



## Consett Junior School

### February 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back to what can often feel like the dark and dreary month of January. I am pleased to report that we have settled into 2026 remarkably well, and our pupils have been particularly enthusiastic about returning to school.

This term has already begun with considerable energy and excitement. Our pupils are exploring new topics across different year groups, bringing fresh enthusiasm to their learning. Year 4, for instance, has been particularly engaged with a delightful chocolate making activity that has captured their imagination and creativity.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to share some exciting upcoming events and initiatives. We are preparing to introduce our Junior Leader awards, which will recognise and encourage leadership skills among our pupils. This programme will provide opportunities for our pupils to develop important personal attributes and contribute positively to our school community.

In the sporting arena, we have several events to look forward to. Our pupils will be participating in a Rugby Tournament, demonstrating the competitive spirit and teamwork that we value highly. Additionally, we are excited about the upcoming Durham Dance Festival, which will showcase the artistic talents of our pupils.

Another development I am particularly enthusiastic about is our introduction of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). This initiative represents an innovative approach to enhancing our pupils' educational experience, emphasising the importance of outdoor learning and play in child development.

As always, any concerns or worries, please do get in touch.

Mr Dixon

### January Attendance Results

We are thrilled to announce the winners of the best class attendance for January: well, done, Class 7! With an impressive attendance rate of 97.26%, this marks their first win this academic year. A special shout-out goes to Year 5 for achieving the highest year group attendance, with a fantastic 96.34%.

To celebrate these achievements, Class 7 will enjoy a free non-uniform day on Friday, 6th February, and Year 5 will be treated to a trolley load of sweet treats. Congratulations to all for your hard work and dedication!

### Attendance Overview

The whole school's attendance so far is 95.6%, which is better than the national average of 94.6%. We have held many successful attendance meetings in January, and the efforts from the autumn term are showing results, with children's attendance starting to improve. Our overall aim is to achieve school attendance above 96%, with individual targets reflecting this.

We understand that for some families, reaching this target can be hard due to holidays, health problems, or difficulties getting to school. If the support we have in place is working well, there is no need for referrals to the Local Education Authority (LEA). However, if the current support does not lead to improvements, referrals to other agencies become important.

At this time of year, we often get requests for holidays during term time. While we know that these holidays can be cheaper, we ask you to think about the effects of taking a holiday during term time, especially if this is not your first absence since August 2024.

## Term Time - Frequently Asked Questions

### What does the law say about taking time off during term time?

Head Teachers cannot allow time off during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The guidance states that wanting a holiday for fun or leisure usually does not count as exceptional. Head Teachers will decide how many school days a child can miss if any leave is considered exceptional. Under the Education Act 1996, parents commit an offence if they do not ensure their child attends school regularly. Taking a child out of school without permission, leading to 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-week period, is seen as failing to ensure regular attendance.

### Who is responsible for a child?

According to the Department for Education (DfE), a parent includes all natural parents, whether married or not, anyone with parental responsibility, and anyone who looks after the child. Generally, this includes those who have day-to-day responsibility for the child.

### What are a parent's responsibilities?

The parent with whom the child lives is expected to fill out a leave of absence application using the correct form. If an application is not made in advance, the parent must inform the school of the reason for the absence and provide specific details. The child must return to school on the expected date; any absence without a good reason will be marked as unauthorised.

### If a leave of absence request is not approved, will it lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice?

Schools will refer cases where 10 unauthorised absence sessions have been recorded in any 10-week rolling period, whether from a single leave period or multiple instances.

### Who gets a Fixed Penalty Notice?

Penalty Notices are given out according to the National Framework and local rules. Notices can be issued to each person with parental responsibility, usually to the parent(s) responsible for the absence.

### When could a prosecution happen?

Parents may face prosecution if they do not pay a Fixed Penalty Notice. Payment is an alternative to prosecution. If unpaid, prosecution can follow for the original offence under the Education Act. Also, a prosecution may occur if a third period of leave leads to 10 unauthorised absences within a rolling three-year period.

## Class Results

The registration group winner was Class 7.

Class	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Class 7	97.26%	1	11
Class 5	96.7%	7	5
Class 1	96.57%	0	7
Class 6	95.98%	2	25
Class 4	95.56%	13	8
Class 2	95.54%	2	4
Class 3	95.18%	8	18
Class 8	93.58%	40	13

## Year Group Results

The year group winner was Year 5.

Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Year Y5	96.34%	9	30
Year Y3	96.05%	2	11
Year Y6	95.45%	41	24
Year Y4	95.36%	21	26

## School Dinners

We continue to have over half of the school children on school meals each day, with Friday still an extremely popular choice. Please ensure you inform Mrs Raine when your child changes meal arrangements as your ParentPay account will be charged. There are several families that are in arrears on ParentPay for school meals and/or breakfast club; can you please ensure your accounts have enough credit for the services you use.

