

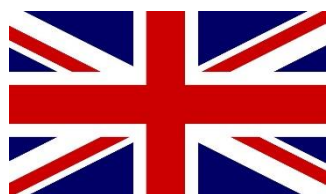
Friday 5th January 2024

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and were able to enjoy the Christmas and New Year holiday. The children have all settled back into the school routine quickly and are looking forward to another exciting term.



George Eustice MP Visit



Next Friday, 12th January 2024, we are delighted to share that our local MP, George Eustice, will be visiting Connor Downs Academy at 9am to talk to all the children in a whole school assembly about British Values. This is an incredible opportunity for all our children to meet their local MP and to learn more about his role in the constituency and nationally.

Education Mental Health Practitioner – Parent/Carer Information Session

The NHS Mental Health Support Team in schools has been introduced as part of a national project to support children, young people and their families within education settings. Rebecca Avery is part of this team and is attached to Connor Downs Academy as an Education Mental Health Practitioner. Next Tuesday, **9th January 2024**, Rebecca will be delivering a short presentation for all parents **at 14:45**. This session will be an opportunity to hear about what Rebecca's role will be in the school and for you to ask questions about how she may be able to support yourself and/or your child/ren. All parents/carers are welcome. Please come to the main school reception to sign in.

Mental Health Support Team – Parent/Carer Workshops – January and February

Mental Health Support Team parent/carers workshops are available online during January and February. Please see posters below on the variety of workshops available. Further details on Individual workshops and how parents/carers sign up, can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.aspireacademytrust.org/2633/external-parent-workshops>

T: 01736 753135

E: hello@connordowns.org.uk

W: www.connordowns.org.uk

Connor Downs Academy, Mutton Hill, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5DH

A Company Limited by Guarantee. An Exempt Charity

Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD



The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Sleep Workshop

A single, hour-long workshop aimed at providing psychoeducation around the importance of cultivating healthy sleep habits, including why we sleep and what might impact sleep. The session aims to help identify ways you and your child could develop good sleep hygiene and includes some strategies you can both use to do this.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Monday, 15th January at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, 17th January at 4:00 PM
- Thursday, 18th January at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Further Sleep courses will run w/c 26th February 2024

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:
<https://forms.office.com/e/ZBJ9Lcp6mA>



Sign up will close on Thursday 11th January



The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Introduction to Anxiety Workshop

A single, hour-long workshop aimed at providing psychoeducation around What is worry and Why does my child worry? We also aim to provide practical strategies for supporting your child with managing their worries.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Monday, 22nd January at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, 24th January at 4:00 PM
- Thursday, 25th January at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Further Anxiety courses will run w/c 4th March 2024

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:
<https://forms.office.com/e/cAknWmy2N3>



Sign up will close on Thursday 18th January



The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Behaviour as Communication Workshop

This workshop introduces the concept of behaviour as communication, and aims to teach parents the reinforcement and attention rule.

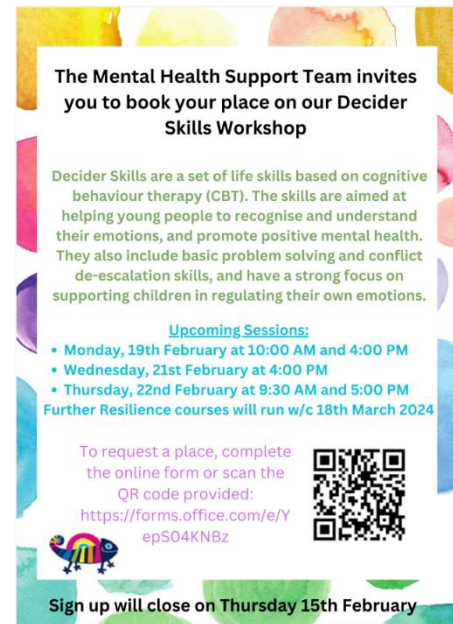
The workshop will give parents practical strategies for developing more positive behaviour at home. It will also support parents to create an action plan moving forward to support their child to manage their behaviour in helpful and happier ways.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Monday, 29th January at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, 31st January at 4:00 PM
- Thursday, 1st February at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Further workshops will run w/c 11th March 2024

