



Consett Junior School

January 2026 Newsletter

As we prepare for the Christmas break, I'm mindful to look back at the Autumn term, to remember in September the nervous little year 3's preparing for their first day at Junior School, as well as their equally nervous parents, anxious about the unknown! As I said at the time, they will settle and thrive, well I was right - how they have settled! They danced their hearts out at their Christmas show - the nervousness hidden behind big, big smiles! I was so proud of them all! Indeed, both shows were amazing and brought a reminder of what Christmas is all about, if only the world outside remembered!

All the children throughout the term have worked so hard, both in class and in their extracurricular pursuits. This has led to a term of such good achievement and success that it is hard to share the highlights...from the many sporting achievements to the musical extravaganza that is the Christmas Performances, from the academic successes to the amazing school band...the term has given us so much. Throughout this time, it has been a pleasure to catch up with families and to share their proud parental moments - we are eternally grateful for the support that everyone shows the school.

As we close out this term, it only leaves me the pleasure of wishing you the most amazing Christmas and hope that 2026 brings peace and joy to all.

Merry Christmas

Mr Dixon

Emergency Contacts

As you are aware, we use a school app to communicate with families. This app is utilised for general day-to-day communication and reminders. In the event of an emergency concerning an individual child, the text message service will not be used initially; telephone contact will be made in priority order to all numbers on the child's file. If there is a whole school emergency requiring evacuation, the app, email, and text message system will be used simultaneously.

We understand that due to the nature of some families' jobs, they may not always have their phone to hand. If this applies to you, please inform the school if you have not already done so. These parents/carers' details will be added to a contingency list, which will be included in the evacuation emergency pack.

Our school app and website remain the primary forms of communication to families for whole school and year group information. Please make a habit of checking these systems regularly. If you have changed your phone number or moved address, ensure this information is provided to Mrs Raine or updated on your side of the app.

December Attendance Results

We are excited to share the outcomes of our December attendance challenge! Drumroll, please! 🥁 This month, Class 4 has taken the top spot, achieving an impressive attendance rate of 96.30%! They have earned a well-deserved free non-uniform day on Friday, 9th January! Class 1 put up a commendable effort, finishing close behind at 95.79%. I have a feeling they will be eager to reclaim their attendance crown in January!

Class 6 was not far behind, boasting an impressive 96.06%, showcasing the competitive spirit within our school. In our year group category, Year 4 claims the title for the first time this year with an outstanding 95.86%. They will be rewarded with delightful sweet treats on the same day. Congratulations to all our classes for your commitment and hard work! Keep it up! 🎉

Class Results

The registration group winner was Class 4.

Class	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Class 4	96.3%	0%	7
Class 1	95.79%	0.38%	7
Class 3	95.44%	1.6%	18
Class 6	95.44%	0.49%	13
Class 2	94.33%	0.86%	
Class 5	93.47%	0.99%	2
Class 7	93.33%	0.22%	8
Class 8	92.41%	3.33%	8

Year Group Results

The year group winner was Year 4.

Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Year Y4	95.86%	0.82%	25
Year Y3	95.05%	0.63%	7
Year Y5	94.46%	0.74%	15
Year Y6	92.88%	1.75%	16

Spring Attendance Reward

From Monday, 5th January, all children will be back in the attendance draw for the Spring term. Therefore, if their attendance was lower than hoped last term, they have a fresh start at gaining more raffle tickets for the Spring Term reward. All children are in with a chance of being awarded 6 raffle tickets. Children who achieved 6 last term will need to maintain their excellent attendance level this term.

Any child can be unwell at any time during the year; 96% is a reasonable target that takes into account that someone can be unwell but still achieve 96%. While it is unfortunate if a child is absent, they can still be involved in understanding the importance of attending school regularly and on time when they are fit to do so. This initiative not only promotes good attendance overall but also encourages improved attendance among children where we have identified concerns.

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

Reminder: Registers close at 9.15 a.m., so children arriving at school after this time will receive an unauthorised mark. These marks are referenced should a referral for a fine be necessary. Unauthorised marks count when referrals are made for processing fines or further action.

In January, I will be contacting some families regarding concerns over attendance. I will be writing to these families to arrange meetings.

School Dinners

We continue to have over half of the school children on school meals each day, with Friday still being an extremely popular choice. Please ensure you inform Mrs Raine when your child changes meal arrangements, as your ParentPay account will be charged accordingly. There are several families in arrears on ParentPay for school meals and/or breakfast club; please ensure your accounts have enough credit for the services you use. Moving forward, we will be reviewing these arrears, and regular prompts for payments at the Finance Committee will be implemented, as the administration time to send reminders to the same families each week is becoming problematic.

Year 6 Trip to Robinwood

A reminder that the full balance for the Year 6 trip to Robinwood must be paid by Friday, 24th April. Failure to pay will mean your child will lose their place.

Glow Back Monday!

On the first day back after our Christmas break (Monday, 5th January), we have booked an exciting day for all our children! During the day, all children will take part in a 35-minute glow-in-the-dark dodgeball session. We have done this in previous years, and the children loved it! For this event, we ask that children come to school dressed in their brightest clothes. The organisers will also provide UV face paint for their session. If you do not want your child to wear the face paint, please let us know!

