



## Consett Junior School

### April 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the April Newsletter,

I do hope those people who attended the special person's afternoon teas enjoyed their time in school - I sadly was poorly for three of them but did manage to catch up with many of our wonderful year 5 parents on the first session. I must thank everyone for all their efforts in organising the events and making them work so well; Pip and Nicky for preparing the food; Yvonne and Denise for serving the teas and coffees and of course Mrs Raine for organising the afternoons and sorting the music and slideshows - lots of behind-the-scenes efforts, thank you all.

As we move into the final week of term, then into the Easter break, I do hope the weather returns to the dizzy heights of last week - certainly, these April snow showers, although pretty can stay away.

The summer term sees a plethora of new after school clubs, as well as a Year 6 visit to Robinwood, which the children are really looking forward too - so am I to be honest, my first visit to the venue, staff tell me it is very good. We are also able to hold our first face to face parents/carers evenings in such a long time, this has been something we had hoped to reintroduce before now, but due to covid, it has been postponed.

It is also our final term with year 6, they have faced such a difficult and troublesome experience in the Junior school, but as we approach their final term, I look back and remember the smiley little faces of wonder when they arrived for the first time, the time does fly - we hope they have a lovely and enjoyable last term with us before we hand them onto our secondary colleagues.

If I do not manage to see you before the holidays, do enjoy your break and time with your children, the staff are very much looking forward to the time to recharge their batteries.

Take care,

Mr Dixon

#### Attendance

As posted on the app today, March attendance reward once again goes to Year 3 and Class 2 (Miss White). I know this has been said a few times now, but we are amazed by the Year 3 attendance day in and day out. The academic progress and amazing friendships in this year group is just flourishing. Class 1 and 2 had a race to be the best this month but Miss Whites class once again beat them to it with a staggering 97.63%.

Please take a moment to look at the table below, this data shows absences and lates per year group. An unauthorised absence is not when children are unwell. This is when families do not provide a reason; take term-time holidays that have not been authorised or they arrive after 9.15 a.m. when the register has closed, Year 4 and Year 6 are extremely high.

Late arriving children is an issue across all year groups but in particular Years 3 and 5. We understand that at times there are circumstances that cause children to arrive late at school, but sadly, these lates are pattern based and connected to the same children. We have a breakfast club service that is free to children on free school meals, we open our yard gates at 8.40 a.m. to allow a 15-minute window before the start of the day. The school bell rings at 8.55 a.m. and the school day for all children starts at 9.00 a.m. prompt. Reading starts the day, and I am sure you will agree

that children reading quietly are concentrating, the constant late arrival of children into class after 9.00 a.m. is very distracting, and unfair for the children who regularly make it to school on time. We can refer families who fall into this category to the Local Authority for arriving late at school, sanctions will then be applied, and these are out of our hands. Please try to make changes to your morning routine so all our children engage in learning from 9.00 a.m.

The app also allows you to monitor your child's attendance, you can see the absence history and if they have arrived in school on time.

Year Group	% Attendance	Unauthorised absences	Lates
3	97.16	6	23
4	93.00	34	21
5	93.04	2	47
6	91.35	29	17

### [Spring Term Attendance Reward](#)

At Consett Junior School we recognise the importance of school attendance, not only on academic achievements but also on friendships. Children who have poor attendance levels do not achieve as well as their peers and due to the level of absences their friendship groups are severely affected. This is really upsetting for the children, and they find repairing these things harder to do, even with support, as they move through the year groups. Attendance at school is not only detrimental to the children, but also a legal requirement.

We have many incentives to encourage children into school, and while we understand that most absences cannot be helped due to illness, some pattern-based absences can be helped. If children are supported to recognise the importance of attendance and achievement from an early age, it makes their learning journey enjoyable, and they soon learn that they can achieve and become anything in their dreams, whether that be artist, astronaut or scientist, anything is achievable.

On Friday 8th April children who have achieved 96% attendance for the spring term (1st January until 8th April), or have maintained 96% attendance since September, will receive an ice cream from the ice cream van and a movie afternoon. There are 117 out of 224 children that have achieved this, 35 of these children did not qualify for this in the first term. This gives all children a chance to achieve this multiple times. You can see your child's current level of attendance on this app - but you cannot see if they are one of the 35, we will tell these children that. Many schools choose to reward children who have achieved 100% - we feel this is unfair and due to covid, almost impossible! Our floor target is 96% so why not use that as the goal...

