



Consett Junior School

March 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our March newsletter, have a wonderful half term in all that you do.

Attendance

We are pleased to announce that this month, we have surpassed the government's 96% attendance target, achieving an impressive 96.04% for February. Although there have been some absences due to illness, we remain optimistic that these will decrease, allowing everyone to enjoy their well-deserved week off. For context, last February's attendance was recorded at 96.11%. Overall, our attendance since September stands at 95.64%, and we are committed to exceeding the 96% benchmark to align with government expectations. It is noteworthy that our attendance remains commendably higher than the national average of 94.5%.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all families who participated in the autumn term attendance meetings. These discussions are vital for providing support, and we encourage all families to engage with us as needed. Additionally, I kindly request that families consider the impact of late arrivals on children, who may feel embarrassed entering a classroom that is already in session.

February Attendance Results

We are excited to share the outcomes of our February attendance challenge! Drumroll, please! 🥁 This month, Class 7 has retained the top spot, achieving an impressive attendance rate of 97.66%! They have earned a well-deserved free non-uniform day on Friday, 6th March. Class 3 put up a commendable effort, finishing closely behind at 97.2%.

Class 6 was not far behind, boasting an impressive 96.7%, 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 96.9%. 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 7.

Class	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Class 7	97.66%	0	1
Class 3	97.17%	6	3
Class 6	96.67%	3	7
Class 4	96.55%	8	3
Class 1	95.91%	10	2
Class 2	95.69%	1	3
Class 8	94.37%	29	4

Class 5 94.29%

2

4

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	96.87%	14	6
Year Y6	96.04%	29	5
Year Y3	95.8%	11	5
Year Y5	95.46%	5	11

Spring Attendance Celebration

On Tuesday 31st March, we will celebrate our spring 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 will see me the following day to purchase a prize up to the value of £20 on Amazon. This will give the child the time at home to choose something.

Throughout the day 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.

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

School Dinners

We are delighted to share that our school dinners remain a popular choice with the children! On average, we have 115 children enjoying our nutritious meals each day, and on Fridays, this number can rise to around 160! It brings us boundless joy to see so many children opting for a healthy and balanced meal during school hours.

As we look forward to the warmer months, we are excited to announce that the summer menu will commence on Monday, 20th April. This new menu will soon be shared on our app, ensuring parents and guardians can easily access it. To view the summer menu, please navigate to the "hub" section of the app. We encourage everyone to explore the delightful options available that aim to nourish our students and keep them energised for their learning! Thank you for supporting our school dinners.

Themed Meals

We're excited to announce more themed dinner days! Join us in celebrating World Book Day on Thursday, 5th March, and Red Nose Day on Friday, 20th March. If your child usually has packed lunches and would like to enjoy these themed meals, please complete the order form by Monday, 2nd March at 3.30 p.m. You can choose both, none, or one meal. As before, you'll receive confirmation a few days prior to each meal. Please note, we don't expect many updates for the Red Nose Day meal, as many children already enjoy lunch on Fridays.

Themed Meals - World Book Day & Red Nose Day – Fill in form

Year 6 Trip to Robinwood

There are only 64 days left to pay off the balance for Robinwood 2026, with the deadline set for 24th April. In context, this is only two more monthly paydays. Information regarding the trip has already been shared on the app, and the forms required for informing us of personal details will be shared in March.

OPAL Launch Date – 09/03/2026

As part of our commitment to providing rich and meaningful outdoor experiences for all our children, we are beginning to develop our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) provision. OPAL encourages creative, active, and inclusive play, helping children to develop social skills, resilience, and a love for the outdoors. From this date, children will need to have a waterproof coat in school every day.

Reminder of School Term Dates and Staff Training Days

A reminder that you can see our school term dates on the app calendar/website and our app 'notice' section or request a copy from school. These holidays are scheduled until summer 2028. For further details, please visit: [School Holidays](#).

Glass Animals

We are noticing an increasing number of little glass animals around school. While it is great to see the children trading and playing with these, they are beginning to impact learning in the classroom. From Monday, the children will only be allowed to have the glass animals at break times. Staff will not be sorting out any issues involving these, and children are not permitted to have them in the classroom. If this issue continues to take up teacher time and impact learning, we will have no choice but to ban them.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

We're excited to celebrate World Book Day in school with lots of fun activities! Children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character, or they can come in non-uniform if they prefer not to dress up. We can't wait to enjoy a day full of creativity and reading fun!

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 on the events of the day, we will inform families via our app. Red Noses are available for sale on ParentPay, one per child. We have also shared details of our Red Nose Day themed meal.

