



Consett Junior School

November 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to our latest Newsletter,

As we arrive at the October half term, I'd just like to thank everyone for their support over this past half-term.

It certainly has been busy, and we've managed to edge a little way toward a normal school year - although, still with the pandemic hanging over us. We are appreciative of the support families have shown when asked to get PCR tests and although we have had cases, it hasn't thankfully spread to everyone.

It has been so nice to see after school clubs taking place, the Karate, Multi skills and Running. I can't write this, without mentioning the fantastic achievement of the boy's cross-country team, who over a four-week competition managed to come out as winners. Alongside this a special mention to both the Girls and reserve runners who have shown their great commitment over the four weeks. I'm looking forward to taking part in some of the extra-curricular clubs over the next half term.

As we move into the second half term and the excitement of Christmas, I'm especially looking forward to the Christmas music being played by our super school band, hopefully many of you will join us for our Christmas Coffee mornings.

A special thanks to all our staff for continued efforts and endeavours which make our school a fantastic place to work and learn.

I hope you all have a great half-term break and managed to get some family time.

Take care,
Mr Paul Dixon

Head Teacher

Attendance

Our attendance this month is 94.54%, still below 96% but children are suffering with many respiratory illness, please ensure you let us know if your child is off unwell.

Attendance letters

We usually provide colour coded attendance letters at the end of each term. However, we are concerned at some individual students' low level of attendance only seven weeks into the first term. Basically, there are 220 students in our school and we have 70 children with attendance below 96%. This does include positive cases of Covid-19.

This week we sent home letters and your child's attendance summary IF their attendance is below 96%. **If your child has been absent with Covid-19 and had no other absences we will not be sending you a letter. However, if your child has been absent with Covid-19 AND other absences we will be sending home a letter.** Some families received letters that request a meeting. Please ensure you contact us to book a meeting as these letters are all documented and should we make future referrals to the Local Authority they will request all evidence of how we have worked with families.

We do understand that children have genuine reasons for absence, and we did consider all of these factors on an

individual basis before writing to families. We are also mindful that we are at the start of the school year and if your child has been unwell for just three days their attendance will be low, but brilliant attendance moving forward will keep them above the 96% criteria.

Did you know you can also check your child's attendance on the app?

[October attendance overview](#)

Well the results for October attendance are in:

Class 1 - Mrs McMahon had a staggering attendance of 98.48% and are this month's winners! 🏆 They were closely followed by Miss White's class, coming in at 97.14% - good try Class 2. Class 1 will be rewarded with a free non-uniform day on Friday 5th November.

Year 3 won the year group attendance hands down at 97.83% and the other three-year groups were not going to catch them up. On Friday 5th November we will bring in giant cookies/cakes to celebrate.

Who will be top in November?

Year Group	% attendance	Unauthorised absences	Lates
3	97.83	2	24
4	94.56	6	7
5	94.47	10	16
6	92.06	23	3

[School Dinners](#)

School dinners must be paid for using ParentPay, you can find a link to ParentPay via the app 'hub'. We will remind families who have arrears in excess of £10/£15 every Friday. If your child's school meals arrears start to exceed £40 - £50 we will remove the school meal option until the arrears are paid.

What a fantastic week of Halloween themed meals. Well done to our cooks Pip and Nicky who are ready for a well-deserved rest. There were an additional 30 children on school meals each day. If your child enjoyed them why not put them on dinners after the half term? Give Mrs Raine a ring for more details.



[Covid -Reminder](#)

If your child has one or more symptom of covid we will request a PCR test **before** they can come to school. While you wait for PCR results children with symptoms must isolate. A LFT will not be accepted when symptoms are present; so please do not assume we will accept these as you will be requested to book a PCR and we will refuse children entry school without this. If you send your child to school without informing us of their PCR result then they will be asked to wait in the isolation room until we establish the result. Please ensure you app message or email these details, as we do have a record of children who we have requested/are having a PCR test.