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:
<https://forms.office.com/e/3DDPu9JHD7>

The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Decider Skills Workshop


Decider Skills are a set of life skills based on cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT). The skills are aimed at helping young people to recognise and understand their emotions, and promote positive mental health. They also include basic problem solving and conflict de-escalation skills, and have a strong focus on supporting children in regulating their own emotions.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Monday, 19th February at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, 21st February at 4:00 PM
- Thursday, 22nd February at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Further Resilience courses will run w/c 18th March 2024

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:
<https://forms.office.com/e/YepS04KNBz>



Sign up will close on Thursday 15th February



The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Introduction to Resilience Workshop

This is a single, hour-long session aimed at parents. The session covers how to encourage young people to develop greater resilience, and provides psychoeducation around what mental health and resilience is.

When young people are resilient, they are more able to cope with challenges and stress, and can therefore be more curious, adaptable and able to extend their reach into the world.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Monday, 5th February at 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, 7th February at 4:00 PM
- Thursday, 8th February at 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Further Resilience courses will run w/c 18th March 2024

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:
<https://forms.office.com/e/W4hqrSM68q>



Sign up will close on Thursday 1st February

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WhatsApp advice

We all frequently see reports regarding risks associated with children accessing social media sites that are not appropriate for their age. Recently we have become aware that some children at Connor Downs are talking about and possibly using WhatsApp. **WhatsApp is 16+ rated App** and therefore it is advised that children of primary age should not have access to it due to the risks that they face by using such platforms when they are not socially or emotionally mature enough to make sensible choices regarding social media usage. Please use the link below to the NSPCC advice.



[Is WhatsApp Safe for my child?](#)

Internet Safety for Parents/Carers – Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 14:40

Parents/carers are invited to a short, open event to inform and create discussion around the topic of keeping children safe when using internet connected devices. Presented by Giles Hill, the Digital Strategy and Computing Lead for Aspire Academy Trust. This session will provide parents and carers with a wealth of information and considerations for keeping growing families safe and healthy with internet usage. The session will warn against potential harm and issues as children grow older and usage becomes more regular. The session will include:

- Current context of internet developments.
- Achieving a balance in your home.
- Tech preventions and controls.
- Making it work for you.



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Attendance

In line with the Aspire Academy Trust attendance policy, from January, those children who are identified with an attendance falling below 95%, their parents/carers will be contacted.

The Aspire Academy Trust believes that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the most progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child due to exceptional circumstances

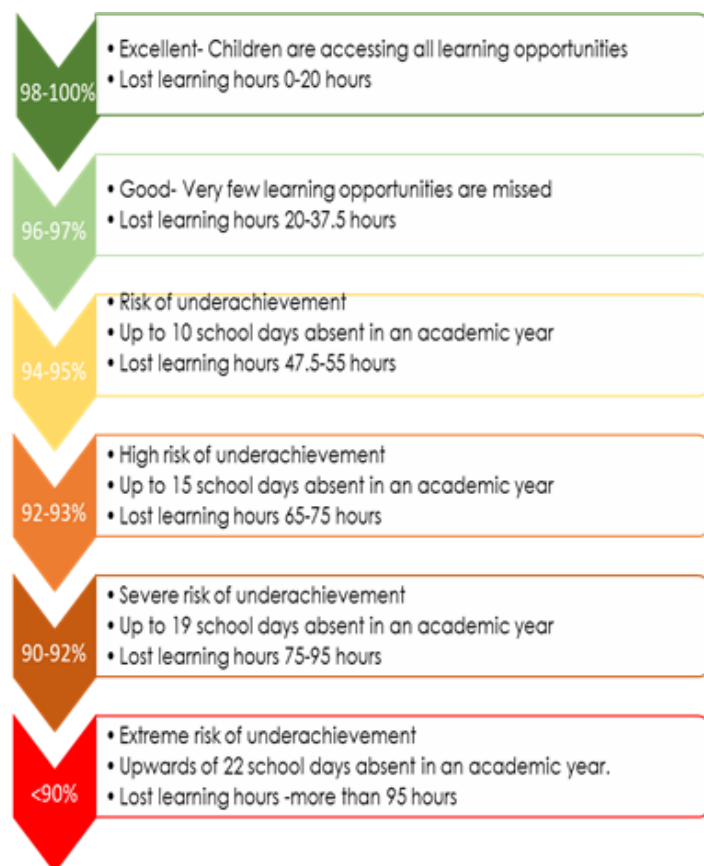
If your child is unwell, please let school know as soon as possible on the morning of their absence, giving the actual reason (sickness, tonsillitis ... more detail than just, unwell please) and every day that they are away. If we don't hear from you, you will receive a text asking why your child is absent. If you do not reply to the text, you will then receive a phone call from us. If we receive no response by 11am school staff will make a safeguarding visit to your home.