At the end of the year, we not only do this again for the summer term, but we also identify children who have been lucky enough to achieve **100%** for the **entire year** (to date we have 22 children with 100%) by way of a special recognition assembly and a special evening treat! This end of year celebration also rewards children who have excelled and stood out throughout the year. Each teacher will choose one child that has gone above and beyond over the year, they may have made lots of progress, always been a good friend, always trying their best, great attitude to learning, anything that makes them shine . More details will follow about this...

### [CJS App](#)

The app is used daily, the most useful parts of the app are the newsfeed, calendar and absence recording. Things that have been posted to the app and are important can often be pinned to the top, this is just to keep information fresh, so please scroll down from time to time.

### School Fund – March

Thank you to all families that kindly paid into the school fund in March, we made £113. This fund is voluntary and is spent on all children in the school. Things like additional boxes of tissues, classroom dip in the box treats, attendance rewards, additional resources for class lessons. We would really struggle without these contributions.

### School Dinners

Tomorrow, 1<sup>st</sup> April, the cost of school meals will increase from £2.15 per day to £2.20 per day. This will automatically be updated on ParentPay. It was lovely to have so many adults into school for the afternoon tea events, we hope this 'taster' of food will encourage more of our children to try school meals, even if they just wish to try the Fun Friday meal option.

The new summer menu was meant to start after Easter, but Taylor Shaw have faced food supply issues, so the start date of the summer menu has been pushed back till after the summer 1 half term.

### Parents/Carers Information Evenings

Please make a note of the scheduled parent/carers evenings dates where applicable:

- **Years 3 and 4 in the main hall on Wednesday 4th May**
- **Year 5 in class on Tuesday 10th May**
- **Year 6 (Class 7, Miss McNeill) in class on Monday 4th April**
- **Year 6 (Class 8, Miss Waters) on class on Thursday 7th April**

Letters to book your appointment time have already gone home and most families have already booked their places. Appointments were given on a first come basis and teachers have endeavoured to give you an appointment as close to your selected time. Children may have brought their appointment time home, but if not, it has been added to the app calendar. So, if your child is in Year 3 find Wednesday 4th May on the calendar and you will see a schedule of times - your child's initials are alongside your appointment time.

### Summer Show – Tickets on sale from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Tickets are £6 each and can only be purchased from the theatre. All children will be part of the show on Thursday 7th July, but years 3 to 5 will only feature as part of a class dance. Being on stage is a wonderful opportunity for all the children, regardless of their part, and we are super-excited to host our first 'non-virtual' show in over two years

Information about costumes/outfits, the plan of the day etc will be sent out the nearer the time. If you have a child in the Infant school we have requested your children are held back just in case the show goes over time.

### Covid

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 in England from Friday 1 April.

The guidance published tomorrow is said to include that children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. However, for adults the advice to stay at home for the first 5 days will remain.

### Year 6 trip to Robinwood 2023

After the May 2023 SATS from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023, current Year 5 children have the option to go to Robinwood. If you have shown an interest, you will find a payment item on ParentPay set as a 'reducing' balance, therefore you control how much you pay as and when. To secure your child's place we require a £25 deposit, paid using the payment item on ParentPay before Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The full amount must be paid before Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Failure to pay will result in the place being revoked.

### Reminder of clubs this half term

Here is a reminder of the after-school clubs running this half term. If you have booked a club and been successful, you will have received an app message and payment must have been made to secure the place. Please note, this reminder may not be equivalent to you.

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

Monday - After school D & T club 'Paper Crafts' for Years 4 and 5 with Miss Hughes until 4.30 p.m.

Monday - Outdoor Gym Club until 4.30 p.m. for Year 3 with Mrs Raine. **Mrs Raine is looking for four Year 6 volunteers to help with this club. Please email/app message if your child would like to help. FULL**

Tuesday – After school Karate until 4.30 p.m. with Ross Temple for existing members. The spring term after school sessions re-commence on Tuesday 26th April and will run for 11 weeks until 12th July. The grading will be during school afternoon on Monday 18th July (intentionally not Tuesday). **FULL**.

