



Consett Junior School

October 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the October newsletter.

The first few weeks of term, as always have flown, on top of this of course we have had the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, a momentous time in history - and unlikely that we will see another Queen in all our lifetimes.

It has been lovely to see how our new pupils have settled in, I have enjoyed my visits to year 3 - I love the excitement and wonder in the children as they learn something new. I have been especially impressed with the way they have adapted to a busy full day of lessons, sadly no choosing time, we just have too much to squeeze in. I must also thank parents with the changes they face, compared to life in the Infant school - I have had some lovely conversations since the start of term.

I would remind parents; I am here obviously primarily to ensure the education of your children is the best it can be - but we are here to help families too. This is important and we love to build good relationships with families and support them where we can, so if you have any pressing worries that we can help with or point you in the right direction do ask! We will try our best.

The rest of the school has all transitioned to new classes and year groups well, the hub bub of working noise in class is great to see. Another lovely feature of mornings is the excitement of a full hall at Breakfast club, over 70 children some days, lovely to see.

We are currently in the process of updating our curriculum page on our website, when complete it will contain all our curriculum maps, and long-term plans - please feel free to peruse.

As we move into October and the darker mornings and evenings, can I just take this opportunity to remind everyone of the One-way system we ask families to support around Oakdale and Beech Dale Roads, it just helps the traffic flow. I am aware of a couple of issues, we do talk with local councillors and police and try to get things sorted, although sadly not always successfully.

Lastly, I will be sending out a couple of surveys over the next few weeks, these will be via links to Microsoft forms, which can be accessed from a phone. One will be a whole school questionnaire looking at how your child is getting on in school etc, the other is an information gathering exercise, exploring after school provision - this is a fact-finding mission at present. As always for both surveys, your participation will be gratefully received.

As always, take care and I hope this newsletter finds you well.

Mr Dixon
Head Teacher

Attendance

The whole school attendance for September was 95.62 %, which is slightly below the governments floor target of 96%. However, in September 2021 it was 94.57% so an increase on last year.

If your child is absent from school for any reason you **MUST** inform the school. There have been times when children

are absent, and **no** reason has been provided. By law, all children of compulsory school age must receive a suitable full-time education. For most families, this means registering their child at school. Therefore, all children who are registered at school must attend, if your child is not in school and you have not submitted a reason within a timely manner – you are in fact breaking the law. The reasons children are absent and any times they are late are all recorded by us, and these are the things we will disclose should we need to refer a family to the attendance team at DCC. If children are unwell there are several ways you can inform the school office, as it is known that sometimes getting through on busy mornings can be difficult. You can ring 01207 504431, alternatively the school app has a means to message and record absences. You can also monitor your child's attendance through the app therefore identifies good or poor attendance levels at any time of the year. Finally, there is also an option to email consettjunior@durhamlearning.net

If your child is poorly and their illness means they need to be absent for 48 hours, you must contact school on the first day of their absence and we will advise you if you need to ring again on the second day of absence. If your child's absences become frequent or pattern based, i.e., off regularly on Mondays or Fridays, then action will be taken to prove your child is off unwell. This may mean letters are requested from their GP, a home visit from the school or a visit from a DCC attendance team officer. You can be prosecuted if your child has unauthorised absences from school.

Please ensure you try to make medical appointments outside of school time, any made during the school day must be supported with a letter detailing the appointment. Although medical appointments are authorised, they do not qualify as an attendance mark.

As you are aware it is against the law to take holidays during term time, we do refer families to the LA (local authorities) for fixed penalty fines. Noticeably clear guidelines regarding the triggers for penalty notices can be found on our website or issued at your request. These procedures are strongly in place in all schools, and although our attendance is good overall, we must comply with legislation.

[September attendance overview](#)

Class 8 - Miss Waters 🙌👏 WELL DONE!

Year 3 - All the amazing children and staff 🙌🍰🍪

What a fantastic start...

On Friday 7th October **Class 8** children can come to school wearing non-uniform as their reward for the best class attendance overall. On Friday 7th October all of **Year 3** will enjoy some tasty treats as their reward - I wonder what delights we will buy for them this month!