[Year 6 trip to Robinwood – Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th May 2022](#)

Just a reminder that you can pay little and often from your child's Robinwood 2022 balance. It is too soon to firm up finer details of the trip - we will be sorting this into the new year. Your ParentPay payment item is set so it reduces each time you pay - managing how soon you pay in full. The full amount must be paid by Friday 19th April 2022 to ensure your child can go.

[Halloween Celebrations](#)

The children have had a brilliant day doing Halloween activities and a fun-filled hour disco for each year group in the hall. Thank you to all families for the absolutely amazing costumes, the time and effort that has gone into them is mind-blowing.

[Harvest Celebrations – Supporting County Durham Foodbank](#)

Thank you to all families that donated to our harvest collections, it took two trips from the organisers and also an additional car journey with Miss Waters and some of the children. By far one of the best responses we have had from our families. Thank you also to James and Matthew from Year 5 who actually used some of their own pocket money to buy items.

[Poppy Appeal 2021](#)

The Royal British Legion are asking the nation to Rethink Remembrance by recognising the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community, past and present. By wearing a poppy and/or poppy merchandise, you aren't just remembering the fallen: you're supporting a new generation of veterans and Service personnel that need our support.

From Monday 1st November we will be selling poppy merchandise in school as follows:

Reflectors: 50p

Zip Pull: 50p

Silicon wristband: £1

Snap band: £1.50

Children can make purchases in the hall during the first morning break until 11th November or as long as stocks last, but the correct change is required. Poppies will also be on sale for a small donation.

[Salvation Army Toy Appeal](#)

Every year we support the Salvation Army Toy Appeal and ask for donations of new and unused toys that are given to local families in financial difficulty at Christmas. We are yet to find out what is happening for collections this year but from past experience this is a much-needed collection. We will keep you informed once we know more.

[October Voluntary School Fund](#)

Just a quick thank you to all families that have sent in school fund for October, we have received £155 so far. This is used for the benefit of all pupils at the school. We are paying for the November pantomime and we subsidised the cost of the Halloween discos.

[Clubs w/c 1st November](#)

We offer enrichment only after school clubs, this means that they are changed regularly and offered to different year groups each time. They are not suitable for families who require regular childcare. Clubs after half term w/c 1st November:

Monday – After school Chess club till 4.30 p.m. for Year 4 with Miss White. This club is limited to 10 spaces on a first come basis, there are 3 spaces remaining. The cost of the club is £7 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Monday – After school band until 4.30 p.m. for existing members. Please pay Miss Waters £1.50 per week.

Tuesday – After school Karate with Ross Temple for existing members. The last session of this term is Tuesday 30th November. The grading will be held during the school afternoon of the 7th December.

Tuesday – After school cross-country with Mrs Raine, Miss Oselton and Mrs Hannant, for selected cross country team members. Children are back to school for collection at 4.15 p.m.

Wednesday – After school Multi Skills with Chris Shield for existing Year 5 members. This club ends on Wednesday 15th December (Christmas arrangements may mean the last session is cancelled).

Wednesday – After school 'relax and colour' club till 4.30 p.m. for Year 3 with Mrs Raine. This is a calming and quiet club for children who prefer the more chilled activities. This club is limited to 20 spaces on a first come basis and is now full. The cost of the club is £7 per child which works out at £1 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place.

Thursday – After school Bootcamp sessions with Matt for Year 6. Booking details to follow so please do not request a place until this is sent out to the full year group. This club is limited to 12 spaces on a first come basis and is now full. We are funding this club through our PE Budget so it is free for children. If this club is successful it will be rolled out for other years groups in the new year.

Friday – After school Badminton club sessions with Mr Dixon for Year 6. This club is limited to 10 spaces on a first come basis, we have 3 spaces remaining. The cost of the club is £5 per child which works out at £5 per week. This must be paid in full to secure your child's place. This club will not run on the last day of term (17th December) or Friday 19th November as we are closed that day.

[Swimming](#)

Swimming for years 4 & 6 will continue until Christmas. This will change to different year groups after Christmas and

further details will follow in December.

