



## Consett Junior School- Christmas 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the festive season, I am delighted to share some of the exciting activities and achievements happening at Consett Junior School.

Our pupils have been incredibly busy this month, with several notable highlights capturing the spirit of our school community. The girls' football team has been demonstrating remarkable skill and teamwork, representing our school with pride and determination. Their commitment to the sport is truly inspiring.

In the realm of performing arts, our school band is preparing for their Christmas concerts with exceptional dedication. The musicians have been diligently rehearsing, and I am confident their performance will be a highlight of our festive celebrations. Alongside the band, our pupils are immersed in Christmas show rehearsals, bringing energy and enthusiasm to every practice.

I cannot express enough how proud I am of our magnificent children. They are working exceptionally hard across all areas of school life, showing remarkable resilience, creativity, and commitment to their learning. Their efforts do not go unnoticed, and they continue to inspire us all daily.

As we look forward to the Christmas experience, I am particularly excited about our classroom Christmas windows. These creative displays promise to be a wonderful celebration of pupil creativity and festive spirit. I am looking forward to seeing how each class interprets the holiday theme and transforms their learning space.

The upcoming Christmas shows are a testament to the talent and hard work of our pupils. These performances are not just entertainment, but a reflection of the collaborative spirit and dedication that defines Consett Junior School.

We are creating memories that will last a lifetime, and I am privileged to be part of this incredible journey with our pupils, staff, and families.

Paul Dixon  
*Headteacher*

### **Attendance**

As we enter this time of year, we are experiencing a significant increase in absences due to illness, which is a common occurrence during the colder months. We understand that many families are understandably concerned about their child's health and may wonder if their child is fit to attend school. To assist you, please consider the following guidance: if you are unsure whether your child is too unwell for school.

For those who have signed the necessary form in their starter pack, we can administer Calpol to your child at school. However, please note that any prescribed medications for new illnesses will require you to come in and complete a form.

Regrettably, many of the reported absences are due to general coughs and colds, often accompanied by headaches. These symptoms are typically viral, and the best course of action is usually rest at home and Calpol to alleviate discomfort.

Today, our attendance is at its lowest in a long time, with only 92% of children present. Classes 2 and 7 are the only ones with full attendance. We have received 18 absence notifications, and many children in school are not at their best.

It is evident that there is a significant illness circulating in our community, impacting us all. We wish everyone who is unwell a speedy recovery and encourage you to prioritise rest and care.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### **Autumn Term attendance meetings**

We would like to inform you that attendance meeting requests for the autumn term will be sent out recently. Each request is assessed individually, so if your child has existing medical conditions and has provided all necessary letters and appointments, or if there is a healthcare plan in place, you may not be contacted for a meeting. Similarly, if your child's absences are predominantly related to planned holidays and you have followed the correct procedures for informing us, it is unlikely that you will receive a meeting request.

However, if we have concerns regarding low-level attendance, particularly if there are no valid reasons provided, or if attendance issues exhibit a regular pattern, a support meeting will be necessary. Our primary aim is to understand the barriers your child may be facing and to offer the appropriate support.

We reached out to you via the app to request that you arrange a meeting with me at school. Please rest assured that these meetings are intended to foster understanding and support, not to create discomfort. In the event that you do not schedule your appointment, one will be arranged on your behalf.

It is crucial to highlight that should attendance concerns persist and the initial support meeting is not accepted, this will be noted on referral forms submitted to the council. We want to avoid involving the local authority, as all schools are responsible for managing attendance effectively. Maintaining an attendance rate of above 96% is vital for your child's educational progress and well-being.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this matter. Our collective goal is to ensure every child reaches their full potential, and your involvement is key to achieving this.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to working with you to support your child's educational journey.

Mrs Raine

Attendance Champion

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2339/School-attendance-and-absence>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance\\_-\\_August\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf)

### **November Attendance Results**

We are excited to share the outcomes of our November attendance challenge! Drumroll, please! 🥁 This month, Class 1 has triumphed once more, achieving an exceptional attendance rate of 97.63%! They have earned a well-deserved free non-inform day on Friday 5th December! A commendable effort from Class 2, who were in close competition with Class 1.

Class 6 was not far behind, boasting an impressive 96.06%, demonstrating the competitive spirit within our school. It was such a tight race that I had to wait for the afternoon marks before finalising this announcement!

In our year group category, Year 3 claims the title again for the third month in a row, with an outstanding 97.91%. They will be rewarded with some delightful sweet treats on the same day. Congratulations to all our classes for your commitment 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 was Class 1.

