



Consett Junior School- July 2021 Newsletter

Dear families,

I hope this last newsletter of the year finds you well.

Who would have thought that we would still be, very much, in the middle of bubbles and restrictions when the academic year began in September 2020? It has been a very challenging year for everyone, especially for those who have lost loved ones, the lack of social support and the ability to console those we care for has been difficult for many.

It was heart-warming to have such support and understanding the school has received during some difficult times, especially with the sad passing of Mr Jackson, we are determined to treasure the time and memories we have had with him, we will endeavour to ensure his legacy and love of music especially Brass music continues for many years to come.

Although the approaching summer holidays is a time we all look forward to, it is also a time of sadness, as we have to say goodbye to our Year 6 children. The children, despite the difficulty of living through a pandemic, have managed superbly. They have attempted and completed all that we have asked and more, they continue to mature and grow into amazing young people. On behalf of all our staff at Consett Junior School, we wish them nothing but happiness and success in the future.

Thanks to all my staff, who have, without doubt worked above and beyond throughout this year, even more so than normal. To all our wonderful families, we have missed you and I hope beyond hope that I am able to welcome you all into school next year. Finally, thank you to all the wonderful children, who, despite the horrid times, have kept up our spirits, who have worked so hard and who have always done their best.

Have a great summer holiday, take care and we hope to see you all soon.

Mr Paul Dixon

Head Teacher

Attendance

The whole school attendance for June was 94.54%, this is below our floor target of 96%, however, there are several children absent with colds and hay fever. As we have previously informed our families, please do not assume that your child's symptoms are not Covid. We cannot accept children into school with these symptoms without a negative Covid test. If a child is isolating they must complete their work online <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/remote-learning-expectation-for-school-and-home/> Attendance levels are not impacted on when a child is isolating.

There are still several families that do not inform us about their child's absence. This makes the operation of the school challenging in these difficult times, as we do not know the reason for your child's absence. School is a legal requirement and if your child is absent for any reason you must inform us. Unauthorised absences are recorded and if they build up you will be referred to the Local Authority and this will result in Fixed Penalty Notices and if needed, legal action.

One of the best ways to think about reporting absences would be...would you inform your employer when taking a day off?

Year Group	% attendance	Unauthorised absences (sessions)	Lates
3	93.94	9	22
4	95.66	8	10
5	94.97	9	4
6	93.75	44	17

[School Dinners](#)

Our current summer menu <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/summer-menus-taylor-shaw-4/> will remain in place when we return in September. If you are changing your child's school meal arrangement for September, it is important that you inform Mrs Raine before the end of term. If there is no notification of change then your child must return on the same school arrangement, and your ParentPay account will be charged.

[June Voluntary School Fund](#)

We received £79.00 in ParentPay school fund donations in June. School fund can be paid using ParentPay or by children bringing coins into school and placing them in the 'money spinner'.

[Robinwood Residential Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th May 2022](#)

Following consultation with our current Year 5 families, the Robinwood residential has been booked and families who completed the interest booking form have been allocated their places. To secure your place all deposits of £25 must be paid on ParentPay before 16th July 2021. Using ParentPay, you can continue to make payments off your balances and as this is a reducing payment you will be able to monitor what is left to pay. The final date to pay the full £240 is Friday 29th April, 2022.

[Covid 19 - Please remain vigilant](#)

The cases of Covid in our local area are on the rise, which has resulted in several school bubble closures and people isolating. With just over two weeks left of this term and the hope that the government moves us into step 4 of the roadmap in July, we are urging you to remain vigilant and not send your child to school if you suspect they may have Covid.

If you have been in contact with a positive case you must self-isolate immediately.

If a member of your bubble has Covid you must all self-isolate.

If you are waiting for PCR results the whole bubble must self-isolate.

Please do not put others at further risk. For details about what you can and cannot do in step 3 of the road map please visit <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

[COVID-19 – Reporting Covid Test Results](#)

If you have informed the school that your child or a member of their bubble is isolating while waiting results of a Covid test DO NOT send them back to school without either speaking to Mr Dixon or Mrs Raine OR emailing consettjunior@durhamlearning.net and have received a reply, regardless of the test result. It is imperative you keep us informed during this process. Many more schools in our area are closing bubbles so we MUST be vigilant.

