



Consett Junior School

February 2022 Newsletter

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our latest Newsletter. Hopefully, everyone survived the storms without too much damage - it was certainly wild.

January has seemed a long, cold, dark month; hopefully, February will bring lighter mornings and some sunshine!

As usual our wonderful children have been working hard, I have loved inviting the Headteacher Award winners into my office for Hot chocolate on a Friday afternoon - I look forward to the children sharing what they have gained the award for, it is the highlight of my week.

Over the next few weeks, I am aiming to spend an afternoon in each class, teaching and getting to know the children a little better - I am really excited by this and cannot wait to share their learning experiences.

We continue to enter a veritable plethora of sporting events, I was lucky enough to join the year 6 children at the dodgeball tournament the other day; I must say our children were very honest and followed the rules superbly. It is a lethal game, sadly I am not as quick as the children and managed to catch a couple of direct hits, much to the amusement of the children! Over the next few weeks, we have more events to look forward to, a Swimming Gala and the County final of the Cross Country - I am really looking forward to these and wish all the participants a great deal of luck - I am hoping to attend both events to lend my support.

As always if you have any worries or concerns or need to share anything with us, please do so - we are here to help.

Take care,

Mr Dixon

Attendance

The attendance for January has been one of the lowest we have known; the whole school was recorded at 92.54%. It is fair to state that many absences have been Covid, and we hope by half term many of the children will be well and our attendance on the rise again. What is also important to note that there are many 'ad-hoc' days absences and sadly, many of these are the same children. You can monitor your own child's attendance in the app, and it is worth looking as there are clear patterns with some families for having absences on certain days/times i.e., often a Monday or a Friday, or in some cases it is often a week attached to the end of a term. We do look back at previous year's attendance and compare them against each other.

Children who do not attend school regularly and on time will either fall behind their peers or make no progress, this causes issues for the children when they return to school as they really struggle.

Despite the low attendance in January Year 3 figures were amazing! They have achieved the highest attendance for January and will be rewarded on Friday (4th) with cakes. Miss White's class (class 2) had an amazing 98.09% attendance and they have earned a free non-uniform day this Friday, well done to Miss White's class.

Year Group	% attendance	Unauthorised absences	Lates
3	95.12	2	21
4	90.23	18	21
5	90.38	37	20
6	93.07	4	25

School Fund – January

Thank you to all families who have paid school fund on Parentpay this month. We received £108 in January and this goes a long way in supporting us to make additional purchases for school. This money helps to buy items for celebration days, class prizes for the children and rewards. It is really appreciated. There is no expectation for families to pay school fund, it is completely voluntary, but the more we get means we can keep other costs for families to a minimum.

Comic Relief

The school council will be meeting shortly to discuss ideas to support Red Nose Day (Comic Relief) on Friday 18th March. We will also be bulk buying some red noses for sale in school. As we do not take cash in school this will mean payment on ParentPay – and when they are gone the item will be removed. This allows to pay for the number you would like to buy and they will be given to your child once payment is received.

School Dinners

School dinners continue to be very well accessed, when all children are in school we have over 90 children enjoying a hot meal. The menu is due to change in February and will be uploaded to the app and website once received. Please remember we request two weeks' notice to change meal arrangements, usually we can do this with less notice. I also just want to remind parents that we also operate an extremely popular 'fun Friday' meal arrangement, this allows children to have a school meal every Friday and gives families a day off making packed lunch. Please contact Mrs Raine for details.

Covid

Since our last newsletter guidance has changed, here is a reminder of isolating times:

- If your child has symptoms of Covid they must isolate and a PCR test must be arranged.
- If your child tests positive on an LFD (Lateral Flow Device) you do not need to book a PCR and they must isolate immediately. You must register the LFD device on the DfE (Department for Education) website and forward the reply/confirmation to school.
- You can test your child on day 5 and 6 and if negative they can return to school on day 6. If they are positive you can continue to test until they have two negative LFDs (Lateral Flow Device), otherwise isolating can stop after ten days – providing they are well.
- If your child is unwell no work will be set. A welfare call home will be done after a few days and work can be discussed at that point. There is no expectation for children to complete work if they are poorly.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Scooters

There are an increasing number of children bringing their scooters to school each day. Please can you support us by reminding your children about the safety of themselves and others while riding to school. Children must dismount their scooter before entering the school grounds and push their scooter to the store. There are lots of younger children around and there is risk of injury to them as children ride too fast into school.

