



Consett Junior School - October 2026 Newsletter

Dear Families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter, please take a moment to read through this and make a note of any dates applicable to your child. There are still more events to schedule in the run up to Christmas, including our amazing Christmas shows! Check the app for further updates.

Attendance

As we move into Autumn 2, I would like to emphasise the vital importance of regular school attendance. Although academic achievement is understandably a priority, daily attendance also gives children enriching opportunities to socialise, develop, join extracurricular activities and grow in a nurturing environment. Our attendance this year

Measure	Figure
Average this year	95.0%
National average YTD	95.6%

Our current attendance is below the national average for schools in our phase, so we will continue working closely with families to improve this. To put this into perspective, this time last year our attendance was above national at 96.9% which I am sure you will agree, is a significant decline so early in the new year.

The Department for Education's statutory guidance makes clear that attendance is everyone's responsibility and that schools should work in partnership with families. Good attendance supports:

- attainment;
- wellbeing;
- safeguarding; and
- future life chances.

Regular attendance helps children to keep up with learning, build strong friendships, settle into routines, take part in wider school life, and feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

Mrs Raine monitors attendance closely. Where attendance becomes a concern, some families may be invited to an attendance meeting so that we can identify barriers and offer support. Each family's situation will be considered individually. Absence related to a holiday will be considered separately, in line with school policy and statutory guidance. For families new to our school, we will also consider previous attendance patterns to understand your child's needs more fully.

Children do occasionally become poorly. Please use NHS guidance on whether your child is too ill for school before deciding to keep them at home. If your child has a medical condition that may affect attendance, we will work with you to put appropriate support in place. If you are concerned about your child's attendance, please get in touch so we can work together to support them.

September Attendance Results

We are pleased to present our attendance report for September. This month, our overall attendance stands at an average of 95.0%, which is slightly below the current national average of 95.6%. Year to date, this places us at a national percentile of 31, indicating that we are performing well so far.

The attendance value represents the total number of present marks out of the total possible attendance marks taken at each roll call point throughout the day. This data accounts for all types of students, including guest students.

It is important to note that under the Education Act 1996, parents can face fines for their child's absence from school without valid reason. Each absence session can significantly impact a child's learning journey. Regular attendance is essential as it helps foster a consistent educational experience and contributes to a child's overall achievement.

Looking into individual performance, all children with 100% attendance to date are in the running for six raffle tickets at our autumn term attendance assembly. It's vital that students understand the importance of attendance – those who maintain 100% attendance all year will be rewarded with a special meal in July.

As we reflect on September, we are genuinely impressed with how well our students have started the academic year. Consistent attendance lays the foundation for success, and we encourage everyone to strive for high attendance levels moving forward.

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 is Class 2, with an outstanding attendance rate of 97.69%. As a reward for their efforts, Class 2 will enjoy a free non-uniform day this Friday, 2nd October.

Class	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Class 2	97.69%	1.03%	0
Class 4	97.27%	0.78%	0
Class 6	96.48%	1.9%	5
Class 7	96.15%	3.44%	6
Class 8	94.94%	0.81%	3
Class 5	93.73%	3.14%	11
Class 3	92.33%	4.88%	16
Class 1	92.05%	2.65%	2

Year Group Results

We are delighted to celebrate Year 6, who achieved the highest attendance across the year groups with an impressive 95.57%. To reward their achievement, they will receive sweet treats on Friday 2nd October.

We would also like to praise Year 5 for their fantastic effort. Keep going - your hard work and consistency will put you in great stead for next month's reward.

Next month, we look forward to celebrating Year 5's continued efforts. Their commitment to attending school every day makes a real difference and will help them stay in contention for the prize.

Thank you, as always, for your support in promoting excellent attendance and helping us maintain a positive, successful school family.

Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Late R/C: Marks (Count)
Year Y6	95.57%	2.19%	9
Year Y5	95.08%	2.53%	16
Year Y4	94.66%	2.95%	16
Year Y3	94.6%	1.92%	2

School Dinners and Free School Meals

Parents are reminded to monitor their ParentPay accounts to ensure they remain in credit at all times. Accounts falling into significant arrears, where parents do not respond to requests for payment, may unfortunately result in the termination of meal services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

On the last day of this half term, 23rd October, the school will host a Halloween themed meal. Children on school meals will receive this automatically, while those on packed lunches can opt in by completing the form below by end of day today, 30th September. This form also has booking details for the other themed meals we have available.

[Autumn themed meals 2026 – Fill in form](#)

We would like to remind parents and carers about the new free school meals eligibility. If you think your household may now qualify, please get in touch with the school office as soon as possible. We are happy to help check whether your child may be entitled to free school meals.

Year 3 Settling in Drop In

The school is pleased to announce a Drop-In session for Year 3 parents on 14th October, from 3.30pm to 5.00pm (last entry by 4.50pm). This informal opportunity allows parents to chat with the class teacher and view their children's work. Overall, the students have settled well and are producing excellent work. No booking is necessary; parents are welcome to arrive within the specified timeframe.