[Ordering Uniform for September 2021](#)

We expect ALL children to return to school in September wearing the correct uniform. We will be monitoring this over the first few and will contact you should we need to, here is also a link to our uniform requirements <https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/parents/our-school-uniform/>

You can opt for school or home delivery but please do not choose school delivery now, we cannot guarantee they will be delivered to school before 16th July. Please place orders online at <https://totstoteams.com/consett-junior-school>

If your child is in Year 6 or have grown out of their current uniform, please can you consider donating this to the Willowburn Charity Shop in Consett, as they sell them for a very small amount.

[Covid Local Support Grant – Summer Term Vouchers](#)

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for information as to how and if vouchers to cover the summer break are to be awarded. Once we know more we will share this information with families.

[E-safety and WhatsApp](#)

Last half term we welcomed in Vicki Lydon from the Bullying Intervention Group to talk to all children about the importance of esafety. Vicki delivered very informative and interactive sessions, and all children engaged well.

However, we are still being informed of children using social media platforms, in particular, WhatsApp, inappropriately. It is the responsibility of Parents/Carers to monitor their child's safe use, and if necessary, ensure that parental settings have been applied. Some of the messages we have been informed about between children are concerning, and we urge you to regularly check your child's phones.

[Sports Day](#)

On Wednesday the 7th of July we are going to have our sports day-albeit a little different this year. This event will be carried out in year group bubbles with children competing in their school competition houses.

Years 3 & 4 will be taking part in a range of events in the morning and year 5 & 6 will be having their sports day in the afternoon. For this event we are asking children to wear a t-shirt in their house colour (class teachers will be reminding children of their house) and sports wear on the bottom.

Aynsley: blue.

Dale: yellow.

Edgar: green.

Unsworth: red.

Also, please be mindful of the weather on this day as a hat and sun cream may be required, as well as an extra water bottle.

Unfortunately, parents/carers will not be able to spectate this year, but our school photographer will be in taking lots of pictures which we will convert into a fun video for you to view on our School's YouTube channel.

Good luck to everyone and may the best house win...

[OurSchoolApp](#)

Please check this daily as we have a very busy few weeks ahead of us.

[Naming the Outdoor Library Competition](#)

As you may remember, our outdoor library was burnt down last year. Thanks to all the amazing fundraising, led by one of our parents (Kyla).

With the money raised and a substantial amount added from our budget we have gone bigger and better. At the moment we have a company furnishing the inside of it and this will be completed in a few weeks. As this touched the hearts of so many in our community, we thought it only fair to allow our children to name it...

We recently ran this competition to name our outdoor space, please can you take the time to choose a name from the list below before Friday 2nd July.

They will be given a small reward and will also feature in a photograph which will be published in our local paper. We hope this will all be done by the end of term.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENhzGYEp0zDERAnxWCoX5eljVUMlg3V09DNEVCMEhLWjE5Q0kzUUVXTUpQRy4u

Good Luck to all the children who entered!

Bringing Bags and fidget toys into School

In light of the current situation regarding a recent rise in Covid cases in our local area please do not allow children to bring fidget toys into school as these are being swapped and touched by lots of different children. If your child requires these toys as part of their SEN plan, we will provide them.

Could we also remind you that children should only be bringing packed lunches and water bottles in from home. No pencil cases or large bags with nothing in. Therefore, children on school meals should only have their water bottle, children with 'carry handle' packed lunches should not have large bags.

Apart from the fact we are trying to keep our school as clean as possible, these items are not necessary and are creating issues with regards to safety as well as space in classrooms.

Class Teachers – September 2021

The information below has already been shared with families and details who your child's class teacher will be in their next academic year.

Children in current year 5 have been mixed for year 6, this is mainly to support friendship groups but also to prepare the children for changes when they leave our school at the end of year 6, even if children go to the same secondary school, they will not be to be grouped the way they are now. We feel it is our responsibility to prepare our children for these changes.