Tuesday – After school cross-country with Mrs Raine, Miss Oselton and Mrs Hannant, for selected upper school cross country team members. Children are back to school for collection at 4.30 p.m. - later time now as we are running further each week.

Tuesday - After school Spanish Club with Miss McNeill for Years 5 and 6 until 4.30 p.m. **FULL**.

Tuesday - After school Netball Club with Miss Breheny for Years 5 and 6 until 4.30 p.m. This club is for the **FULL SUMMER TERM. FULL**

Wednesday – After school multi-Skills club until 4.30 p.m. with Chris Shield for Year 3 (again). This club was due to finish at Easter, but we have secured another **half term**. You need to reapply for this club even if your child attended last term. This club is cancelled on Wednesday 4th May due to Year 3 and 4 parents/carers evening. **FULL**.

Thursday – After school Bootcamp sessions with Matt for Year 4. This club will be outdoors, and children do need to bring gloves. This club will be outdoors regardless of the weather (unless unsafe).

### **NO FRIDAY CLUBS THIS HALF TERM.**

### **School Uniform Ordering – September 2022**

I know you might feel like it is too far away to think about or may even not want to believe we are nearing the end of a school year. But from my experience it is always worth a little reminder that it is best to be prepared and start thinking about ordering uniform for September sooner rather than later. July and August are remarkably busy months for all uniform providers, and I would not want you to leave it too late so that it does not arrive in time for September. Delivery can be made to home or school but if you are ordering for delivery to school please **do not** choose this option if placing orders in July.

There is NO expectation that you purchase uniform from our providers, many high street stores stock our colours of uniform. All we do expect is that children do wear our colours.

<https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/parents/our-school-uniform/>

<https://totstoteams.com/consett-junior-school>

### **The Amazing White River Brass**

We are delighted to inform you that today, Friday 15th July, we will welcome players from White River Brass into school for the first time since before Covid! White River Brass was formed as a facility to provide young players and inexperienced brass ensembles the chance of expert tuition from leading members of the world-famous Black Dyke Band. This event has been part of our school calendar for over 20 years now and is always a highlight! Children in the band will receive workshops from the world-famous players in the morning and then on the afternoon the Year 6 school band will perform together with White River Brass in the band stand at Consett and Blackhill Park.

All our parents are welcome to attend as this will be a lovely afternoon listening to the music and spending time in the park (fingers crossed for glorious weather!) All children from school will attend the event and will be walked down to the park by the staff in school. They will then need to be picked up from Consett Park at 3pm. Any children not picked up from the park will walk back to school with their teachers.

This is a free event but there will be an opportunity for you to donate money in remembrance and celebration of David Jackson.

### Swimming

Swimming for Years 5 and 4 will come to an end next week. After Easter it will be Year 3's turn to swim. Swimming days will remain the same as this term, so one Year 3 class will swim on a Tuesday, the other on a Wednesday. As you are aware, Year 3 is a large year group so to ensure they get the benefit of the lessons each class will be split into two groups each afternoon. Therefore, four swimming groups in total. Swimming is part of the curriculum, and all children must take part. Details will be shared with Year 3 shortly.

### Easter Egg Competition

Easter is fast approaching and this year we will be able to hold our Easter egg competition again! On Thursday 7th April children can bring in Easter eggs that they have designed themselves at home to enter our school competition. Please make sure that the entry has the child's name and class on as two winners will be chosen from each class.

**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.**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Class 2 (Miss White) had the best attendance for February so can come to school in non-uniform. All Year 3 will receive a 'sweet' treat as Year 3 had the best Year group attendance again.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – School meal price increase from £2.15 to £2.20.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April – World Autism Day, children to wear blue. There is no cost to this day.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April – No band practice after school today

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Class 7 (Miss McNeill) parents/carers evening

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 visit to Consett Academy. Please provide your child with a packed lunch if you have not pre-ordered one from school. They need to come to school wearing their PE kit. There is no change to the times of the school day.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Karate grading during the school day. No after school karate today so children will need collected at their usual school finish times. Payment is to be made to Ross.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 parents/carers consultation evening at Consett Academy from 5.30 p.m.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Class 8 (Miss Waters) parents/carers evening

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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.' There are no after school clubs today.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Spring term attendance afternoon. This applies to all children who continue to have above 96% attendance since September and those children who have achieved 96% attendance between 1<sup>st</sup> January and today. Children will have a movie afternoon in the hall and a visit from the ice-cream van.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Are your arrears paid on ParentPay?