Toy Appeal Support 2026

As the festive season approaches, the school wishes to acknowledge, "Christmas". For those who may be facing financial difficulties during this time, it is encouraged to reach out for support. The school is committed to ensuring that every child experiences the joy of the season. Recognising that pride may prevent some families from asking for assistance, they emphasise the importance of communication regarding needs. In previous years, they have partnered with the Salvation Army and generous donors. This year, a similar approach will be taken. For confidentiality, a designated form is available, and donations of new toys or gifts are warmly welcomed.

[Toy Appeal Support 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Voluntary School Fund

We express heartfelt gratitude to families for their generous contributions to the private school. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all families who have generously contributed to the private school funds. Your support makes a real difference to the children's experience at school, helping us to provide additional resources and festive treats such as Christmas celebrations, pantomime shows, gifts, daily rewards and class incentives. These contributions are especially appreciated at this time of year. Please remember that this fund is voluntary and not a requirement for families, but it does help to enrich the school experience for all children. In September, we received £110.17 in contributions.

Halloween Party Day

On Friday 23rd October, the school has an exciting day planned for the children, featuring a day of spooky celebrations. Party entertainer DJ Paul Watson will host Halloween parties for each year group throughout the day. Should any child wish to opt out, they will be provided access to a quieter area for alternative activities. A contribution of £2 per child is requested, with a payment item available on ParentPay. Children are invited to wear their 'spooky outfits'; however, masks must not be worn in the yard or classroom. Non-uniform is acceptable for those not wishing to dress up. There will be no change to the school day timings, and clubs will continue as scheduled. Please note, if a child has PE, it is unlikely to take place due to the parties in the hall.

[We are not requesting any party food for this event.](#)

Year 6 Robinwood Residential – Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th May 2027

Just a reminder that the final date to pay the remaining balance is Friday, 23rd April 2027. It is crucial to note that this is the last date to pay; if any balances are not cleared in full by this date, your child will regrettably not be able to attend. Spreading costs is encouraged where possible.

BBC Children in Need 2026

Children in Need is Friday 13th November, the council will meet over the coming weeks to decide how we will raise funds in school, the theme is "Challenge yourself". Aside from this there will also be a themed school meal on that day. Details will follow...

School Uniform

Families are kindly requested to ensure their children are dressed in the correct school uniform and that all items are clearly named. There has been an unprecedented increase in lost property after just four weeks, with many items unlabelled. Furthermore, named items are frequently not being returned after they go home with children. Additionally, it has been noticed that some children are wearing football strips for PE, which is against school policy. Please make sure that your child's PE kit complies with the established guidelines found on the school website: [School Uniform Policy](#).

Reach More Parents – Consett Junior School App

As you are aware, the school utilises *Reach More Parents (Consett Junior School app in app store)* to communicate with families. This app provides up-to-date information, event details, and a facility to contact the office, as well as report absences. Any adult with parental responsibility can access the app; however, it is common for only one parent to enrol, which is acceptable provided at least one parent follows the communications. During busy periods, such as this, failing to engage with the app may result in missing essential information. Notifications can be disabled, but doing so may lead to missed school events.

IMPORTANT: If you have not activated your Reach More Parents account when the link is sent to you, you may miss out on important information.

After School Enrichment Clubs – Autumn 2

This information will be reposted on the school app on Thursday 8th October 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 2nd November, and there will be no clubs on Friday 18th December.**

Monday Clubs:

- **After School Christmas Book Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Marsden and Mrs Hannant)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 children.
- **After School Band** (until 4.30 p.m. for existing members only)
Cost: £1.50 per week, payable to Miss Waters.
- **After Seasonal Crafts Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Haney, Mrs Slight and Mrs Guy)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 30 children.
- **After School Darts Club for children in Years 5/6** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Wearmouth)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 10 children.

Tuesday Clubs:

- **After School Karate** with Ross Temple (for existing members and new members)
There are 6 spaces available. Please contact Ross at ross@kenshokarate.net
- **After School Seasonal Movie Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Haney and Mrs Slight)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 30 spaces and children can bring snacks.
- **After School Jigsaw Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Miss Wood)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 16 spaces.
- **After School Just Dance Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Pattison and Miss Marsden)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 16 spaces.

Wednesday Clubs:

- **After School Nerf 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.
- **After School 'Walk and Talk' Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Raine, Mrs Gilray, Miss Oselton, and Miss V Waters for existing members)
This club is free and limited to 30 participants. All children from previous terms will retain their places, which will be reflected on ParentPay.
- **After School "Bedazzling" Club for children in Years 5 & 6** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Foxley and Mrs Guy)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces.

- **After School Riddles Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Carr and Mrs Watson)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces.

Thursday Clubs:

- **After School Maths Activities Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Watson and Mrs Pattison)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces.
- **After School Seasonal Movie Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mrs Carr and Mrs Wearmouth)
Cost: £7 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 30 spaces and children can bring snacks.
- **After School Multi Skills Club 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.

Friday Clubs:

- **After School Lego and Ipad Club** (until 4.30 p.m. with Mr Dixon and two supporting staff)
Cost: £6 per child (£1 per week)
Participants: Limited to 34 spaces. Full payment is required to secure your child's place.
- **After School Sports Hall Athletics Club** (with an external coach)
Participants: Limited to 20 spaces. This club is funded through our PE Budget, making it free for all children.