To assist parents/carers in deciding whether or not they should keep their child off school, please see the poster on the next page from the UK Health Security Agency with some important information.

We will not authorise absence for:

- Holidays
- A birthday treat
- Over-sleeping due to a late night or being tired
- Looking after other children
- Letting the gas man in etc

Unauthorised absences can lead to legal action in some cases.





Connor Downs Academy Uniform Reminder

- Navy jumper with school logo
- White shirt (white polo shirts for reception class children only)
- Navy and gold stripe tie (long or elasticated) (not required for YR children)
- Dark grey skirt or dark grey trousers for girls
- Navy and white gingham dresses and navy cardigans (Summer term/early autumn term)
- Dark grey trousers or dark grey shorts for boys
- Grey tights or white socks for girls
- Grey long or short socks for boys
- Black school shoes (No trainers or boots)
- White PE t-shirt with embroidered logo
- Navy shorts
- Trainers (plimsols for Key Stage 1 children only if preferred)
- Navy book bags with embroidered logo



General appearance

Hair styles

If your child has hair longer than shoulder length it must be tied back for school. Children must not have artificially coloured hair or extreme hair styles such as patterns shaved into hair. No coloured or oversized hair bows or ribbons. Navy ribbons or scrunchies or small bows are allowed.

Make up

The wearing of make-up, including nail varnish, by children is not permitted, except in exceptional circumstances where agreed in writing, in advance, by the school.

Jewellery

Children may wear small, plain, stud earrings, and a watch. Children remain responsible for these items and the school will not be held liable for any loss.

Jumpers and Coats

Please ensure your child/children have their school jumper with them every day and also a warm, waterproof coat, hat scarf and gloves.

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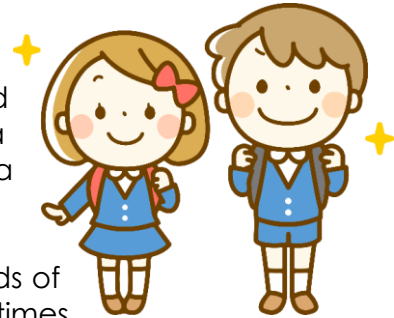
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Pre-Loved Uniform

We believe that school uniform ensures all children are treated equally. Uniform still plays a vital role in promoting the ethos of a school, setting an appropriate tone for education and providing a sense of belonging and common identity regardless of background.



With this in mind, we run a pre-loved uniform shop through the Friends of Connor Downs Academy. The Friends will run pop up sales at various times throughout the year, but you can also contact them via their Facebook Page at any other time or you can come into the school office or email hello@connordowns.org.uk with your requirements.

Final Reminder - Starting School – September 2024

If you have a child that is due to start school in September 2024, the deadline for applications for a school place is **15th January 2024**.



