake, and our delicious Veggie Burger with Chips. We are also serving a variety of fresh salads and crunchy vegetables with every meal. Remember, all meals can be tailored to accommodate specific dietary needs. Please note that as families need to give two weeks' notice to transition to these new options, informing you now allows this to start from 3rd November. We believe that warm, nourishing meals are essential for keeping our children happy and healthy during the chilly season!

Please contact Mrs Raine if you would like your child to change meal options.

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/3XMsniuft>

Voluntary School Fund

We are delighted to inform you that we have received £88.54 for our voluntary school fund this October. This fund plays a vital role in enhancing our children's experiences at school, and we appreciate your generous contributions. It can be found on ParentPay for those who wish to contribute.

As we approach the festive season, this fund will help support our upcoming parties, special treats, Christmas gifts, and class rewards. Your continued support makes a significant difference in ensuring our children enjoy these memorable moments.

Donations of Christmas Baubles

If you are changing your Christmas tree decor this year and have some old baubles that you no longer need, our Seasonal Crafts enrichment club would be delighted to take them off your hands! Please send them into school for Mrs Wearmouth. The more donations, the merrier!

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.

Year 6 Robinwood Residential – 2027

In January, we will be sending out a general interest form regarding the residential trip to Robinwood, Alston, scheduled for May 2027. This trip will be for our current Year 5 students, who will be in Year 6 at that time. We encourage you to complete this form once it is shared, as it will help us confirm our booking with the centre.

Typically, we can book between 52 to 56 children for this trip, while our Year group currently consists of 57 students. However, please note that not every child enjoys this type of residential experience; those who choose not to attend will still partake in enjoyable activities at school.

As this trip takes place in a warmer month, the cost will be higher; although I do not yet have final costs, I would budget for approximately £350.

BBC Children in Need 2025

Mrs McMahon will soon be shared the detailed post, but to give you some insight...on Friday, 14th March 2025, we are thrilled to host a spectacular Children in Need Day filled with 25 fun activities! Students are encouraged to wear spotty or Pudsey-themed attire, and we will kick off with a delightful cake sale at playtime. Each house group will participate in a spirited 25-lap challenge around the yard, followed by a thrilling 25-metre penalty shootout. The School Council will cleverly hide 25 Pudsey bears for a fun treasure hunt.

Classes are invited to create their own 20 exciting activities, with suggestions including 25 jumping jacks, a 25-piece obstacle course, and contributing 25 items to school resources. Join us for a day of creativity and charity!

We are also running a themed meal, to pre-order this please complete this form <https://forms.office.com/e/tf69VMKp6S>

Autumn 2 class timetables

We are pleased to inform you that we have recently shared the new timetables and long-term PE plan for Autumn 2. These have been added to the app "Hub" and the class pages on our website.

Reminder of end of school day finish times

Since returning in September, we have observed an increase in the number of children being collected early from school by their siblings who attend Consett Academy, as well as those with children in Beechdale Nursery. As you know, our school day ends at 3.25 p.m. or 3.30 p.m., and it is crucial for our children to be present in class until this time. Leaving even 20 minutes early is similar to arriving late each morning, as it disrupts their learning and the educational environment for others.

While we understand that early collections may be necessary for appointments, this message is intended to address those regular and routine early pickups that can be avoided. Afternoon lessons often involve foundation subjects such as art and PE, and being called away can upset children who are engaged in their work or team games.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring that children remain in school until the end of the day.

Christmas Show information

At Consett Junior School, we pride ourselves on putting on the ultimate Christmas shows to entertain our families and this year will be no different! We are aware that this means two shows in one day for families with children in lower and upper school, we are sorry about that, but it is unavoidable and is to support families with children across the school who struggle with time off from work.

Our Christmas Shows are as follows, please take a few minutes to read this information to ensure the day runs smoothly, Tickets sales are open on ParentPay now, £3 per ticket.

On **Tuesday 16th December** your children will all perform on stage in the theatre at Consett Academy

Year 5/6 -10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

Year 3/4 - 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.

Both shows are at **Consett Academy** and will follow these housekeeping rules - you **WILL NOT** access the theatre through their main student entrance.