Children in current Year 5 will be sent a school text to state who their new teacher will be. Once received can you please discuss this with your child. The classes have been significantly changed but this has been a sensitive process with current year 5 staff working closely with Year 6 and the SLT.

Children in years 3 and 4 will remain in their current class groups and will move as a class to their next teacher, see below:

Year 3 Class 1 - Will become Class 4 with Miss Thompson (supported by Miss Wilson)

Year 3 Class 2 - Will become Class 3 with Mr. Meadows and Mrs. Taylor (supported by Miss Oselton and Miss Wilson)

Year 4 Class 3 - Will become Class 5 with Miss Breheny (supported by Mrs. Wood)

Year 4 Class 4 - Will become Class 6 with our newly appointed teacher, Miss Clarey (supported by Mrs. Hird)

Year 5 Class 5 - Text will determine Miss Waters (supported by Mrs. Gilray and Mrs. Hannant) or Miss McNeill (supported by Mrs. Shield)

Year 5 Class 6 - Text will determine Miss Waters (supported by Mrs. Gilray and Mrs. Hannant) or Miss McNeill (supported by Mrs. Shield)

The new year 3 children's teachers will remain as Mrs. McMahon, Miss White and Miss Hughes (supported by Miss Atkinson and Miss Lynch).

In September Mr. Moore will be leading and teaching Science across years 4 to 6.

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer our children a move up day before the end of term, as we are not able to safely support our bubbles in doing so. However, current years 3 to 5 will spend the first two days of the new term doing transition activities as they would have done on a move up day. This means the full curriculum will not start until Monday

6th September.

End of Year Reports

Individual pupil end of year school reports will be sent out on Friday 9th July. If you are a parent/carer who receives theirs through the post, they will also be posted out on this day.

Current Plan for Opening in September 2021

Over the last year and a half our school has operated on a staggered start/finish system, whereby, lower school start and finish slightly sooner than upper school, and to support you we allow siblings to come in early or stay behind to await collection. At this moment in time, we are not able to tell you the plan for September, other than we have a Plan A - stay as things are now but slowly introduce extra-curricular after school clubs. Or Plan B we return to 8.40 a.m. gates open for an 8.55 a.m. start (this is for children not attending breakfast club), and all school finishes at 3.30 p.m. and clubs will resume as normal. We would like to be confident enough to say that the normal hours of the school day will return, however, this is highly unlikely.

Therefore, please plan for our school to remain on the same operational system that it is now; staggered start and finish times; year group bubbles; staggered breaks and lunchtimes; lower school collection from the yard; assigned year group entrance and exits; 7.45 a.m. bubble group breakfast club and coming to school wearing PE kits on their assigned days (timetables will be uploaded to the website class pages over the summer holidays).

If, during the school holidays we are informed that we can return to 'normal' we will keep you informed using our usual communication systems. Therefore, please ensure you check the school app and our website regularly over the holidays and we will text the primary contacts if there have been any updates. Unfortunately, it can often be very late in holidays when DfE guidance is released, and this is very much dependent on the Governments roadmap, so we can only apologise if this is short notice to you, but it will also be short notice for us.

Below is a link shared to parents regarding last year's safe reopening. The times and staggers of the day remain the same, and the FAQ's are also the same (however clubs are likely to start after the first half term). **Please note that the dates to return to school in the link below are last years (2020).** For this September children in year 3 in September return on Wednesday 1st September 10.00 - 2.00 p.m. The rest of the school will return together on Thursday 2nd September, at the times stated in the links below.

<https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/changes-to-the-times-of-the-day-september-2020/>

There is also a link to a YouTube <https://youtu.be/6VnBhUJXJEs>

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 1st July – End of year show – filming day. This show is primarily for the Year 6 leavers, however, all other years are performing a year group dance will be used as part of the show. Permissions have already been sought so if you have not given permission or have refused, they will not appear in the video. Like Christmas, this video link will be on our YouTube page and the link will be shared before the end of term.

