



Consett Junior School

May 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our May Newsletter.

Attendance

The attendance overall for April was an impressive 97%. For the entire year so far, we stand at 96%, indicating we are on target with the government's target of 96%. Over the coming week, we will be reaching out to families—whether through written correspondence or phone calls—to discuss attendance matters. I encourage you to check your child's attendance figures using our school app. The government stipulates a target for children's attendance to be above 96%. Sadly, due to individual circumstances, some children can fall below this expectation. Our role is to monitor and actively work towards improving attendance, which necessitates communication with families where attendance is low.

We will contact you for one of the following reasons:

- To invite you to a meeting
- To notify you that your child's attendance level is below our expectations. These notifications will consider individual circumstances, such as ongoing health concerns or other factors impacting attendance.
- If we had a prior meeting with you, we may reach out to acknowledge any improvements in attendance since then. It is equally vital to celebrate positive changes.

If you do not receive a letter or call, it is because we understand your child's situation. In comparing this year's attendance with previous years, we can see patterns that suggest there is need for concern. While we are guided to act when attendance drops below 96%, it is not feasible for us to invite every family of children whose attendance is under this threshold to a meeting. Our staff are well acquainted with the families within our school, and we will intervene anytime we believe there may be concerns. I understand receiving these notifications can be exasperating for families; however, we are simply fulfilling our responsibility.

If you do receive an invitation for a meeting, it is crucial that you arrange this at your earliest convenience. Our data ties directly to the Local Education Authority (LEA), making us your primary source for support. We would prefer to assist at this level rather than have matters escalate to County level. Meetings will be held with myself, Mr Dixon, or both of us.

April attendance results...

What a month for attendance! Despite having two weeks off for the holidays, our overall school attendance soared to 97%. Goodbye to the 96% government expectations—honestly, I think it is the sun!

Congratulations to Year 3 for reclaiming victory with a spectacular 98.4%! Year 5 put up a good fight with 98%, but they will have to try even harder for May.

In the registration group race, Mrs McMahon has waved the attendance wand, and Class 1 are the winners with an impressive 98.9%! Miss Clarey's class is hot on their heels at 98.8%.

On Friday 8th May, all of Year 3 will enjoy some tasty treats, and Mrs McMahon's class can celebrate with a free non-uniform day.

Well, done, everyone—this is truly impressive!

Year group

Year Y3	98.4%	3	2
Year Y5	98.0%	18	13
Year Y4	97.4%	14	22
Year Y6	94.5%	31	9

Registration group

Class 1	98.9%	0	1
Class 6	98.8%	5	8
Class 2	97.9%	3	1
Class 4	97.5%	3	10
Class 3	97.3%	11	12
Class 5	97.1%	13	5
Class 7	96.5%	6	4
Class 8	92.5%	25	5

[School Fund – April](#)

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the families who have contributed towards our school fund via ParentPay this month. We received a total of £29.03 in April, which has been allocated towards essential class lesson resources and the upcoming Fam Fest event. Your continued support allows us to provide varied opportunities for our pupils, and I cannot thank you enough.

[School Dinners](#)

This is a gentle reminder that the menu for school dinners has undergone a change for the summer and autumn terms. Should you require any adjustments to your child's meal arrangements, please ensure these changes are made in advance to save valuable time for our administration team. A few families have been returning to school with dinner arrears on ParentPay; I kindly request that these accounts are kept in credit to avoid complications and ensure smooth operations.

[Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2026 – Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th May 2026](#)

We are excited to announce that we have 47 children gearing up for their residential trip in just a few weeks! Many of them are feeling a mix of excitement and apprehension, but I assure you they are going to have a fabulous time! Luggage labels have been distributed so please keep these safe. Children should arrive at school on the Monday no later than 8:45a.m., as the coach will leave around 9.15 a.m. They should enter through the main entrance and store their luggage in the hall. We anticipate their return before the usual end of school day on Wednesday, and we will post an update once we return home, so families can collect their children earlier if needed.

[Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2027 – Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th May 2027](#)

Looking ahead, we are pleased to inform that 37 children have made their deposit for the Robinwood trip in 2026. I highly encourage you to take advantage of the 'reducing payment' option on ParentPay to spread out payments over the year. You are welcome to pay as little and as frequently as you like.

[School uniform ordering – September 2026- reminder](#)

I understand that August can feel far off, but it is worth a timely reminder that being organised for September is crucial. I urge you to begin considering your uniform orders sooner rather than later, as July and August are significantly busy months for our uniform suppliers. It would be a pity to leave it too late and risk delays for the new term.