Robinwood 2027 – For Current Year 5

The closing date to book your child's place for this residential has passed; however, there are still places available should children change their minds before May 2027. Please speak to Mrs Raine if this applies to you. If you have booked a place, it has been added to ParentPay. From this payment item, you must pay your £25 deposit before 24th April. Following that date, you can pay as little and often as you choose before the final balance is due in April 2027.

Mothers and Father's Day (Fam Fest 2026)

At CJS, we choose to combine our celebrations of Mother's and Father's Day into one special event in May. We recognise that family dynamics vary greatly, and by celebrating together, we honour the unconditional love, sacrifices, and vital roles that all parents play in our lives. In previous years, we've enjoyed afternoon teas, sports events, themed lunches, and craft sessions. However, we've noticed that these events can sometimes bring sadness for some children, whether due to absent parents or the loss of a loved one. This has led us to rethink our approach. Now in our third year of Fam

Fest, we come together for an afternoon filled with fun and family time, ensuring everyone, including wider family, feels included. We want to clarify that our decision is not a lack of appreciation for parents; rather, it's about creating a more inclusive celebration for all. 🤝😊 CJS Team

To allow us to have an idea of the number of adults attending, please 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 Form](#).

Class of 2026 Leavers Hoody Ordering

The deadline to order a hoody has now passed. If you have missed the deadline, Mrs Raine will have contacted you directly. Payment for hoodies is to be made before 24th April. If you have ordered two, you can pay for one in one transaction, then the other at a later date, provided it is before April.

January Voluntary School Fund

In February, we received £51.14, which was used to subsidise the cost of class resources and rewards.

School Uniform Parent/Carer Consultation Evening – March 2026

Class teachers have already shared parent/carers consultation evening appointment letters with families. Please complete and return your letter to the CLASS TEACHER at your earliest convenience. A table in the app calendar has been prepared for face-to-face appointment times, which will be updated weekly until the date.

The schedule is as follows:

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

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

Class Timetables

The class timetables for Spring 2 have already been shared on the app. You will also find these in the app "hub" on the school website under class pages.

Clubs Commencing Monday, 2nd March 2026

Current Spring 1 clubs will run until Friday, 20th February, which means clubs are on the last day of term. The clubs for Spring 2 went live for bookings on 12th February.

For a reminder of clubs, you have booked for the half term (Spring 2), which start back on Monday, 2nd March, 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 Bingo Club** – (until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Atkinson and Mrs Slight)
Cost: £10 per child (£2 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 Outdoor Sports Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Clarey)
Cost: £5 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 24 spaces.

Tuesday Clubs:

- **After School Karate** with Ross Temple (until 4.30 p.m. for existing members). FULL.
- **After School Toy Club** - children bring one non-electrical toy to school on the day for this club and store in Mr Dixon's office until club time (until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon and Mrs Guy)
Cost: £5 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 30 spaces.
- **After School Forest School Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Wearmouth and Mrs Slight)
Cost: £5 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces.

Wednesday Clubs:

- **After School Dodgeball Club** for Years 3 & 5 (until 4.30 p.m. supervised by an external coach) NOT ON WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH DUE TO PARENTS EVENING.
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 03/02/2026). All children from spring term 1 will retain their places, which will be reflected on ParentPay but you still need to book.
- **After School SATS books homework and TT Rockstar Revision Club** for Years 4 & 6 (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Pattison)
Cost: £5 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces.

Thursday Clubs:

- **After School Playdough Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Watson)
Cost: £5 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 24 spaces.
- **After School Art Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs McMahon)
Cost: £5 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 24 spaces.
- **After School Dodgeball Club** for Years 4 & 6 (until 4.30 p.m. supervised by an external coach) NOT ON THURSDAY 12TH MARCH DUE TO PARENTS EVENING.
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces. This club is funded through our PE Budget, making it free for all children.

Friday Clubs:

- **After School Painting Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Howe)
Cost: £4 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 24 spaces.
- **After School Football Skills 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 SATS books homework and TT Rockstar Revision Club** for Years 4 & 6 (until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon)
Cost: £4 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 30 spaces.

Swimming

Swimming update for Spring 2 - after half term: Class 7 will swim last lesson on a Monday, and Class 5 will swim last lesson on a Tuesday. Children should 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.

Year 3 Visit to The Oriental Museum

On Thursday, 26th March 2026, Year 3 will visit the Oriental Museum in Durham to learn more about the Ancient Egyptians. They will have hands-on experience of holding real Ancient Egyptian artefacts, taking part in the weighing of the heart ceremony, having time to explore the Ancient Egyptian collection, and viewing a real-life mummy! The price of the workshop is £6; the school will pay for this and for the bus. The children will need a packed lunch for the day, or you can order one from school.