Class	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Class 1	97.41%	2	9
Class 2	97.32%	4	3
Class 6	95.89%	6	9
Class 7	95.16%	8	8
Class 8	94.5%	49	8
Class 4	93.61%	7	7
Class 5	93.19%	8	4
Class 3	91.96%	9	17

### Year Group Results

The year group winner was Year 3.

Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Year Y3	97.91%	6	12
Year Y6	94.84%	57	16
Year Y5	94.52%	14	13
Year Y4	92.77%	16	24

### Autumn Term Attendance Celebration Day

Thursday 18th December, we will celebrate our autumn **term** attendance. All children will be part of an attendance assembly to promote the importance of being in school regularly and on time. Children will be 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 of each draw will see me on Monday or Tuesday next week to purchase a prize up to the value of £20 on Amazon. This will give the child the time at home to choose something that Santa may not already have ready to deliver!

Throughout the morning ALL children will also be rewarded with treats and refreshments and will have 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. It is amazing to see that we still have 88 children (this time last year it was 64) with 100% and will receive 6 raffle tickets.

All schools choose their own procedures on rewarding and promoting attendance - most do not reward anything other than 100%.

### **School Dinners**

There are too many families in arrears on ParentPay, all accounts should hold credit to pay for services used.

Our school Christmas Dinner is on Wednesday 10th December (also Christmas Jumper Day). If your child usually accesses packed lunches and would like a Christmas Dinner on this day, there was an order form to complete before the end day on Thursday 28th November, if you have missed the deadline, please contact school. Children on school meals will automatically have one.

### **Toy Appeal Support 2025**

We sincerely thank families for their generous donations of toys for the Salvation Army Toy Appeal. Your contributions will help ensure all children in our community wake up with a gift on Christmas morning.

### **Voluntary School Fund**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all families for your generous contributions to the November school fund, which totalled £137.71. This wonderful support has enabled us to organise a delightful pantomime, provide gifts for the children this Christmas, and acquire essential resources for our classes. While there is no expectation to contribute, every donation truly makes a difference. Your kindness and commitment to our school community are greatly appreciated!

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

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to pay the full balance for the Robinwood trip in May 2026 is 24th April 2026. Many families have only paid their deposit so far. Please be mindful of this deadline to ensure a smooth planning process.

### **Year 6 Robinwood Residential – 2027 (repost)**

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.

## **Government Winter FSM vouchers**

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November all the individual government winter FSM household vouchers were issued via email to eligible families this. If you have not received your voucher, please let me know (check spam/junk first).

## **Christmas Fun and Food 2025**

Booking live date was noon Monday 24th November 2025. If this applies to you, you will have already received your voucher via the app.

*"Christmas Fun and Food 2025 (Holiday Activities with Healthy Food)*

*The Christmas holidays are fast approaching, and we are working with a range of partners across the county to develop a wonderfully festive Fun and Food offer for our children and young people in County Durham.*

*As we did last year, we have asked school to distribute Fun and Food Tickets to families who are in receipt of benefits related free school meals only through their school communications channels.*

*The tickets will have a link for parents to explore what is on in their area and to book their children onto any activities of interest.*

*We have set up an enquiries inbox for any parents who may need to ask questions– the email address is [funandfoodtickets@durham.gov.uk](mailto:funandfoodtickets@durham.gov.uk)*

*If you have any queries, feel free to reply to this email.*

*Regards*

*Fun and Food Team"*

## **Spring 1 class timetables**

We are busy sorting the Spring 1 timetables and they will be with you before we finish for Christmas. As always, these will be published on the website and the app.

## **Christmas Show ticket sales**

This is a friendly reminder that tickets for our Christmas shows are still on sale via ParentPay for just £3 each! Each child is allocated two tickets, and you have until this Sunday to secure your allocation.

I'm excited to announce that additional ticket sales will open at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 1st December. A new payment item will be available for families wishing to purchase extra tickets. Currently, we have 100 tickets left for the Year 3/4 show, with 26 families yet to buy tickets, and 120 tickets available for the Year 5/6 show, with 36 families still needing to purchase.

Please remember to complete the register if you have purchased tickets, as there will be strictly no admission without a ticket.

## **Christmas Show costumes**

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November show costumes were added to the app and they are “pinned” to the top for ease. Please do not go out and make purchases for outfits, that is not the aim. If you do not have what is asked, please speak to your child’s class teacher.

### Christmas Show information - repost

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!