As the data below identifies, **Year 5** attendance is dangerously low, children who are not in school are not learning. Their friendship groups become affected, and their education suffers. There are genuine cases of illness in that year group and families are excellent at making us aware, but there are also issues with other children's attendance that need to be addressed. The late arrival to school disrupts the whole class, therefore, if you have sent your child to school on time it is their education that suffers when children arrive late as the teacher then needs to spend time delivering the lesson again, which then disrupts the learning time of the other children in that class. School starts at 8.55 a.m. every day, the gates to the playground open at 8.40 a.m. which allows for a morning playtime before the children start their day.

Good luck to everyone for October, the race is on, and Year 3 seem have set their sights on being the CJS year group attendance champions 🙌

Year Group	% Attendance	Unauthorised absences	Lates
3	96.71%	6	12 and a further 3 unauthorised as the registers were closed.
4	95.30%	9	9 and a further 1 unauthorised as the registers were closed.
5	93.02%	18	43 and a further 4 unauthorised as the registers were closed.

6	96.48%	19	8
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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 more than £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.

We are getting prepared for the Halloween Celebrations and will soon be sharing a 'spooky' themed menu for the week we return after half term. As this is a themed week it is an opportunity for children on packed lunches to try school meals for one week only.

You DO NOT need to complete this form if your child already accesses school meals. There is also no change to those children who access fun Friday meals, they will still access them as usual.

Snack for morning break

Children are allowed to bring in a healthy snack for their morning break, it is extremely popular, however, there have been some issues with the types of snack children are bringing in. Examples of the snacks that are allowed are fruit, vegetable sticks, cereal bars, a tub with cereal i.e., shreddies, wheetos; frubes. We do not allow crisps, chocolate, cakes, or sweets of any kind.

CJS app

It is brilliant to see so many families are using the CJS app. To get the full use out of the app you need to ensure you download our bespoke CJS app from the Google Play or Apple Store (please note Weduc is the platform that created the app, but CJS is the app). If you are only using it through Weduc's platform (only logging in through Weduc) then you will not always be able to send or receive in-app messages. If you are logging in through Weduc you need to start using our App from one of the two stores, your log-in details will be the same. Our app is our logo and when you open it our logo rotates until it opens all its features. You can also access more settings in the app, and if necessary, turn off some of the notifications you receive.

Covid cases

Just an update for families who are unsure of what to do if their child (or the adults have covid). As we learn to live with covid it can be confusing of what you can or cannot do. If your child tests positive for covid the advice is to stay at home for three days. If an adult in the home tests positive and your child is fine, they can still come to school. We have arrangements in place to keep families safe if you need to drop your child off at school so, please just give us a ring.

Year 6 trip to Robinwood – 15th – 17th May 2023

Just a reminder that you can pay little and often from your child's Robinwood 2023 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 28th April 2023 to ensure your child can go.

Halloween Celebrations

On Monday 31st October we have an exciting day planned for our children! Not only is it the first day of term but it is also a day of spooky celebrations. We have hired party entertainer DJ Paul Watson to give each year group a Halloween party throughout the day. If this is not something children want to participate in, then we can ensure they access a quieter area to enjoy alternative activities.

We are requesting a £2 per child contribution to the cost of the disco and a payment item has been set up on ParentPay. If you cannot see the payment item, it means you have already paid. We will send reminders out nearer the time.

Children can come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes (masks are not permitted to be worn on the yard or in the party hour, so staff can identify them). There will be no change to the start and finish times of the school day. If you have any old Halloween costumes, would you please consider donating them to school so children who do not have costumes can still take part.

Donations – In place of Harvest Collections

This year we very much recognise the difficulties our local families are facing, ever more so as we approach the colder weather and worry about Christmas and the financial burden attached to it.

In previous years we have supported local food banks when it has come to Harvest Collections, this year we want to support our school families. Therefore, from now until Friday 14th October we are asking families to donate items to school that they would have traditionally donated towards Harvest, i.e., non-perishables, toiletries etc. We will set up a display of all items donated and w/c 17th October we will open our doors to families that want to take items from those collected, this will be 9-10 a.m. and 2.30-3.30 p.m. for the week. Any items not taken by Friday 21st October will go to our local foodbank.

We know how proud our families can be, but please, put pride to one side for one week and come along and help yourself. We are ALL struggling more than ever right now and although there are many places that can help, sometimes they do not meet the criteria of all our families. The hours that we open the reception to collections will not be supervised so the pressure of people watching over you will be removed.