Additionally, there is a small gift shop. As time and space (in the shop) is limited, we have put together a gift bag which they can purchase on the day for £3. In the past, this has included some papyrus paper, a pencil, a scarab beetle, and a postcard. The museum works with the budget to give us a bag full of Ancient Egyptian themed items. This must be ordered and paid for before we go on the trip, as the bags are made up for us, ready to collect when we leave.

Below is an order form for a school packed lunch and gift bag, which all Year 3 families need to complete before Friday, 13th March. We're really looking forward to taking the children on this trip, as we've always had a great time in previous years! Year 3 team 😊

Children must wear their full school uniform, and there are no changes to the start and finish times of the school day.

[Year 3 trip to the Oriental Museum 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Key Dates and Events

As we progress through the academic year, please be aware of the following key dates and events. These details are accurate at the time of print; however, some dates may be subject to change. Additionally, we will be adding sports day and transition events, so please refer to the calendar on the school app for the most up-to-date information.

March 2026

- **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 further details regarding this day.
- **Thursday, 5th March:** World Book Day. A themed school meal will be available for children on school meals and those who have pre-ordered one.
- **Friday, 6th March:** Class 7 non uniform day for February attendance, Year 4 sweet treats.
- **Wednesday, 11th March:** Parent/Carer consultation evening for Classes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 & 8. Please note that there will be no hall-based clubs on this day.
- **Thursday, 12th March:** Parent/Carer consultation evening for Classes 4 & 6. No hall-based clubs will be held on this day.
- **Friday, 13th March:** Last day for Year 3 families to order a packed lunch and/or goody bag for the Oriental Museum Trip.
- **Friday, 20th March:** Red Nose Day. A themed meal will be offered for children on school meals and those who have pre-ordered one. Mrs McMahon will provide further details.
- **Wednesday, 25th March:** Year 6 Rugby Festival for selected children. Further details will follow.
- **Thursday, 26th March:** Year 3 trip to the Oriental Museum.
- **Friday, 27th March:** Great Shape Day. Details to follow from Mr Meadows.
- **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 options will be available through ParentPay. Clubs will still be on.

April 2026

- **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 3 games festival for selected children. This event has been cancelled twice previously.
- **Wednesday, 22nd April:** Year 5 Viking Day. Details to follow.
- **Thursday, 23rd April:** Selected Year 3 children will participate in a mini tennis event at NDA. Further details will be provided.
- **Friday, 24th April:** Final day to make payments for Leavers Hoodies, Robinwood balances for 2026, Robinwood deposits for 2027, and Fam Fest 2026.
- **Friday, 1st May:** Year 3 and 4 Ultimate Frisbee Day. Details to follow.
- **Monday, 4th May:** Bank holiday; school will be closed.
- **Tuesday, 5th May:** Year 5 Reptile visit in school (Pineapple Exotics). Details to follow.
- **Monday, 11th May:** SATS week; Year 6 will have access to free breakfast club all week.
- **Monday, 18th May:** Year 6 will attend Robinwood.
- **Wednesday, 20th May:** Year 6 return from Robinwood.
- **Thursday, 21st May:** Clubs will still be on, but this will be the last day for clubs this term.
- **Friday, 22nd May:** FAM FEST 2026 will take place in the afternoon. This is also the last day of the Summer 1 half term. There will be no enrichment clubs on this day. Children attending infant school ASC will be taken there at 3:30 p.m.

June 2026

- **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.
- **Tuesday, 2nd June:** Selected Year 5/6 children will participate in an athletics event. Details to follow.
- **Tuesday, 9th June:** Selected Year 4 children will participate in a cricket event. Details to follow.
- **Friday, 12th June:** Selected Year 6 children will participate in a netball event. Details to follow.
- **Tuesday, 16th June:** Year 5 will go on a full-day Art trip. Further details will be provided by Mrs Taylor.
- **Friday, 19th June:** White River Brass Day. Details to follow, but all students will need to be collected from Blackhill Park on this day.

July 2026

- **Friday, 10th July:** School reports will be distributed.
- **Monday, 13th July:** Selected children will participate in a Year 5/6 quidditch event. Details to follow.
- **Wednesday, 15th July:** Summer term attendance celebration day.
- **Thursday, 16th July:** Special recognition and 100% school year attendance assembly. This will consist of two assemblies for KS1 and KS2 children. In the evening, these children will be treated to a meal at Sambucas.
- **Friday, 17th July:** School will close for the summer holidays.

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.