### After School Enrichment Clubs – Spring 1

This information will be reposted on **Thursday 4th December 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 5th January. Using ParentPay to choose your clubs also means it prefills your ParentPay calendar so you will know the days and clubs your child will attend. **DO NOT BOOK CLUBS IN THE PAYMENT ITEMS SECTION!**

#### Monday Clubs:

- **After School Cartoon Drawing Club** – (until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Atkinson and Mrs Slight)  
**Cost:** £7 per child (£1 per week)  
**Participants:** Limited to 28 spaces. 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 School Indoor Sports Club** (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

#### Tuesday Clubs:

- **After School Karate** with Ross Temple (until 4.30 p.m. for existing members). FULL.
- **After School Jigsaw and Games Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon, Mrs Guy and Mrs Slight)  
**Cost:** £7 per child (£1 per week)  
**Participants:** Limited to 40 spaces.

#### Wednesday Clubs:

- **After School Multi Skills 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.
- **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, FULL (updated on 26/11/2025). All children from the autumn term will retain their places, which will be reflected on ParentPay but you still need to book.
- **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 Homework Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Moore)  
**Cost:** £7 per child (£1 per week)  
**Participants:** Limited to 22 spaces.
- **After School Computing Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Watson)  
**Cost:** £7 per child (£1 per week)  
**Participants:** Limited to 24 spaces.
- **After School Multi Skills 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.

### Friday Clubs:

- **After School Card and Board Games Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Howe)  
**Cost:** £7 per child (£1 per week)  
**Participants:** Limited to 26 spaces.
- **After School Gymnastics Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with an external coach)  
**Participants:** Limited to 20 spaces. This club is funded through our PE Budget, making it free for all children.
- **After School Art Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon)  
**Cost:** £7 per child (£1 per week)  
**Participants:** Limited to 26 spaces.

### Christmas Party Day

We have arranged the Christmas party day for all children on Wednesday, 17th December. Children can come to school in party clothes but they will need suitable outdoor clothing and footwear for break time and lunchtime. Parties for the whole school will be all day with classes taking part in activities/games in the classroom and taking turns to use the school hall; the party will end at 3.30 p.m. as normal.

We want to make every child have a special day over the festive period, and although many children will be blessed with celebrations galore, some children may not be so fortunate. With this in mind, we have once again booked DJ Paul Watson to provide each year group with a party to remember...

The company is going to spend the whole day in school and will entertain each year group in turn with games, music, props, prizes and more! The cost of this is £1 per child, which should cover some of the cost; the rest will be paid from our Private School Funds. This £1 is to be paid via ParentPay.

Children will have their normal meal (school dinner/packed lunch) at lunchtime and the party food at about 2.30 p.m. Could we please ask for donations for the party tea from parents as follows (to be brought in that morning or the day before if containers are sealed).

Year 3 and Year 5 savoury items (items that require cooking, must be cooked before bringing to school)

Year 4 and Year 6 sweet/cake items

Donations of food help to keep the costs of events for families to a minimum, this is already an expensive time of year.

### Term Dates

Recently we shared the updated term dates which take us to the summer of 2028. 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 2026, 2027, and 2028: [Term Dates](#).

The last day of term is Friday 19th December 2025, with school resuming again on Monday 5th January 2026.

### Dates for Your Diary

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Something twinkling and magical will be in the hall today...
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Last after school karate session this term. Grading during after-school session next week
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Nurse in school to do Year 6 height and weight
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Spring 1 enrichment clubs go live at 6.00 a.m.
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – 9.30 a.m. coffee morning for families of Year 6 band members. Details to follow.
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Class 1 free non-uniform day. Year 3 sweet treats.
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Year 6 band children will perform at Consett Salvation Army. Details to follow.
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – After school karate grading
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school Archery Day. Details to follow.
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas dinner day, children can replace their school jumper with a festive one today.
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day £1; details to follow.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Interim reports out to children in Year 4, 5 & 6.
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school Christmas show dress rehearsal at Consett Academy, no change to usual start and finish times.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Whole school Christmas shows. See content of Newsletter for details.
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas party day. Contributions of party food will be required. See content of Newsletter for details.
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Autumn Term attendance celebration day and raffle. Details to follow but can be found in the app calendar.
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> December – There are NO ENRICHMENT CLUBS today.**
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - School reopens for all students again. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Whole school “Glow Back Monday” dodgeball day. Details to follow.
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Year 4 teambuilding event for selected children. Details to follow.
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Year 3 games festival for selected children. Details to follow.
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Selected children to participate in the swimming gala. Details to follow.
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Selected 5/6 children to participate in a rugby competition. Details to follow.

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Class 6 dance festival. Details to follow.
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March - School reopens for all students again. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking.
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.