### Themed Meals - Valentine's Day and Pancake Day Ordering

If your child is already on school meals on either of these dates, you DO NOT need to do the form as they are included. If your child only wants to do one of the meals, the form is set so you can choose one, both, or none.

On Monday 16th February, children on packed lunches have the option to have our special Valentine's Day themed meal.

On Tuesday 17th February, the pudding part of the meal is all about PANCAKES! (Mains remain the same).

Please complete this form on or before Friday 6th February. Confirmation messages will be sent out on 13/02/2026.

[Valentine's Day and Pancake Day Form](#)

## Year 6 Trip to Robinwood

Just a little reminder that the balance for your child's trip must be paid on or before Friday 24th April; failure to pay will mean the place is revoked. There are 48 children due to go, seven have paid in full and ten have only paid their initial deposit. It really is worth paying little and often over the coming months. In the 'Notice'

section of this app, you can find the original details. The newsfeed and notice section of the app also have a list of useful information. Later in the term, I will be sending information home which needs to be completed and returned to me.

## World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

Our literacy coordinator, Mrs Holden, will be sharing details shortly – keep checking the app for her post as details about the day are in the planning process.

## Comic Relief 2026 – Friday 20th March 2026

The school council will be meeting shortly to discuss ideas to support and raise funds for Comic Relief. Once the council has debated and agreed the events of the day, we will inform families via our App. Like previous years, we will also aim to purchase Red Noses to sell in school, payment via ParentPay.

## Year 3 Trip to the Oriental Museum – Thursday 26th March 2026

Year 3 will visit the Oriental Museum. Mrs McMahon will post further details in due course, along with a school packed lunch order form for families that require this.

## Robinwood 2027 – For Current Year 5 – REPOST

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](#)

## Fam Fest 2026

On Friday 22nd May 2026, we are once again combining our Mothers and Father's Day event into one and will be holding this from 1.00 - 3.30 p.m. at Consett Rugby Club.

As we are providing a variety of things to engage all families with on the day, there is a cost but we are trying to keep these costs to a minimum for families. Therefore, tickets to the event will be a one-off family charge

of £10. This is for both adults and any children in our school. You can even bring a grandparent or younger sibling along at no extra cost. Wrist bands on entry will be provided.

On the day, there will be food carts and stalls available but these are additional purchases, as we are a cashless school; you would need to pay for these things to the stall holders on the day. If you know of anyone that might like to host a stall, please contact Mrs Raine.

To allow us to have an idea of the number of adults attending, please can you complete this form on or before Friday 24th April. Payment is due for the event on ParentPay on or before Friday 24th April.  
[Fam Fest Ticket Form](#)

## Class of 2026 Leavers Hoody Ordering

I know it seems a little early, but early bird and all that! If you would like to order a leavers hoodie for your child, please complete the order form shared on the app on or before Friday 20th February 2026. In previous years, some families have ordered more than one, but there is no expectation for families to do that. Payment is not due until Friday 24th April.

Costs are £16 for children's sizes and £18 for adult sizes. The available sizes are as follows:

**Children:** 9/11 (32"), 12/13 (34")

**Adults:** XS (12-13) (34"), S (36"), M (40"), L (44"), XL (48")

Please note that the children's 12/13 (34") is slightly shorter than the adults. Sizes are based on chest measurements.

We invite adults to come along after school with their child to try on some samples if preferred. This will be for four consecutive Tuesdays in Miss White's class on the following dates: 28th (January), 4th, 11th, and 18th (February), between 3.30 and 4.00 p.m. Please don't all strive for the first day; we are opening these sizing sessions up for a month. Enter Miss White's class via her fire door and leave the same way to alleviate traffic around school while clubs are on. The samples are for sizing purposes, and a colour swatch is available at the sessions. Once you have chosen your colour, quantity, and size, you can place your order using the form.

Children will be given their hoodies at the end of SATS week.

## January Voluntary School Fund

We are excited to share that in January, we received a generous contribution of £77.70 through our Voluntary School Fund. This amount has been instrumental in subsidising the costs associated with our recent Christmas celebrations, as well as contributing towards essential class resources.

## School Uniform

As we embark on a new term, it's a great time to check your child's uniform needs. If you require additional items, you can conveniently order online at Tots to Teams. We have noticed that some children have begun wearing trainers on non-PE days, which is not part of our uniform policy. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for school. If children arrive without the correct PE kit, they may be provided with spare items to change into.

## Parent/Carer Consultation Evening – March 2026

Mark your calendars! Our Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings are coming up in March. Class teachers have already sent out appointment letters to families. Please complete and return your letter to the CLASS TEACHER at your earliest convenience. A table in the app calendar has been set up for face-to-face appointment times, which will be updated weekly leading up to the event.