[Our Christmas Eve 'Big Show' Plan...](#)

We have booked LW Film to record our Christmas performance again this year. Staff are currently deciding what they will do within their recorded time slot and should they need anything specific to wear on the day we will let you know. We aim to 'air' our production on Christmas Eve.

[Traffic](#)

It is great to see the congestion around school improving but more can still be done to keep our children safe. The wardens, local police and council are all working with us.

[Morrisons its good grow](#)

Help us get FREE gardening equipment for our school. To take part, join 'MyMorrisons' today and swipe each time you shop to collect Grow Tokens. One token for every £10 you spend until Sunday 24th October. On your first visit to 'MyMorrisons' you'll be asked to select the school you'd like to donate your Grow Tokens to, please choose Consett Junior School.

[Uniform reminder - we are still finding some children who are not in the correct uniform. Seven weeks into the term, there is really no excuse now.](#)

[Our School Uniform](#)

Our uniform is designed so that it is not financially a struggle to purchase. All items can be sourced from local supermarkets at very low prices. Girls Uniform Royal Blue Sweatshirt/Cardigan Grey or Black Skirt/Trousers Yellow Polo Shirt Blue/White Gingham Dress (optional summer only). Boys Uniform Royal Blue Sweatshirt Grey or Black Trousers Yellow Polo Shirt Black or Grey Shorts (optional summer only)

[Other Uniform Information](#)

Black shoes should be worn with school uniform (no white or coloured trainers except for PE). Appropriate footwear for school does not include high-heels or decorated shoes (sequins, beads or bows), which are not suitable for school use, for safety reasons. Loose fitting sandals are not allowed, as these are trip and slip hazards.

Make-up, jewellery, hair die, and nail varnish are not appropriate for school and we will contact you should your child come to school wearing them. The wearing of earrings is not encouraged in school, anything larger than a small stud earring would not be allowed. In addition, new guidelines have been issued to schools which say that any earrings should be removed for PE, including swimming, or covered securely by plasters or tape, this includes studs.

Long hair should be tied back (we are aware the many boys have long hair – this applies to them too) and coloured or shaved hair is not acceptable.

[PE Kit](#)

We have adapted our PE uniform policy in light of changes made during Covid times. It became noticeable how much curriculum time children were using to change – therefore we made the decision to allow children to come to school in PE kit on those days' children have the subject.

The following outlines what our PE kit is:

Bottoms: Dark (not obviously branded or patterned) shorts, leggings or joggers.

Top- plain white t-shirt or the white t-shirt with the school crest on.

Jumpers - only school jumpers or cardigans should now be worn. Not Hoodies, as there is too much confusion over the type and colour –if hoodie are worn these would be treated as coats and children would be asked to remove them in class.

Stud earrings should either be taken out or covered up with tape - no other jewellery should be worn

[Secondary Admissions Application Process for 2021](#)

Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the School Admissions online application facility will be available to parents from Monday the 6th of September 2021.

The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2021.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available to print from our website (same website address as above) from Monday the 6th September 2021.

Alternatively, these application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Copies of the Parent's guide "Primary and Secondary School Admissions in County Durham 2022/2023" will also be available from our website or on request from Monday the 6th September 2021.

[M & M Productions – Jack and the Beanstalk](#)

On Friday 12th 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.

This date has been changed to the one previously mentioned on our September Newsletter as we have now asked for two shows in one day, rather just one. We feel that only having Years 3/4 in one show and Year's 5/6 in the second show will ensure we maintain our contingency plan for potential covid breakouts as well as space in the hall.

If your child does not enjoy pantomimes or loud noises there will be a quiet classroom they can go into to enjoy other activities.

[Key Dates and events for you to be aware of, please note that they are correct at time of print. More will be added when arranged and some may be subject to change. Please also refer to the calendar on the school app. We do have some sports events due but are waiting for final details.](#)

Friday 22nd October – School closes for the end of this half term at 3.20/3.30 p.m.

Sunday 31st October – Closing date for secondary school admissions 2022.