School Photograph Ordering – Deadline date is Friday 23rd October

On Tuesday 22nd September, children brought home photograph proofs from Mark Wilkinson. The last day to return orders to school is Friday 23rd October. Any late orders must be sent directly to the shop. Only the plans outlined on the form can be ordered, and payment details are included on the form. Should you wish to have the photo retaken or if your child was absent on the day, please arrange an appointment with Mark in Middle Street. All payments will go directly to Mark via the school; the school does not receive any commission from these photographs, as per the agreement, enabling Mark to keep costs low for families. When making payments, it is essential to return the proof, fill in the form completely, and enclose the exact amount, as envelopes are not opened.

Parking on the Estate and around about

The school has recently received a request from residents to communicate an important message to families regarding parking on and around the estate. The current parking situation has become increasingly challenging since school returned in September. It is worth noting that there are potentially five schools in close proximity, further complicating the matter. Therefore, the school kindly asks that families refrain from blocking drives, as complaints from residents, councillors, and the police have been frequent. It is hoped that, with this request followed, there will be less issues around the school. We also have no crossing patrol on Ashdale/Oakdale so even more important to keep our children safe.

Secondary School Applications

Below is information about applying for your child's secondary school place. One bit of advice, please ensure you click "submit" and check that you have received a generic email from the team.

"The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2027 Intake begins on 01 September 2026. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31 October 2026. If parents do not wish to apply online, they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team from 01 September 2026. These application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Please note that if you have any year 6 pupils who live in another local authority but attend your school, the parents should contact their Home Local Authority (i.e., the authority to which they pay their council tax) to request an application form, even if the parent would like to apply for a Secondary School in County Durham.

Thank-you for your co-operation with this matter, it is much appreciated. If you have any questions relating to this, please contact me via telephone on 03000 265893 or by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk “

Robinhood - Pantomime visit to school

On Tuesday 3rd November M & M productions will be visiting our school during the morning to put on a spectacular performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. We have used this company for many years now and they never fail to impress or humour the children (and staff!). We choose to bring the 'oh no she isn't' experience to our school as we feel that the local pantomime is usually enjoyed as a family. We pay for the cost of this production from our school fund to ensure no child is left out - should you wish to make a donation please do so under 'school fund' on ParentPay.

<https://www.magicoftheatre.com/>

Term Dates

Currently, there have been no changes to the future term dates already shared with families. 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](#).

School will finish for the first half of the Autumn term at 3:25 p.m./ 3.30 p.m. on Friday 23rd October 2026. We will reopen for the second half of the Autumn term on Monday 2nd November 2026. **There is a staff training day on Friday 27th November and school will be closed for children on this day.** The last day of term is Friday 18th December 2026, with school resuming again on Monday 4th January 2027.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 30th September – Last day to pre-order themed meals.

Friday 2nd October – Flu immunisation team in school for children where consent has been provided.

Friday 2nd October – Class 2 free non-uniform day for winning the best attendance in September.

Monday 5th October – Harvest themed meal.

Thursday 8th October – Autumn 2 enrichment clubs go live at 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday 14th October – Selected Year 5/6 children to participate in a basketball event. Details to follow.

Wednesday 14th October – Year 3 parent/carer drop-in session, 3.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m., last entry 4.50 p.m.

Thursday 15th October – Visitor in school for Year 3 to teach them about the Stone Age.

Wednesday 21st October – Selected Year 4 children to participate in a netball event. Details to follow.

Friday 23rd October – Halloween party day (£2) and themed meal day.

Friday 23rd October – Last day of Autumn Term 1.

31st October – Last day for Year 6 families to ensure they have applied for a place for secondary school in September 2027.

Monday 2nd November – School reopens for Autumn Term 2.

Monday 2nd November – Autumn 2 enrichment clubs commence.

Tuesday 4th November – M & M Productions will spend the morning in school performing in Jack and the Beanstalk.

Thursday 5th November – Bonfire night themed meal.

Friday 13th November – Children in Need. Details to follow.

Monday 16th November – Anti-Bullying Day. Details to follow.

Friday 27th November – School closed for staff training – one day only.

Friday 20th November – Selected children across school to attend a curling event. Details to follow.

Wednesday 25th November – Year 5 cinema visit to see The Smurfs. Details to follow.

Tuesday 1st December – Final karate lesson for this term. Karate grading during after school session next week.

Tuesday 8th December – Karate grading after school.

Wednesday 9th December – Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day. Details to follow.

Thursday 10th December – Save The Children Christmas jumper day. Details to follow.

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas party day. Details to follow. Party food contributions required.

Thursday 17th December – Last enrichment club today for this half term.

Friday 18th December – Last day of the Autumn term. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 school council fine – Payment option on ParentPay to do this.

Monday 4th January - School reopens to all children today. Breakfast club starts at 7.45 a.m. and there is no need to pre-book a place.

Monday 4th January – Spring 1 enrichment clubs commence.

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

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 8 May to Thursday 11 May 2028.