- To gain entrance to the theatre please go through the Leisure Centre main door, walk past the reception desk on your right and along and through the doors stating, 'Squash Courts'. Please try to remain quiet as there will be members of the public participating in sports.
- There are two tickets allocated per child. So, if you have a child in Year 3 you can purchase two tickets. If you have a child in Year 3 and Year 4 you can purchase up to four tickets. This allows every child to have at least two adults there to watch their show. I will monitor ticket sales nearer the time of the show and the likelihood is we can open up 'additional' ticket sales on a first come basis.
- Before you enter the theatre, Mrs Raine will need to sign you in - you will already have provided the details of who is attending so this will be a fairly quick process.
- The doors will open at 9.30 a.m. for the morning show and 1.30 p.m. for the afternoon show but the shows will not start until 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. so, if you get there within the 30 minutes before the show starts, please note you will have a longer wait.
- Both shows will last approximately an hour.
- Morning shows will mean the children return to school for lunch and their afternoon lessons, afternoon show will mean the children have their lunch before they leave and will bring their belongings with them to leave for home from the theatre.
- If you have siblings in Consett Infant School we have asked them to hold your child back if they are in the afternoon show.
- At the end of the afternoon show children will have their belongings with them and will be excused from the stage by class. Clubs and Infant School childcare are still on and these children have the option to leave with you, or return to school with staff.
- All adults, regardless of the show they are watching, will then exit the theatre the way you came in, through the Leisure Centre.
- **Important** - as well as purchasing your tickets through ParentPay you must complete this <https://forms.office.com/e/WbqCyypP9Q>
- The Academy need to know who is in their building for Safeguarding and Health & Safety. If you purchase two tickets, you only complete one form with their names on. If you then purchase additional tickets, you will need to complete this form again adding their names. If you do not do this, it will cause problems on show day, and we will refuse entry. If the person you name changes before the show you must inform us. **DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM IF YOU HAVE NOT PURCHASED TICKETS.**
- **You will not receive physical tickets; your ParentPay payment is your receipt and the register we hold will record the number of seats allocated and purchased.**
- This will not impact on the usual school meal arrangements.
- If there are children in the show with no adult present, they will return to school with class teachers for collection.
- **You must not video or take photos of your children during the performances - we have a duty to safeguard children in our care.**
- Enjoy the show it can be very daunting for our smaller children to be so amazing on the stage, so make them feel as magical as the stars they are!

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

To view your pre-booked club bookings for your child, please log into ParentPay and navigate to the "clubs" section on ParentPay. Steps below:

- 1 - Your home page then click the three lines at the top left
- 2 - Click payer dashboard
- 3 - Click your child's name (for this I will choose Dawn)
- 4 - Choose "Clubs"
- 5 - All clubs will be visible and the ones you have booked once in them, will be highlighted green.

Monday Clubs:

- After School HYROX Club
- After School Band
- After Seasonal Crafts Club
- **After School TT Rockstars and Rollama Club**

Tuesday Clubs:

- After School Karate with Ross Temple (for existing members)
- After School Stay and Play Club

Wednesday Clubs:

- After School Nerf Club for Years 3 & 4
- After School 'Walk and Talk' Club
- After School Just Dance Club

Thursday Clubs:

- After School Seasonal Colouring Club
- After School Lego Club
- After School Nerf Club for Years 5 & 6

Friday Clubs:

- After School Homework Club
- After School Seasonal Movie Club (until 5.15 p.m. and can bring snacks)
- After School Sports Hall Athletics Club

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

On 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](#). Before Christmas I will be sharing the term dates "2026/27/28" I am just waiting for DCC to confirm 2028.

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 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 current 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.
- Wednesday 5th November – Final day for packed lunch children to pre-order Children in Need themed meal <https://forms.office.com/e/tf69VMKp6S>
- 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 7th November – Year 3 sweet treats for winning the October attendance and Class 1 (Mrs McMahon) have a free non-uniform day.
- Monday 10th November – Vicki Lydon will spend the day in school to focus on Anti-Bullying week
- Friday 14th November – Children in Need. Donations of cakes required. There is also a Children in Need themed meal today.
- 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
- Friday 5th December – 9.30 a.m. coffee morning for families of Year 6 band members. Details to follow.
- Monday 8th December – Year 6 band children will perform at Consett Salvation Army. Details to follow.
- 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.
- Monday 15th December – Whole school Christmas show dress rehearsal at Consett Academy, no change to usual start and finish times.
- Tuesday 16th December – Whole school Christmas shows. See content of Newsletter for details.
- Wednesday 17th December – Christmas party day; more information to follow. Contributions of party food will be required.
- Thursday 18th December – Autumn Term attendance celebration day and raffle. Details to follow but can be found in the app calendar.
- 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.
- Friday 19th December – There are NO ENRICHMENT CLUBS today.

- 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.
- Thursday 2nd April – Last day of the Spring term. Children may come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine; payment option will be available through ParentPay.
- Monday 20th April - 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.