Friday 2nd July – End of Year 6 trip to 'Moorhouse Adventure Centre', in Houghton Le Spring. The coach will leave at 8.45 a.m. prompt and children will not be back at school until 6.30 p.m. Please let us know if your child gets travel sick and if they need tablets can you request a medicine administration form. This is an action packed day full of activities and the children will be abseiling; on the zip wire; tree climbing and using rifles. The final activity is the camp fire. **Children CANNOT bring their mobile phones and if they do they must be left at school.**

Friday 2nd July – Don't forget to cast your vote for the naming of the library competition https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENhzGYEp0zDERAnxWCoX5eijVUMlg3V09DNEVCMEhLWjE5Q0kzUUUVXTUpQRy4u

Monday 5th July – Year 3 and 4 must come to school in PE clothes as they will once again take part in a fun 'Hoopstarz'

session.

Wednesday 7th July – Sports Day! (See notes within this Newsletter). This event will be available to watch on a video via our YouTube site in due course.

Thursday 8th July – Year 5 and 6 must come to school in PE clothes as they will once again take part in a fun 'Hoopstarz' session.

Friday 9th July – End of year school reports go out to children.

Friday 9th July – As an end of Year 6 treat we will be holding a sleepover for all children in Year 6. This will take place on Friday, 9th July from 6 p.m. until 9 a.m. on Saturday, 10th July. There will be members of staff present throughout the night to supervise this.

Children will need to bring with them a toothbrush, tooth paste, sleeping bag/duvet, camping mat (if they have one), a pillow, pyjamas, slippers and a DVD (U and PG rating only). **Children CANNOT bring their mobile phones.**

We have arranged for a disco/party organiser to come and 'kick start' the night at 6.00 p.m., followed by a delivery of pizza and chips. Any poor behaviour before the 9th of July may result in your child being unable to attend this event.

If your child is attending the event but not sleeping over, you must make arrangements for them to be collected at 11.00 p.m. and inform us on consettjunior@durhamlearning.net

Monday 12th July – Year 4 session with an Artist

Monday 12th July – Year 6 Party Day – all year 6 must be in school for 9.00 a.m. and will be off the school premises until 12 noon. The bus will leave school from Ashdale Road at 9.15 a.m. depending on the direction the bus is facing it will either head up to Medomsley Road or down to Sherburn Terrace, either way it will arrive at Number 1 Roundabout. From there it will head down the bypass (A692) into Consett to KFC Roundabout and back up Front Street. The bus will spend the next 15 minutes circling around the 'B' roads of Consett before taking a scenic route out of Consett to head down to Allensford Park for 10.00 a.m. It will spend an hour at the park so the children can run around and Mark Wilkinson Photography will be there for the hour taking photographs for a parent gallery. At 11.00 a.m. the children will board the bus and continue on their way touring the local area before returning to school at 12.00 noon

If you are planning to find a place along the route to watch the coach please remember social distancing and also please do not share photographs if other children are featured on them. There will be opportunity for you to view and purchase photographs from Mark after the event.

Wednesday 14th July (rescheduled from 5th July) – American themed day lunch (for Independence Day 4th July), if your child is usually on packed lunch they can have a school meal on this (you must have pre-ordered this) and all children come to school wearing red, white and blue on this day.

Thursday 15th July – Year 3 session with an Artist.

Friday 16th July – If your child is going to Robinwood In May 2022, you must have paid your £25 non-refundable deposit on ParentPay before Friday 16th July. This is to secure your place as places are limited.

Friday 16th July – The last day of term. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 fine (ParentPay). Please ensure ALL ParentPay arrears are paid, especially if your child is in year 6. Any year 6 arrears after this date will be forwarded to DCC for further action.

Wednesday 1st September – This is staff training day but also our new Year 3's additional transition day (10.00 – 2.00 p.m.). Year 4 – 6 will start on Thursday (see information within this newsletter regarding how we plan to open).

Thursday 2nd September - School re-opens for the new academic year. Breakfast club starts at 7.45 a.m. No need to pre-book a place, payment is made via ParentPay. Wednesday 1st September is CLOSED to all pupils who will be in years 4, 5 & 6. Children in Years 4, 5 & 6 must return on the same school meal arrangement as July unless you have changed this with Mrs Raine. Failure to inform of a change will result in a charge on ParentPay.