We have also had reports of unsafe use outside of the school grounds, examples include crossing roads at speed without stopping to check for moving vehicles, we even had one boy ride his scooter at speed down the middle of the road.

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

Just a reminder (and encouragement) that you can pay little and often from your child's Robinwood 2022 balance. The full amount must be paid by **Friday 19th April 2022** to ensure your child can go. **FAILURE TO PAY IN FULL WILL RESULT IN YOUR CHILD LOSING THEIR PLACE.**

[Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2023](#)

For children in current Year 5, we are seeking interest to book a residential for May 2023. A form to add your interest is pinned to the top of the newsfeed and we require a response from all families. If you have completed this form we will include you in a message after Friday 18th February, so far, we are confident this trip will be booked, but places will be limited.

[Year 6 Leavers Hoodies](#)

All children in Year 6 have ordered their leavers hoody and this order is now with the supplier. We needed to get in early with the order as suppliers are still struggling with their own suppliers because of Covid and Brexit. I am incredibly pleased that we can get our children their hoody in suitable time. The deadline for families to pay for their child's hoody is Friday 29th April 2022.

[Clubs this half term](#)

Our current after school enrichment clubs will run until February half term and some of these will even continue afterwards. We will soon be sharing details of clubs for the next half term.

Monday – After school Chess club till 4.30 p.m. for **Years 5 and 6** with Miss White. Ends Monday 14th February.

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

Monday – Eco – Club until 4.30 p.m. for **Years 3 and 4** with Mrs Wood and Miss Atkinson. Ends Monday 14th February.

Tuesday – After school Karate with Ross Temple for existing members. The spring term after school sessions start on Tuesday 11th January and will run for 11 weeks. The grading will be during school afternoon on Tuesday 5th April. **FULL COMMENCES TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY.**

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. **Ongoing.**

Tuesday – After school Crochet club for **Year 4** with Miss Thompson. Ends Tuesday 15th February – we are waiting to see if this will be extended.

Wednesday – After school multi-skills club for Year 3 with Chris Shield (Leisureworks). This free club is limited to 16 spaces. This club will run until Easter.

Thursday – Free after school Bootcamp sessions with Matt for **Year 5 Class 5**. This club is limited to 12 spaces. Ends Thursday 17th February. This club will continue after half term but for **Year 5 Class 6**, a booking form will be shared shortly.

Friday – After school Dance Club with Miss Clarey for **Years 5 and 6**. Ends Friday 18th February.

[Swimming](#)

Swimming for the spring term (until Easter) will continue as follows:

Year 4 will continue to swim on a Wednesday afternoon.

Year 5 will continue to swim on a Tuesday afternoon.

Year 3 will swim for the final term, over the two days, and this will be split over four sessions. All swimming sessions will continue to be held at Catchgate pool and no parents/carers are permitted to supervise.

School Uniform- REPOST

We are continuing to see several children wearing clothes that ARE NOT school uniform. If you need to order more uniform for your child, this can be done online at <https://www.totstoteams.com/schools/consett-junior-school/> We have noticed some children were still wearing trainers on non-PE days and not the correct uniform items. Children not wearing the correct PE kit will be given spares to change into. There are several months to go before Summer and the policy must be followed. You do not have to purchase the uniform from Tots to Teams – most local stores stock our colours and they are very reasonably priced.

Get Fit 4 PE

Starting today (Monday 31st) we are running a 2-week fitness event where the children can raise money to buy their class equipment for break and lunch times. Letters and sponsorship forms have already been shared and contain more information but the goal of this is to get children moving more outside of the school day.

We are challenging the children to carry out 20 minutes of exercise outside of the school day and log it on the sponsorship form. To encourage them to do this, we would like this to be a sponsored event (no more than £5 per child).