Often it is the families that are struggling that make the donations, you still can! But please take back things you require, think of it as a free shop!

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 experience this is a much-needed collection. We will keep you informed once we know more.

September Voluntary School Fund

Just a quick thank you to all families that have sent in school fund for September, we have received £132 in School Fund contributions so far. This is used for the benefit of all pupils at the school. Examples include; attendance rewards, dip in the box prizes, subsidising the pantomime, Christmas gifts for children and resources for themed days. Often, these things cannot be purchased through our school budget. We also have the money spinner in school for children who like to use this, alternatively families preferred option is ParentPay.

Clubs' w/c 31st October

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 to expect after half term w/c 31st October:

Monday – Mash club (computing) for Year 4 and 6 (THIS CLUB STARTS TWO WEEKS BEFORE HALF TERM). **FULL**

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 6th December. **The grading will be held during the school afternoon of Friday 9th of December. FULL**

Tuesday – After school cross-country for existing members with Mrs Raine, Miss Oselton and Mrs Hannant, for selected cross country team members. Children are back to school for collection at 4.30 p.m.

Tuesday – Crochet for existing members, Year 4 as well as an extra allocation of 8 spaces for Year 3 children. If your child is an existing member, they must still apply for their place so payment can be assigned. **FULL**

Wednesday – After school Multi Skills with Chris Shield for existing Year 4/5 members. This club ends on Wednesday 7th December (Christmas arrangements may mean the last session is cancelled).

Wednesday - Football training - Year 6 for existing members

Thursday – After school Bootcamp sessions with Matt for Year 5/6.

Thursday - Christmas movie with refreshment club - Year 3 and 5. Children can bring any snacks, but drinks will be provided (30 spaces). £2 per week paid in full for the half term. This club will end at approx. 5.15 p.m. **FULL**

Friday – Colour and chillax club for Year 3 (20 spaces). **FULL**

THERE ARE NO CLUBS IN THE FINAL WEEK OF TERM BEFORE CHRISTMAS – BAND and CC tbc

Swimming

Swimming sessions for years 5 & 6 will continue until Christmas. After Christmas swimming will be scheduled for a different year group, we will let you know nearer the time. If you have siblings in Consett Infant school please do not collect them early, children do not leave the pool till 3.30 p.m. and then they need to get dried, this leaves plenty of time to collect earlier children at their usual time.

Traffic

Now that our new families are well established with the drop off and collection of children, we want to ensure you are aware of the protocol around school. During the busy times we operate a one-way system around the school, often cars coming down Beech Dale Road are met with cars coming the opposite way, this can cause carnage! Please travel down Oakdale Road (from Ashdale) and loop round to go back up Beech Dale Road. Please be mindful of our residents and do not block or obstruct their driveways.

Dogs on the premises

Can we remind families that there are **strictly no dogs allowed on the yard**. There are signs up on the parent shelter and on the side of the school building. Please can you ensure other people collecting your child are aware of this.

Academy siblings collecting from school

If your child is collected by a sibling that does not go to this school (Academy) can you, please ensure they behave in an acceptable manner. We have had concerns from other families that their behaviour is not appropriate. We understand that many families rely on older siblings collecting their children and we really do not want to stop this, but if they cannot behave appropriately, it will be a course of action that we will need to enforce. This week one boy was pulling 'wheelies' on his bicycle up and down the grounds between our school and the nursery.

Uniform reminder

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 exceptionally low prices. Uniform Royal Blue Sweatshirt/Cardigan Grey or Black Skirt/Trousers Yellow Polo Shirt Blue/White Gingham Dress (optional summer only). 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 considering 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. No football kits please.

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 2023

Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the School Admissions online application facility was made available to parents from Monday the 5th of September 2022.

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

M & M Productions – Cinderella

On Wednesday 9th November M & M productions will be visiting our school during the morning to put on a spectacular performance of Cinderella. 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 donate please do so under 'school fund' on ParentPay.

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

Nasal Flu Immunisation

From the immunisation team - response required. The team will be in school to give the nasal flu vaccination on 14/10/2022 so please ensure you give consent before this date.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The flu vaccine will be offered to all primary school children from reception to year 6, and up to year 11 in children attending a special education needs provision, this year. Nasal flu vaccination is delivered in school. There are some occasions where an injection is the most appropriate route for vaccination for some children. The consent form that the link below takes you to is for Nasal Flu, if you select NO, you will be asked a series of questions to establish if your child is eligible for an injection.