Monday 1st November – School reopens for the start of the half term at 7.45 a.m. for children who attend breakfast club.

Monday 1st November – Poppies and Poppy Appeal merchandise is on sale, children will need to correct change.

Wednesday 3rd November – Year 5 tag rugby event at Consett Rugby Club. Selected children will attend this event and letters/app messages will follow. Children must come to school for the normal time as they will walk there with their teachers. A packed lunch is required.

Thursday 4th November – If you have ordered a Bonfire school meal the children will access this today, there will be no change for children usually on school dinners. An app message will be sent to families of children on packed lunch to let them know they have ordered one.

Friday 5th November – Year 6 will be spending the day at Beamish Museum; the coach will leave at 9.30 a.m. and will be

back at school for the normal finish time. Children must be wearing their full school uniform. If children want sweets from the old-fashioned sweet shop you must pay £2 on ParentPay before the day.

Friday 5th November - Class 1, Mrs McMahon's class won the best attendance for October and today is their free non-uniform day. Well done Class 1. All of year 3 will also celebrate with a cake/giant cookie as their year group had the best attendance.

Wednesday 10th November – Year 4 will have an earlier lunch as they are going to the metro centre theatre to see 'Come Away'. They will be back to school for a slightly later time of 3.40 p.m.

Thursday 11th November – Whole school maths day. Details to follow on the app, but children can come to school dressed in mathematician outfits/geeks/nerds...

Friday 12th November – M & M Productions are in school during the morning to perform the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Year 3 & 4 will be in the first show and Year 5 & 6 in the second. The cost of the show will be paid for through our private school funds, but donations are welcome.

Thursday 18th November – Year 5 children will be going to the Tyne Theatre after lunch to watch 'Elf'. The cost of this is £10 and payable on ParentPay. Children will be back at school later than normal, please arrange collection for a 5.30 p.m. return.

Friday 19th November – CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING

Monday 29th November – what will be twinkling and bright in the hall this morning?

Tuesday 30th November – Final after school karate session for this term. January restart dates to follow.

Wednesday 1st December – Christmas show rehearsal day, details to follow.

Thursday 2nd December – Christmas show recording, details to follow.

Friday 3rd December – Flu immunisation team in school for children's nasal spray vaccine. The team are yet to firm up details and send us permission forms.

Tuesday 7th December – Band coffee morning and Year 6 carol service 1 of 2, booking has closed, families who showed an interest will be contacted via the app.

Tuesday 7th December – Karate grading during the school day. Children taking part will need their karate suit.

Wednesday 8th December - Band coffee morning and Year 6 carol service 2 of 2, booking has closed, families who showed an interest will be contacted via the app.

Wednesday 8th December – Whole school Christmas dinner and jumper day. Details about booking a lunch will be available in November.

Friday 10th December – Children can come to school wearing their Christmas Jumper again for a £1 donation to 'Save the Children'.

W/C Monday 13th December – THERE WILL BE NO SWIMMING FOR ANY YEAR GROUP THIS WEEK.

Tuesday 14 December – Christmas party day! There will soon be a payment option for a £1 contribution to the entertainment we have booked for this day (on ParentPay). After half term there will be more details in the 'notices' section of our app.

Thursday 16th December – The brass band will play to the whole school in a special concert. We will be remembering the life of Mr Jackson today, who would have been leading the band in their rehearsals and shows at this time of year. We are asking all families to think of Mr Jackson and to donate to the fundraising page.

Friday 17th December – School closes at the end of the school day for the Christmas holidays. Children can come to school in non-uniform for £1 fine paid on ParentPay.

Saturday 25th December – STILL Not too sure what is happening today? I'm sure it will DEFINITELY come to me for the next newsletter...

Wednesday 5th January 2022 – All children back to school today please, I am sure by this time you will be ready for their return!

Friday 18th February – School will close at the end of the day for the February half term. This will be a non-uniform day and fines can be paid for on ParentPay

Monday 28th February – School reopens for the second half of the spring term.