Robinwood 2027 – For Current Year 5

We are excited to inform you that we have successfully booked our Year 6 residential trip to the Alston Site for Monday, 17th May to Wednesday, 19th May 2027. The total cost for this trip will be £355, and we are pleased to announce that the school fund will cover the full cost of the coach. It is important to note that there are 52 spaces for this trip, but there are 56 children in the year group, so this will be on a first-come basis. However, in all my years here, I have never seen the full year group attend, as it is a trip away from home and outdoors, which does not suit everyone.

To secure your child's place, please complete the attached form by 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 16th February. An initial non-refundable deposit of £25 is required, which must be paid by Friday, 24th April 2026. The payment structure operates on a reducing balance, meaning that after the initial deposit, you will need to make subsequent payments to cover the remaining balance. Please note that if the full payment is not received by the April 2027 deadline, your child will be unable to attend the trip. If you successfully complete this form, your confirmation of booking will be a payment item added to your ParentPay in the coming days.

We understand that not all children may wish to attend the residential trip. For those who choose not to participate, alternative activities will be arranged in the local area during this time, ensuring that every child has an engaging experience.

For more information about the centre, please visit the link below:
[Robinwood 2027 - Year 6 – Fill in form](#)

Class of 2026 Leavers Hoody Ordering

Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing a booking form (online) for Year 6 families to order Leavers Hoodies for their children. We will only be taking orders; payment will not be required until Friday, 24th April. We order the hoodies early to ensure they are delivered to school in time for the children upon completion of their May SATs. If you place an order and do not pay, we will not be able to distribute the hoody.

December Voluntary School Fund

In December, we received £40.48, which was used to subsidise the cost of the recent Christmas events.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Following the children's return after Christmas, more children are likely to bring their mobile phones into school. While we have no objection to this, we insist that children follow the school policy if they choose to bring their phones. All phones must be turned off upon entering the grounds and handed to their teacher. They can collect them at the end of the day and must not turn them on until they are outside the school grounds. Cellular smart watches are not permitted due to safeguarding concerns.

School Uniform

As this is the start of the new term, you may need to order more uniform. This can be done online at [Tots to Teams](#). We have noticed some children starting to wear trainers on non-PE days and not the correct uniform items. Children not wearing the correct PE kit may be given spares to change into.

Class Timetables

The class timetables for Spring 1 were shared on the app on Tuesday, 16th December. You will also find these in the app "hub" on the school website under class pages.

Clubs Commencing Monday, 5th January 2026

A reminder of clubs this half term (Spring 1): Clubs start back on Monday, 4th January. Miss Waters will inform families about band. To view your pre-booked club bookings for your child, please log into ParentPay and navigate to the "clubs" section. 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 (e.g., choose Dawn).
4. Choose "Clubs".
5. All clubs will be visible, and the ones you have booked will be highlighted in green.

Monday Clubs:

- After School Cartoon Drawing Club
- After School Band – Start date to be confirmed by Miss Waters
- After School Indoor Sports Club

Tuesday Clubs:

- After School Karate

- After School Jigsaw and Games Club

Wednesday Clubs:

- After School Multi Skills for Years 5 & 6
- After School 'Walk and Talk' Club
- After School Just Dance Club

Thursday Clubs:

- After School Homework Club
- After School Computing Club
- After School Multi Skills Club for Years 3 & 4

Friday Clubs:

- After School Card and Board Games Club
- After School Gymnastics Club
- After School Art Club

Swimming

We have finally received information confirming that the swimming pools are reopening, which means our swimming lessons will begin in the new year. We will use the first week back to prepare our Swimming Gala children. **From 12th January until half term:**

- Class 8 (Miss Waters) will swim on Monday afternoons from 2.45 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
- Class 6 (Miss Clarey) will swim on Tuesday afternoons from 2.45 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

If children could be collected from the swimming baths unless they are returning to school for extra-curricular clubs. If your child walks home, please let your teacher know.

Key Dates and Events

Please be aware of the following key dates and events. These are correct at the time of print, but some dates may be subject to change. Please also refer to the calendar on the school app.

- **Monday, 5th January** - School reopens for all students. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking.
- **Monday, 5th January** - Whole school "Glow Back Monday" dodgeball day.
- **Tuesday, 6th January** - Selected children in Years 5 & 6 to receive additional rugby training (Day 1 of 2).
- **Friday, 9th January** - Year 4 to receive sweet treats for the best year group attendance in December.
- **Friday, 9th January** - Class 4 to have a free non-uniform day for the best class group attendance in December.
- **Friday, 16th January** - Year 4 teambuilding event for selected children. Messages sent to families on 16/12/2025.
- **Friday, 16th January** - Year 3 games festival for selected children. Messages sent to families on 16/12/2025.
- **Tuesday, 20th January** - Selected children to participate in the swimming gala. Letters and messages sent to families on 15th and 16/12/2025.

- **Tuesday, 20th January** - Selected children in Years 5 & 6 to receive additional rugby training (Day 2 of 2).
- **Wednesday, 4th February** - Selected 5/6 children to participate in a rugby competition. Details to follow.
- **Tuesday, 17th February** - Class 6 dance festival. Details to follow.
- **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. **Clubs are still on.**
- **Monday, 2nd March** - School reopens for all students. 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. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking.

The statutory key stage 2 tests are scheduled from **Monday, 11th May to Thursday, 14th May 2026**. The statutory key stage 2 tests are again slated for **Monday, 10th May to Thursday, 13th May 2027**.

SAVE THE DATE: 25/05/2025.