



## Consett Junior School September 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new year 3 pupils and families to Consett Junior School, I would also like to welcome the other new pupils who have joined us in years 4, 5 and 6. You are all very welcome and we look forward to sharing the next few years of your educational experience with us.

I assure you, at Consett the pupils are our first priority, we are striving to make this the best school it can be academically, whilst not losing sight that children need the opportunity to pursue other endeavours such as music, drama, sports and outdoor learning. Our school band continues to go from strength to strength, led admirably by Mr Jackson and Miss Waters. We are proud of the number of after school clubs we offer, so that children can access a range of activities. We will continue to enter many sporting events, giving more children a chance to represent the school.

We aim to work closely with each and every one of you, therefore should you have any worries please do not hesitate to contact the school. Mrs Raine or myself are around most mornings, or if you would rather arrange an appointment please contact the school office.

I look forward to seeing you all at some point throughout the school year.

Kindest regards

Paul Dixon (Head Teacher)

### Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last academic year was 96.19%, above the governments floor target of 96% .

Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life. Most children are normally educated at school and regular attendance is vitally important. Poor school attendance damages educational achievement and the future progress of young people. Promoting and supporting good attendance at school is essential to learning and attainment. We understand that children are sometimes too unwell to come to school, and this is recognised by the % being set at 96% which allows for children to have time off due to illness, without it compromising their education.

At Consett Junior school we take pride in helping children achieve their best and strive to support families that are facing difficulties in bringing their children to school. We have many incentives in place to recognise and reward children who have excellent attendance, which range from academic year individual rewards, monthly class and year group rewards and also termly rewards. It is very difficult to achieve 100% attendance, and we have found that in the past children who are absent at the start of the year miss out on opportunities to receive further rewards, even when they go on to have excellent attendance for the remainder of the year.....cont

		September 2018				
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
su	3 -	4 - School re-opens...welcome back!	5 - 12:10 Cross country training Short route	6 - Yr 3 Swim 12:10 Cross country training Short route	7 - Fun Friday Lunch & Grab-a-Bag (orders must be placed on the Tuesday of this week).	8
9	10 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band	11 - After school Karate Club till 4.30 p.m.	12 - 12:10 Cross country training Short route	13 - Yr 3 swim 12:10 Cross country training Long route After school Unicorn Club (Full) - Year 4 & 5 After school Dance Club (spaces) - Year 4, 5 & 6	14 - Fun Friday Lunch & Grab-a-Bag (orders must be placed on the Monday of this week). Free after school Art Club (Places being confirmed but will be Full) - Year 3 After school members only football training until 4.45 p.m.	15
1	17 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band	18 - After school Karate Club till 4.30 p.m.	19 - 12:10 Cross country training Short route	20 - Yr 3 swim 12:10 Cross country training Long route After school Unicorn Club (Full) - Year 4 & 5 After school Dance Club (spaces) - Year 4, 5 & 6	21 - Fun Friday Lunch & Grab-a-Bag (orders must be placed on the Monday of this week). After school Art Club (Full) - Year 3 After school members only football training until 4.45 p.m.	22
2	24 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band	25 - After school Karate Club till 4.30 p.m. Year 6 transition day to Consett Academy - letters to follow Year 6 Parents' Evening - 6 p.m. at Consett Academy	26 - 12:10 Cross country training Short route	27 - Yr 3 swim 12:10 Cross country training Long route After school Unicorn Club (Full) - Year 4 & 5 After school Dance Club (spaces) - Year 4, 5 & 6	28 - Fun Friday Lunch & Grab-a-Bag (orders must be placed on the Monday of this week). After school Art Club (Full) - Year 3 After school members only football training until 4.45 p.m.	29
3	24 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band Tempest photographer in school this morning - letters for sibling photo's to follow.					

October dates /events for you to be aware of, please note that they are **correct at time of print and may be subject to change.**

**Key events: w/c Monday 15th October - Spooky Halloween Themed School Dinners week; Wednesday 17th October - After School Halloween Disco (APP alert will be pushed out once tickets are on sale); Friday 19th October - Last day of this half term, non - uniform day £1 school council fine; Tuesday 30th October - School re-opens for the next half term (Monday 29th is closed for staff training); Wednesday 30th October - Year 6 residential trip to Lockerbie Manor**

## Attendance.....cont.

For families new to our school we would like you to know that:

- \* 100% termly attendance allows those successful to be out of lessons for an afternoon to watch a movie and enjoy an ice-cream. There are three terms in the academic year, i.e. September to December.
- \* The **class** with the best attendance **each month** have a free 'non-uniform' day
- \* The **year** group with the best attendance **each month** are rewarded with cakes and treats!
- \* Children who achieve 100% attendance in their academic year are rewarded with a special assembly and an special meal
- \* Children who achieve 98+% attendance in their academic year are rewarded with an after school disco.

It is hard to achieve 100%, so our many other incentives show children how brilliant and committed they are. If we can support you in any way, please ask. As a school, we are responsible for monitoring our own attendance, therefore, like other schools, we are required to keep you informed of your child's attendance. We send home colour coded letters twice a year and we will contact you if your child's attendance causes concern.