While deliveries can be arranged to either home or school, I must advise against selecting the school delivery option during July. There is no expectation for you to purchase your uniforms solely from our provided suppliers; many high street retailers stock our uniform colours. Our only request is that children wear our designated colours as we transition into the new academic year.

For further details, please consult the following links:

[Consett Junior School Uniform Information](#)

[Tots to Teams – Consett Junior School](#)

[White River Brass event 2026](#)

I am delighted to inform you that the school band will be playing an afternoon concert in Blackhill and Consett Park at 2pm on Friday 19th June. The school band will be working with world famous Brett Baker and members of White River Brass in the morning and then on the afternoon they will perform with the players in the park.

All our parents are welcome to attend as this will be a lovely afternoon listening to the music and spending time together (fingers crossed for glorious weather!) All children from school will attend the event and will be walked down to the park by the staff in school. They will then need to be picked up from Consett Park at 3pm.

Any children not picked up from the park will walk back to school with their teachers. This is a free event but there will be an opportunity for you to donate money to support Consett Junior Brass.

Clubs will not be on on this day but afterschool childcare at Consett Infant school will go ahead as usual.

[End of Year 6 Show](#)

We are excited to announce the Year 6 leavers show at Consett Academy on the afternoon of Wednesday, 15th July! Tickets are now available for Year 6 families, with each child allocated two tickets. Given our capacity of 300 seats and the need to accommodate our Year 3, 4, and 5 children, we will not have much availability for additional sales.

To ensure all Year 6 families can enjoy this special event, we have reserved 166 seats for our younger children, who will perform their dances as in previous years. We understand that many families may wish to attend, but the priority is to celebrate our Year 6 leavers.

All pupils will walk to the Academy from CJS for a 1.30 p.m. show start. Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 will be walked back to school after the show, so please be patient as this may mean we are not back at CJS until 3.35 p.m., due to the traffic of Consett Academy students. Children attending clubs and childcare will also walk back with staff. Class teachers will share details on outfits via app posts as the date approaches.

If you wish to purchase tickets (£3.50 each), please do so and confirm your attendance by completing this form. There is no rush, as your two seats are already reserved! Remember, **[only YEAR 6 families need to action this.](#)**

[Year 6 end of year show 2026 – Fill in form](#)

[Reminder of school term dates and staff training days](#)

A reminder that our school term dates can be viewed on our app calendar or on the school website. If you require a paper copy, you may also request one from the office. These holiday schedules are confirmed until summer 2028.

[School Holidays Information](#)

[Enrichment Clubs \(all clubs finish at 4.30 p.m.\)](#)

Our current enrichment clubs will end on Thursday 21st May. Shortly we will share the range of clubs and the 'go live' date to book places for the final half term of this year.

You are responsible for keeping track of your child's booked clubs; I appreciate that there are quite a few, so your diligence in managing these bookings is a huge help.

Swimming reminder

Swimming sessions will be available for Year 4 throughout the entirety of the summer term.

Monday: All of Class 3 will swim during the last lesson.

Tuesday: All of Class 4 will swim during the last lesson.

Children must be collected from the swimming baths on these days. If they have clubs or require Infant School childcare, they will be escorted back to school. Should you have children in other classes back at school, please contact us to discuss childcare options that may assist with collection.

CJS FAM FEST FRIDAY 22nd MAY 2026 – NOT LONG NOW...

Recently we shared the final details regarding our Fam Fest event, please ensure you read the “order of the day” below, I am passionately working behind the scenes to ensure this is an outstanding occasion for all our children and their families. We can hardly wait! Our greatest hope is for a dry day.

Families on the Day

Entrance to our event opens at 1.00 p.m.; thus, the gates will be closed, and a queuing system will be in place. Entry is through the single gate leading into the Rugby outdoor area, located near the marquee—please note that entry through the building or the double gates at the rear will not be permitted.

I will be on welcoming duty, and her friendly face will certainly brighten your day! I will be stationed by tables with nine labelled boxes. Each box corresponds to a class number (e.g., Class 1, Class 2, etc.), and the ninth box will be designated for siblings. Please approach the box that applies to your situation to retrieve your allocated event pack. Rest assured, we will be on hand to assist in facilitating this process.





Once you have gathered your pack, you may proceed to your child's designated area on the pitch, where they will be ready to enjoy the afternoon with you. This early collection of packs not only ensures you have everything you need, but it also helps us identify any remaining packs allocated for children without adults present.

We understand that some children may have multiple family members arriving to support them. If this is the case for your family, we kindly ask that you communicate this information to others in your party who may not be arriving with you.