CORNWALL COUNCIL Together for Families

Starting school
September 2024

The deadline for applications is **15 January 2024**

Applying for a place in a reception class for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020

Attending a nursery or pre-school
You will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. Please note that if a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Information and guidance
Website and application form: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk
Post: School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY
Telephone: 0300 1234 101

www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

Applying for a **reception class** place for **September 2024**

Special Educational Needs

If an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan has been issued for your child you do not need to complete an application form. Please contact the Statutory SEN Service for more information: Tel: 01872 324242. Email: statutorysen@cornwall.gov.uk

1 Decide on your preferred schools

You are strongly advised to name **three** preferences on the application form. **Naming a second or third preference does not give you any less chance of getting a place at your preferred school.** When making your decision you should...

...think about **how you will get your child to school.** Go to www.cornwall.gov.uk/schooltransport for more information on whether your child would be entitled to home to school travel assistance.

...look at the **admission arrangements** on our website that will be used to allocate places for each school.

...consider naming your **nearest or designated school** as one of your preferences. You can find your nearest or designated school on our website.

...look at the detailed **admissions information** on our website, also available on request.

2 Submit your application by **15 January 2024**

Apply online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

3 Wait to find out which school you have been allocated

If you applied on time you will be notified of your allocation on **National Offer Day: 16 April 2024. Apply on time!** Late applications will only be dealt with after National Offer Day and there may not be any places left at your preferred schools.

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Bags2School

In an effort to raise funds, the Friends of Connor Downs Academy have arranged another Bags2School collection for next **Tuesday 23rd January 2024**. Bags will be sent home with children next week.

Please encourage all your family and friends to sort through their unwanted clothing, bedding and towels. The more we collect the more funds can be raised. All funds go towards additional resources and opportunities for all children. Thank you, as always, for your support.



PLEASE NOTE, THEY WILL NOT TAKE PILLOWS OR DUVETS, THANK YOU.

PLEASE BRING BAGS INTO SCHOOL ON THE MORNING OF COLLECTION AND LEAVE IN THE PLAYGROUND BY THE MINIBUSES WITH MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS. THANK YOU!

Spring Term After School Clubs

We are currently finalising the list of clubs on offer for the Spring Term. These will be shared early next week with clubs beginning the week after next, from Monday 15th January. As usual, bookings will be done via the Arbor App and will be open on a first come, first served basis. Once maximum numbers for clubs are reached a waiting list will be held. Please email hello@connordowns.org.uk to request your child be added to the waiting list if your chosen club is fully booked. Thank you.

Attendance

<u>Attendance</u>		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 3	98.8 %
2 nd Place	Year 5	97.6 %
Joint 3 rd Place	Year 2	97.0 %
Joint 3 rd Place	Year 4	97.0 %

Kind regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

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Spring Term Dates for Diary

Monday 8th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 1

Tuesday 9th January - Education Mental Health Practitioner – Parent/Carer
Information Session – 14:45

Monday 15th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 2

Wednesday 17th January – Internet Safety Information Session for Parents/Carers –
14:40

Monday 22nd January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 3

Tuesday 23rd January – Bags2School Collection

Monday 29th January - Swimming – Year 4 – Week 4

Monday 5th February – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 5 (final session)

Thursday 8th February – Final Day of half term – **3:15pm FINISH**

Thursday 8th February – Friends of Connor Downs Academy Discos (more information
to follow)

Friday 9th February – **INSET DAY – School Closed to Children**

Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 19th February – First day of second half of Spring term

Tuesday 20th February – English Morning for Parents/Carers (Timings TBC)

Monday 26th February – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 1

Monday 4th March – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 2

Tuesday 5th March – Parent Consultations (Timings TBC)

Wednesday 6th March – Parent Consultations (Timings TBC)

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day – (More Information TBC)

Monday 11th March – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 3

Monday 18th March – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 4

Monday 25th March – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 5 (final session)

Thursday 28th March – Final day of term – **2:00pm FINISH**

Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April – EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday 15th April – First Day of Summer Term

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