



Consett Junior School September 2019 Newsletter

Welcome back,

It's a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school. Especially our new children and their families, the school is continuing to grow and we now have nearly 220 children.

I do hope you have all had an amazing summer break, although I'm sure you welcome the return to normality and routine of school. It is always a special time at the beginning of a new school year, the children are excited, the weather is usually nice and the general hubbub of excitement is in the air...

I'm happy to share with everyone that Mrs Hannant has had her twin daughters, both children and mum are doing well - we are very much looking forward to meeting the little ones for the first time, later this term. We are lucky in that we have been able to cover Mrs Hannant's maternity with a new member of staff, Miss Parker - many of you will recognise her from her other role as a Swimming teacher at Consett leisure centre, we wish her every success for the term ahead.

As always, if anyone has any concerns or worries, please don't hesitate to call or pop into school, we are always happy to help and support families as best we can.

Take care,

Mr Dixon

Kindest regards

Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last academic year was 95.66%, slightly below 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 2019

S	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	S
2 -	2 -	3 - Staff training day	4 - 12.10 Cross country training Short route	5 - 12.10 Cross country training Short route	6 - Fun Friday Lunch	7
8	9 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band	10 - After school Karate Club till 4.30 p.m. After school Lego and Mindfulness Club (Full) - Year 4, 5 & 6	11 - 12.10 Cross country training Short route	12 - Yr 3 swim 12.10 Cross country training Long route After school Dodgeball Club (Full) - Year 4, 5 & 6	13 - Yr 6 swim Fun Friday Lunch (orders must be placed on the Monday of this week). Free after school Art Club (Your place MUST be confirmed) Year 3 After school members only football training until 4.45 p.m.	1
1	16 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band	17 - After school Karate Club till 4.30 p.m. After school Lego and Mindfulness Club (Full) - Year 4, 5 & 6 Mark Wilkinson photographer in school this morning Letters for sibling photo's to follow.	18 - 12.10 Cross country training Short route	19 - Yr 3 swim 12.10 Cross country training Long route After school Dodgeball Club (Full) - Year 4, 5 & 6	20 - Yr 6 swim Fun Friday Lunch (orders must be placed on the Monday of this week). After school Art Club - Year 3 After school members only football training until 4.45 p.m.	2
5	16 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band	24 - After school Karate Club till 4.30 p.m. After school Lego and Mindfulness Club (Full) - Year 4, 5 & 6 Year 6 transition day to Consett Academy - letters to follow. They need a packed lunch Year 6 Parents Evening - at Consett Academy	25 - 12.10 Cross country training Short route	26 - Yr 3 swim 12.10 Cross country training Long route After school Dodgeball Club (Full) - Year 4, 5 & 6	27 - Yr 6 swim Fun Friday Lunch (orders must be placed on the Monday of this week). After school Art Club - Year 3 After school members only football training until 4.45 p.m.	2
2	23 - Yr 4 swim Dinner Money, Band Money and school fund due After school band					2

Ford Castle trip is Monday 30th September, leaving after lunch

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: Wednesday 2nd October - Year 6 return from Ford castle; w/c Monday 21st October - Spooky Halloween Themed School Dinners week; TBC but we are hoping to book Wednesday 23rd October - After School Halloween Disco (APP alert will be pushed out once tickets are on sale); Friday 25th October - Last day of this half term, non - uniform day £1 school council fine; Monday 4th November - School re-opens for the next half term .

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 a special meal
- * Children who achieve 98+% attendance in their academic year are rewarded with an afternoon of fun.

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 only be paid 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.

We are continuing with our Fun Friday lunch option, which 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”

Ford Castle 2019 and the 2020 Residential Trip

We have 44 year 6 children attending this trip on 30th September, if you require a new clothing list please see Mrs Raine. Forms required to be completed before children go to Ford Castle will be sent out this week. Mr Dixon will soon be arranging the 2020 residential trip for next years year 6 children, and information about this will be sent home once arranged.

ParentPay

As you are aware, we use ParentPay in school. At present this is for the payment of breakfast club and dinners only. Payment of clubs, school fund and trips are still taken in the office by Mrs Raine.

If you are new to our school and have not received, or have misplaced your activation code (letters were in the starter packs), please request another copy of the letter. If you do have your letter you now need to activate your child’s account.

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.

Information Home

If your family circumstances mean that parental responsibility is shared, and both sets of parents/guardians require school reports, newsletters 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.

Making Photograph Purchases from Mark Wilkinson Photography

Please see the link below for further information. If your child is in Year 4, 5 & 6 you should have received the access link for the gallery.

<http://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/making-photo-purchases-from-mark-wilkinson/>

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 and 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. 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 (starting 12th) and Year 6 swill last lesson on a Friday (starting 13th until the February half term).**

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 20 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 for this term and we will share these with our members soon.

After school karate club

There are four spaces available for children in all years. This club is run 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 10th September. If your child did karate in the Infant school and are continuing, this is also their session. **THERE IS NO KARATE ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER.**

Band

Band rehearsals for all current members 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 only After School Football Training - Friday till 4.45 p.m. (Free)

Children need appropriate P.E./football kit and boots. This years training starts again on Friday 13th September. There are spaces for this football training, so if your child is new to our school, even if in year 3, and wish to join, please ring Mrs Raine.

Year 4, 5 & 6 After School Dodgeball 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 12th September. Until the October half term.

Year 4, 5 & 6 After School Lego and Mindfulness Club - Tuesday 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 Tuesday 10th September. Until the October half term.

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 25 spaces available for this club, so unfortunately not every child can be offered a place. This club will run until June 2019 and starts on Friday 13th September.