At the event, we have an exciting array of activities planned! The following activities will be free: all inflatables, glitter face painting courtesy of our dedicated staff, Crazy Creatures, guess the name of the teddy, and guess the number of sweets in the jar, as well as the Silent Disco in the marquee.

However, please note that individual stalls, professional face painting, and food vans will incur costs, so we suggest bringing both card and cash for your purchases (loose change is always ideal). Look forward to treats from ‘Piggy Blinders,’ ‘Crepe Expectations,’ and ‘Kings Café Ice Cream.’ The Rugby Club outdoor café will also be open for sales, but please be aware that alcohol will not be served. We understand that these costs may place an additional burden on families, so please feel free to bring a picnic to enjoy during the event—there is certainly no pressure to make purchases!

The Dos and Don'ts

- No smoking or vaping allowed.  
- No alcohol is permitted; it must not be brought onto the premises, and it will not be served.  

- Dogs are not permitted at the event, as we have children in attendance who may be frightened by them, especially given the noise from generators. 🚫
- Once adults have arrived and been reunited with their children, they assume full responsibility for them. It is not necessary to inform staff of your departure, and feel free to leave the event at any time before 3.30 p.m. ✓
- For children who are not accompanied by an adult, three designated staff members will oversee their attendance at activities; these children will not be permitted to leave without an adult present.
- If you decide not to attend the event, please ensure you collect your child from the Rugby Club by 3.30 p.m. Any children who are not collected will be escorted back to the Junior School. ✓
- Please note that there will be no enrichment clubs following the event; however, after-school childcare will be available for infant school children. ✓
- Designated staff members will be equipped with basic first aid kits, and a first aid station will be set up in the marquee should the need arise. 🏥
- In terms of photographs, we are supportive of you capturing moments from the day, provided that you refrain from photographing other children or adults without permission. Should you accidentally capture someone else, we kindly ask that you do not share these images on social media. However, we are excited to announce that Mark Wilkinson Photography will be onsite, taking photos throughout the afternoon. He will provide a link to families for downloading any images they like, and should you wish to have prints, you can contact him directly for those services. ✓ 📷
- We encourage you to bring a picnic blanket or comfortable seating to enhance your experience during the event. ✓
- Children (and adults) are encouraged to wear bright clothes for the day ✓
- Should the weather not cooperate, rest assured that the event will continue as planned; however, some activities may be relocated. Specifically, stalls will be inside the marquee and Crazy Creatures will remain in the upstairs function room.

We are incredibly excited for our second CJS Fam Fest and genuinely hope that all of the planning and preparations contribute to its success.

Let us make this a memorable day filled with joy and laughter!

[Sports Day 2026](#)

Our annual sports day will be held on Tuesday, 7th July, at Consett Rugby Club. The event will commence at 1:30 p.m., where our children will have the chance to compete in an array of activities. We will be conducting the day as a carousel of events so every child can take part! Children will walk to the club with their teachers after lunch.

Parents and carers are required to remain behind the railings while watching the children participate; we request that you do not enter the field or surround the classes.

For this event, please ensure your child comes to school dressed in their house colours, with appropriate trousers/shorts and trainers. The house colours are as follows:

Dale - Yellow

Unsworth - Red

Ainsley - Blue

Edgar - Green

Children will know which house they belong to. It is vitally important for children to have a cap, water bottle, and sun cream applied (if necessary). Children are permitted to leave with you following the event. Those who wish to attend any booked enrichment clubs or after-school childcare will return to school with staff. We hope you can join us for this enjoyable event!

Please note, swimming will be cancelled on this day

Year 6 SATS

To ensure our Year 6 pupils are at their best for the SATS week, we are pleased to offer FREE breakfast club for Year 6 from Monday, 11th to Friday, 15th May. Children can arrive at school any time after 7:45 a.m. to enjoy breakfast with their friends and teachers. This arrangement will be incredibly beneficial for the children as it fosters a more relaxed environment and ensures they are in the right mindset to embark on their assessments.

We must remind our pupils that the outcomes of these tests are not a reflection of their worth. They are truly amazing individuals, and while these tests are government requirements, they do not capture the wonderful qualities that each child possesses. We believe wholeheartedly in their success and the bright futures that await them.

Whole school move up day- Thursday 2nd July

On whole school move up day, Year 6 will visit the Academy (if that is their chosen school), Year 2 will spend the day at Consett Junior School, and all other classes will experience a day in their new class. We are currently finalising classes for next academic year, and an announcement will be added to the newsfeed on the app with details about your child's next teacher in the coming weeks.