For example, if your child is in Class 5, please refer to Wednesday 11th March for details. The schedule is as follows:

- **Wednesday 11th March** - Classes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 & 8
- **Thursday 12th March** - Classes 4 & 6

Please note that there will be **no hall-based enrichment clubs** on these days. If you are a separated parent and have not received the letter, please contact the school office for a copy that you can return.

## Class Timetables

The class timetables for Spring 2 will be shared before the end of the half term. You can also find these in the app “hub” on the school website under class pages.

## Clubs Commencing Monday, 2nd March 2026

Just a reminder that our current Spring 1 clubs will run until Friday 20th February, meaning clubs will be on during the last day of term. The clubs for Spring 2 will be shared during the week commencing 2nd February, including details for the booking go-live date on **Thursday 12th February**.

To check which clubs, you have booked for the upcoming half term (Spring 2) starting on Monday, 2nd March, please log into ParentPay and navigate to the “clubs” section. Here’s how:

1. Go to your home page, then click the three lines at the top left.
2. Click on the payer dashboard.
3. Select your child’s name (e.g., choose Dawn).
4. Click on “Clubs”.
5. All clubs will be visible, and the ones you have booked will be highlighted in green.

## Swimming

A quick note for parents of Class 8 and Class 6: current swimming sessions will conclude during the week commencing 16th February. For Spring 2 Class 5 will swim last lesson on a Tuesday and Class 7 last lesson on a Monday. Please ensure that children are collected from the swimming baths unless they are returning to school for extra-curricular clubs. If your child walks home, kindly inform your teacher.

## Key Dates and Events

Please take note of the following key dates and events. These are correct at the time of print, but some dates may be subject to change. For the latest updates, please refer to the calendar on the school app.

- **Wednesday, 4th February** - Selected 5/6 children will participate in a rugby competition. App messages to selected families were shared on 20/01/2026.
- **Friday, 6th February** – Final day to order themed meals for Valentines and Pancake Day.
- **Friday, 6th February** - Class 7 will enjoy a free non-uniform day and Year 5 will be treated to a trolley load of sweet treats.

- **Thursday, 12th February** – Spring 2 clubs go live at 6.00 p.m. (the clubs available will be shared during the week commencing 2nd February).
- **Friday, 13th February** – If your child is on packed lunch and you ordered a themed meal, you will receive confirmation today.
- **Monday, 16th February** – Last day for Year 5 children to book their residential place at Robinwood for May 2027.
- **Monday, 16th February** – Valentines themed meal. No change to uniform.
- **Tuesday, 17th February** – Pancake Day themed meal. No change to uniform.
- **Tuesday, 17th February** - Class 6 dance festival. Miss Clarey will send a reminder post to Class 6.
- **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 will still be on.
- **Monday, 2nd March** - School reopens for all students. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking. Spring 2 enrichment clubs commence.
- **Tuesday, 3rd March** – Whole school well-being day, Stretch and Relax. Miss Clarey will share details of this day.
- **Wednesday, 11th March** – Parent/Carer consultation evening for Classes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 & 8. **NO HALL BASED CLUBS ON THIS DAY.**
- **Thursday, 12th March** - Parent/Carer consultation evening for Classes 4 & 6. **NO HALL BASED CLUBS ON THIS DAY.**
- **Wednesday, 25th March** – Year 6 Rugby Festival. Selected children. Details to follow.
- **Thursday, 26th March** – Year 3 trip to the Oriental Museum. Details to follow.
- **Tuesday, 31st March** – Spring term attendance celebration day.
- **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. Clubs will still be on.
- **Monday, 20th April** - School reopens for all students for Summer 1. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking.
- **Tuesday, 21st April** – Year games festival. Selected children. This event has been cancelled twice previously.
- **Friday, 24th April** - Final day to make payments for: Leavers Hoodies, Robinwood balances 2026, Robinwood deposits 2027 and Fam Fest 2026.
- **Friday, 1st May** – Year 3 and 4 Ultimate Frisbee day. Details to follow.
- **Monday, 4th May** – Bank holiday, school closed.
- **Monday, 11th May** – **SATS week**, Year 6 will have access to free breakfast club all week.
- **Monday, 18th May** – Year 6 going to Robinwood.
- **Wednesday, 20th May** – Year 6 return from Robinwood.
- **Thursday, 21st May** – Clubs are still on but this is the last day.
- **Friday, 22nd May** – FAM FEST 2026 in the afternoon.
- **Friday, 22nd May** - Last day of the Summer 1 half term. There are no enrichment clubs on this day. Children attending infant school ASC will be taken there at 3.30 p.m..
- **Monday, 1st June** - School reopens for all students for Summer 2. Breakfast club starts at 7:45 a.m., with no need for pre-booking. Summer 2 enrichment clubs commence.

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: 22/05/2026.**