If your child would like to go the EXTRA MILE they can create a poster, scrap book, video of all their activities to highlight what they have been up to. There will be a prize for those that put the most effort into this.

A letter and sponsorship form were sent home and shared on the app last Friday. Please can all money be paid via the link on ParentPay (again- no more than £5 please).

We really look forward to seeing and hearing how your children get themselves moving over the next 2 weeks.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

Our literacy coordinator, Miss McNeill will be sharing details shortly – keep checking the app for her post, some things to expect on the day are 'The masked Reader,' Dressing up as a favourite book character and a Recycling Challenge. It sounds like it is going to be a brilliant day!

World Kidney Health for All Day

We have been asked by one of our parent's if we can support the family of one of our pupils, Evan from Year 5. Her lovely little boy has a rare kidney disease and she is hoping we can come together on Thursday 10th March to raise awareness, as well as some funds, to support and educate everyone about kidney health.

This is a small ask, wear purple on this day. When Evan started with us in Year 3 we did not know him and did not know that his swollen face was cause for concern, but when other symptoms began to present and with Mam's fast acting, they were able to get him the treatment he required. Mam has also included some photographs of Evan, the photograph with Evan in his yellow school polo shirt is a poignant reminder of how poorly he was at the start of this roller-coaster journey.

Please can children wear purple for school on this day (not purple hair if it is a swimming day!) and donate directly to the link Mam has set up. Thank you in advance!

Please visit to app newsfeed and calendar for Evan's Story and photographs.

<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/kidney-research-uk/world-kidney-day-2022/evans-kidney-campaign>

<https://www.worldkidneyday.org/2022-campaign/>

Key Dates and events for you to be aware of, please note that they are correct at time of print. Some dates may be subject to change. Please also refer to the calendar on the school app.

Monday 31st January – Our 2-week fitness event starts today; the children can raise money to buy their class equipment for break and lunch times. Sponsor money is to be paid on ParentPay.

Monday 7th February – Selected children from years 5 and 6 to participate in a swimming gala at The Louisa Centre. Children must be in school for 8.45 a.m. as the coach will leave prompt at 9.00 a.m. Parents/Carers can spectate. If your child has been selected then a letter/app message has already been sent.

Friday 11th February – Last day for Get Fit 4 PE. Please pay sponsor money via the link on ParentPay. If children have made a scrapbook/poster they can bring them into school.

Wednesday 16th February – Selected children from years 5 and 6 to participate in a fencing event during the school day – letters will be shared with families if their child is attending.

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 under 'non-uniform fines.'

Friday 18th February – Final day for current year 5 families to complete the interest form for Robinwood 2023. This post is pinned to the top of the app newsfeed.

HAPPY HALF TERM!

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

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day, children can come to school today dressed as a character from their favourite book. Miss McNeill will have shared information prior to half term on the app.

Friday 4th March – Year 6 children will be spending the day at Beamish Museum. The coach will leave at 9.30 a.m. and will return in time for 3.30 p.m. collection. There will be a payment option on ParentPay for sweets (like last time), only £2 per child. The cost of the trip and the coach will be paid for by School. If you need a school packed lunch we will provide an option to order one.

Thursday 10th March – Wear purple for World Kidney Day, please make donations to <https://donate.givetap.co.uk/f/kidney-research-uk/world-kidney-day-2022/evans-kidney-campaign>

Friday 11th March – This morning we will be taking our winning Cross-Country boys' team to New College Durham to take part on the County Cross Race. We are really excited about this! It is going to be a memorable day.

Friday 18th March – Red Nose Day – details to follow.

Friday 8th April – Last day of Spring term – Easter holidays. This will be a non-uniform day and fines can be paid for on ParentPay under 'non-uniform fines.'

Monday 25th April - School reopens for the summer term.

Friday 29th April – Robinwood 2022 balances must be paid for in full today. There is no flexibility on this date and there are children on the waiting list so places will be offered to those children.

Friday 29th April – Year 6 leavers hoody's must be paid for by today.