Summer Term Attendance Reward

We will celebrate our summer term attendance on Wednesday, 15th July. Each child will participate in an attendance assembly to underscore the importance of being present in school regularly and on time. All children will receive raffle tickets according to their attendance as follows:

Below 96% = 1 ticket

96% and above = 2 tickets

97% and above = 3 tickets

Continuing in increments up to 100% (totalling 6 tickets for 100%).

There will be separate draws for lower and upper school during the assembly, and the winner will have the chance to meet with me the following day to choose a prize of up to £20 from Amazon. This gives the child time at home to select something they truly desire!

Throughout the day, ALL children will also be rewarded with treats and refreshments, along with an hour of crafts, movies, or music during class time.

Illness can strike any child at any time throughout the year, and achieving 96% attendance is a reasonable target, considering that someone may be unwell but can still reach that benchmark. Unfortunately, it is not the child's fault if they are absent, but they can certainly engage in discussions around the importance of regular school attendance when they are fit to do so. This day not only promotes good attendance overall, but it also specifically encourages improved attendance for those children deemed at risk of falling behind.

All schools have their own policies on rewarding and promoting attendance; it is worth noting that many do not provide rewards beyond perfect attendance.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for supporting our attendance objectives and keeping us informed regarding any absences. Throughout this term, we have conducted several attendance meetings, which can be a challenging experience for some families.

Celebrations – 100% attendance and our annual Special Recognition Awards 2025/2026

On Thursday, 16th July, we will host our annual Special Assembly in school, aimed at honouring all those children who have achieved 100% attendance for the entire academic year, as well as those nominated for a recognition award. The recognition award is presented to children who have truly shone throughout the year; this may reflect qualities such as kindness, academic prowess, noteworthy progress, or simply for being an exceptional individual who has stood out to our staff.

If your child is selected to receive a special award, you will be notified ahead of time; we will keep it a surprise for the children. You may check your child's attendance records on the app, and we will also send a message to families of those achieving 100% attendance. So far, we have 41 children who have attained this milestone; last year, 31 children managed to achieve it and the year before that only 23 children did.

If these awards pertain to your child, we will reserve two seats per child for the assembly, which will commence at 9:10 a.m. (after registration). There will be an opportunity for photographs following the assembly.

The assemblies will be divided into two as follows:

- If your child is in Year 3 or 4, their assembly will run from 9:10 to 9:30 a.m., with two adults permitted to attend.
- If your child is in Year 5 or 6, their assembly will occur from 9:45 to 10:10 a.m., with two adults permitted to attend.

Our celebrations do not end there; that evening, we will treat these remarkable children to tea at Sambucas. A pre-order menu will be sent home in advance to facilitate arrangements for the evening meal. Children should be brought to the restaurant by 5:45 p.m. and collected again at 7:30 p.m.

Please take note of the following key dates and events. While they are accurate at the time of print, more details will be provided as they are arranged, and some may be subject to change. I recommend consulting the calendar on the school app for updates on transition dates/events and sports day scheduling.

May 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 to school (Pineapple Exotics). Mrs. Taylor to share a post.
- Monday, 11th May: SATS week; Year 6 will have access to a free breakfast club all week.
- Friday, 15th May: Year 6 to receive their Leavers Hoodies and have their photo taken.
- 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. All children will need to be collected from Blackhill Park on this day.
- Friday, 19th June: Final day for Year 6 families to purchase their allocated tickets for the leavers show. Additional ticket sales will open after this date.
- Wednesday, 24th June: Year 6 Rugby Festival at Consett Academy. Details to follow

July 2026

- Thursday, 2nd July: Consett Academy Transition Day, 1 of 2.
- Thursday, 2nd July: Whole school move up day.
- Friday, 3rd July: Consett Academy Transition Day, 2 of 2.
- Tuesday, 7th July: Sports Day, during the afternoon at Consett Rugby Club.
- Friday, 10th July: School reports will be distributed.
- Friday, 10th July: Year 6 sleepover in school. Details will follow.
- Monday, 13th July: Dress rehearsal day for Leavers Show.
- Monday, 13th July: Selected children will participate in a Year 5 Quidditch event. Details to follow.
- Tuesday, 14th July: Whole school football event. Details to follow.
- Wednesday, 15th July: Summer term attendance celebration day.
- Wednesday, 15th July: Year 6 leavers show at Consett Academy. Ticket sales for Year 6 only.
- 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.

September 2026

- Wednesday, 2nd September: School reopens to pupils for the new academic year
- Wednesday, 9th September: Photographer will be in school taking individual and sibling photos while uniform is still fresh!

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026.

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 10 May to Thursday 13 May 2027.