## School Dinners

School dinners remain at £2.05 a day, which can be paid to the school office (until 14th December) or by using ParentPay. The menus are available on the website but can be sent home, if requested.

### A few words from Mr Maddison...

*"A big welcome back to a new school year from Taylor Shaw, especially myself and Nikki and we look forward to seeing and serving you and your children throughout the year.*

*Whilst we are still on our summer menu, it is likely our Winter menu will be in place after half term. We may need some winter warmers by then so it will be really good to have the traditional winter dishes back on the menu. More to follow.*

*We have introduced our Grab a Bag (no need to queue packed lunch) menu every Friday this term, it will run alongside Fun Friday hot meals so try one of these if you're on packed lunches at the moment. They must be ordered on a Monday from Mrs Raine, a fantastic way to introduce schools meals without the daily commitment.*

*Best wishes from Keith & Nikki"*

## Locherbie Manor 2018 and Residential Trip 2019

We have 38 year 6 children attending this trip on 31st October, if you require a new clothing list please see Mrs Raine. Mr Dixon will soon be arranging the 2019 residential trip for next years year 6 children, and information about this will be sent home shortly once arranged.

### ParentPay

As previously informed, we have now started to use ParentPay in school. At present this is for the payment of breakfast club and dinners only. Payment of clubs, school fund and trips will still be taken by Mrs Raine.

If you have not received your activation code (letters sent home with children on 4th September), please request another copy of the letter. If you do have your letter you now need to activate your child's account. We will only be taking money into school for breakfast club and dinner until 14th December 2018.

Mrs Raine is able to log in to the system and see who is yet to activate their accounts, and reminders will be sent in due course.

As always, any problems please contact Mrs Raine.

ParentPay is a secure and easy way to make payments, but as it is a new system, teething problems are likely!

## Information Home

If your family circumstances mean that parental responsibility is shared, and both sets of parents/guardians require school reports, newsletter and photographs sent home, please provide this information to Mrs Raine. We understand how important it is for all parents/cares to be involved in the education and school life of their child. If this is pertinent to you, please let us know.

## OurSchoolApp

For families new to our school, you may not be aware of our app. This is our main form of communication. It allows parents/carers and even childminders to access information about the day to day operation of our school. Although we have a text message service, this is a cost to the school and only used for emergencies or to ensure pertinent/individual information is shared.

If, like many of us, you find the 'pinging notifications' frustrating, you can disable these. For families new to our school you may not have been made aware of this function. You need to load the app - settings - notifications. You can disable any of the three types of notifications, but please remember that if you do this, you need to make sure you check the app regularly so that you are not missing important information, i.e. special events.

## School Fund

School Fund is used for the benefit of **all pupils** at the school. Examples include: Supplementing library stock; Additional teaching resources; Hire of recreational facilities; Prize Day expenses; Subsidising travel expenses of pupils e.g.: field trips, sports fixtures; providing refreshments at parents evenings & open nights; Improvement of the school environment.

You can pay school fund weekly or termly and we hope for £1 per week, however, any small change is very beneficial. We have a 'Money Spinner' to make paying school fund fun for the children. They thoroughly enjoy popping along to reception to pay their fund into the spinner. You can also pop it in with dinner money. We are very grateful and enjoy using this to benefit your children.

## Clubs

Swimming - **Year 4 swim last lesson on a Monday; Year 3 swim last lesson on a Thursday.**

### Cross Country Training

Cross country training will continue throughout this year, we don't mind the colder weather and a little rain! This training is only for children in years 4, 5 and 6. We now have more than 10 keen and regular runners, and look forward to seeing them work together each week to improve their stamina and style. We hope for big things this year with our brilliant team. We have cross country race dates scheduled before the end of the year, and will share these with our members soon.

### After school karate club

There are spaces available for children in all years. This club is ran by Kensho Karate club, and all payments are requested and made to them. This club is every Tuesday from 3.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. and commences on Tuesday 11th September.

### Band

Band rehearsals for all children are after school each Monday until 4.30 p.m. Band is £1.50 each week, if you think you are behind with payments please ask your child to ask Miss Waters about how much is owed.

### Members on After School Football Training - Friday till 4.45 p.m.

Children need appropriate P.E./football kit, this years training starts again on Friday 14th September.

### Year 4 & 5 After School Unicorn Club - Thursday till 4.30 p.m.

**This club is now full.** Slips have been returned to the children, please pay if you have not already done so. This club starts on Thursday 13th September.

### Year 4, 5 & 6 After School Dance Club - Thursday till 4.30 p.m.

There are still spaces available for this club, although limited. This club starts on Thursday 13th September.

### Year 3 After School Art Club - Friday till 4.30 p.m.

This is a free club for year 3 only, this helps children experience what our after school clubs are like and a good start to their first year with us. There are only 20 spaces available for this club, so unfortunately not every child can be offered a place. This club will run until July 2019 and starts on Friday 14th September.