Please complete the link below to give consent. If you do not want your child to receive the vaccine, then you can select the 'NO' option on the consent form.

<https://www.hdftsais.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

The code you need to use is: HD114051

After you have finished, if you change your mind or need to tell us about changes to your child's medical history, do not complete another consent form. Please visit www.hdftsais.co.uk/Contact to contact the immunisation team and tell us about any changes.

For further information about the flu vaccine please access [Flu vaccination in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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.

Cross Country Races – tbc, they have been cancelled two weeks in a row now so not sure if the dates and venues will change!

Friday 7th October – Well done to Class 8 For the highest % attendance for September, pick out your best non-uniform outfit and come to school wearing it for free!

Monday 10th October – If your child is booked, received confirmation, and paid for Mash club it starts tonight – it is an eight-week club.

Friday 14th October – Photo proof orders due back (please enclose exact payment).

Friday 14th October – The school nursing team will be in school during the morning for the nasal flu immunisation programme. Please ensure you have provided a response (see content of Newsletter) even if you do not give permission.

Friday 14th October – Final day to send in non-perishable items for our families. Let us go all out and try to send in as much as possible.

w/c Monday 17th October – Every day this week the main reception will be open to families who would like to take any items from the Harvest Donations collected in school. Please come along between 9 – 10 a.m. or 2.30 - 3.30 p.m. daily. Please take advantage of this, we are all supporting each other.

Wednesday 19th October – If you have booked a place on an after-school club, and received a confirmation message, then please ensure payment is made by today.

Friday 21st October – School closes for the end of this half term at 3.20/3.30 p.m. Children can come to school wearing non-uniform for a £1 fine. There is an option for this on ParentPay.

Monday 31st October – School reopens for the start of the half term at 7.45 a.m. for children who attend breakfast club.

Monday 31st October – Halloween celebrations during the school day. Children can come to school wearing their costumes and will participate in a Year group music and games session. The cost of this event is £2 and payable on ParentPay. Details of this event is on our school app.

w/c Monday 31st October – Halloween themed school meals week. If you have pre-booked a packed lunch child onto this week you will be notified prior to this date. **This menu and booking form were still to share at the time of this Newsletters print.**

w/c Monday 31st October – After school clubs commence. If you booked a place on any clubs' a message was sent out in September to confirm the place.

Monday 31st October – Closing date for secondary school admissions 2023.

Friday 4th November – If your child is in Years 4, 5 or 6 today is the last day to return your Home Walk book to Mr Meadows.

Wednesday 9th November – M & M Productions are in school during the morning to perform the pantomime 'Cinderella.' 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 on school fund are welcome.

Wednesday 9th November – Year heights and weights, school nurse team.

Thursday 24th November – Interim school reports (and SEN support plans if applicable) to go home with children today. If you require a separate copy for separated families, please let Mrs Raine know, unless of course she already provides this.

Monday 28th November – what beautiful display will be twinkling and bright in the hall this morning?

Tuesday 6th December – Final after school karate session for this term. January restart dates to follow.

Thursday 8th December - Children can replace their school jumper with a Christmas Jumper. We are asking for a £1 contribution to the Save the Children charity - a payment item is on ParentPay, if you cannot see it then you have already paid it. Children must still wear their usual school uniform with their jumper, if they have PE, they can bring in a spare school jumper for their session, if you prefer. Children can replace their gold/yellow polo top with a plain t-shirt if their jumper is too warm or they would prefer not to show the polo collar.

Friday 9th December – Karate grading during the school day. Children taking part will need their karate suit, this is not an after-school session and children will finish at the normal time.

Wednesday 7th December – Christmas dinner day! Details to follow.

Tuesday 13th 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.

Friday 16th 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 – Not too sure what is happening today? I am sure it will come to me for the next newsletter...

Wednesday 4th January – All children back to school today please, I am sure by this time you will be ready for their return!

There are more dates to add to October, November, and December but they are not known at the time of this Newsletter, this includes, sports events, carol services etc. Once known they will be added to the app calendar.