EASTER

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April - School reopens for the start of the summer term. This is five-week half term.

W/C Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – If you have booked your child onto after school clubs this half term, they start this week. Some clubs over the half term will be impacted on because of other events/bank holidays. These dates have been shared with families.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Selected children from Year 4 will participate in a TAG rugby event. If you have not pre-ordered a packed lunch from school you must provide one for your child. They will need to wear their school PE kit, have their coat and an additional drink. The children will walk to and from the venue. There is no change to the times of the school day.

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

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – School closed for one day (May Day).

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Selected children will be going to Greenland Primary School today for an Outdoor Adventure sports event. Children chosen must be in school for 8.45 a.m. as the bus leaves at 9.00 a.m. but will be back in time for lunch.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Years 3 and 4 parents/carers evenings in the main hall. Please arrive for your appointment time. There is no after school multi skills club tonight.

w/c Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATS week. All Year 6 children must be in school for these tests. They cannot be taken on different days.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 parents/carers evening. This will be based in the classrooms. There is no afterschool Netball club on this day

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 trip to Robinwood. Children must arrive at school for their normal time and come via the main reception with their luggage (luggage labels will be provided). The bus will leave at 9.30 a.m. and return to school for an ETA of 3.45 p.m. on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May – Selected children from Year 5 will participate in a Multi skills event at Greenland Primary School. The event is after lunch and children will be back at school for the usual finish time.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Selected children from Years 5 and 6 will attend the Riverside Sports Complex at Chester-Le-Street to participate in an Outdoor Athletics Event. Children will be back for their usual finish time.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 children going to Robinwood in 2023 must have their £25 deposit paid before today.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Selected children from Year 5 will attend Shotley Bridge Cricket Club for a girl's cricket event. Children selected will need a packed lunch so if you do not pre-order one can you please provide one. They will be gone for the full day (leaving on the coach at 9.10 a.m.) but will be back at school for their usual finish time.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Selected children from Year 5 will attend Consett Cricket Club for a mixed cricket event. Children selected will need a packed lunch so if you do not pre-order one can you please provide one. They will be gone for the full day but will be back at school for their usual finish time.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Selected children from Year 4 will attend Shotley Bridge Tennis Club for a Tennis event. Children will go after lunch and will be back for their usual finish time.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Last day of the first half of the summer term, school is closed for one week and two days. This will be a non-uniform day and fines can be paid for on ParentPay under 'non-uniform fines.' Please note that Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June we are closed for staff training.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June - School reopens for the second half of the summer term.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 band children will play at the Salvation Army today, there will be no change to their school

finish time.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Athletics event at Consett Academy. Details to follow.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Sports Day at Consett Rugby Club. Details will follow and Parent/Carers are allowed to attend but we request spectators remain off the field while the events take place. This will be an afternoon event and children will leave with their adults from the Rugby Club. Get ready for the adult's race!

w/c Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Years 3, 4 & 5 Assessment week.

w/c Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Day tbc nearer the time but there will be a transition day for children this week. This will be when they spend the day in their new class with their new teacher for September. It will also be when Year 6 children going to Consett Academy spend days in their new school.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July – End of year reports will go home with children today. If you are a parent that receives additional copies, they too will be posted today.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Show Day at The Empire Theatre. Details of the day will be shared nearer the time.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Final after school karate session this term

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July – White River Brass – see information in this Newsletter. We hope to see lots of our families at the park and have pre-ordered the sunshine.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July – Karate grading in the hall during the school afternoon

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Special recognition assembly. This assembly celebrates children who have achieved 100% attendance for the year and children who have been chosen by teachers for being exceptional! Children this applies to can have two special adults in attendance.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Summer term attendance afternoon in the hall. This is all children who have above 96% attendance for the year and any children who achieved in the summer term. They will have a movie in the hall and a visit from the ice-cream van.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of term. Children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 fine, payable on ParentPay. School re-opens for the start of the next school year on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Please give Mrs Raine a restful last day of term, she will be very tired and would prefer not to message out to families to pay any arrears on ParentPay! If your child is in Year 6 it is vitally important that you check, you have no arrears.