



Friday 10th May 2024

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and that you were able to enjoy the lovely weather over the bank holiday weekend! As you are aware, this week we were delighted to share our fantastic school with OFSTED and would like to thank all the parents/carers who took the time to complete the parent/carer survey and who spoke to the Inspector on the gate. The children were a credit to all their families for their excellent behaviour for learning and made us all very proud. We will share the OFSTED report with you in a few weeks once it has been published. Thank you for all the support shown this week to all members of staff and the very kind messages received, they are all greatly appreciated.



Year 6 – Outdoor Learning

The second Year 6 outdoor learning group engaged with nature and history on their visit to Copperhouse pool nature reserve and King George V memorial walk. They began the nature trail with a discussion about why and when the memorial walk was developed, and what it was previously used for. During the trail they stopped off at key points, using binoculars to observe the variety of wildlife including the many species of birds that visit the reserve. The children used a compass to understand direction and why this location is ideal for the growth of unusual plant species.



Finally, they all gathered together to make sure everyone had understood the nature quiz and to appreciate how these unique landscapes offer important habitats for wildlife. This visit complements their previous visit to the dunes, focusing on local and contrasting landscapes within our local area.



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Year 6 SATs



A reminder to all parents/carers of our Year 6 pupils, that next week your child will sit their **SATs assessments** between **Monday 13th May and Thursday 16th May**. It is imperative that your child attends school on each and every day to ensure they are able to take these assessments. Thank you for your support and if you have any questions, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk

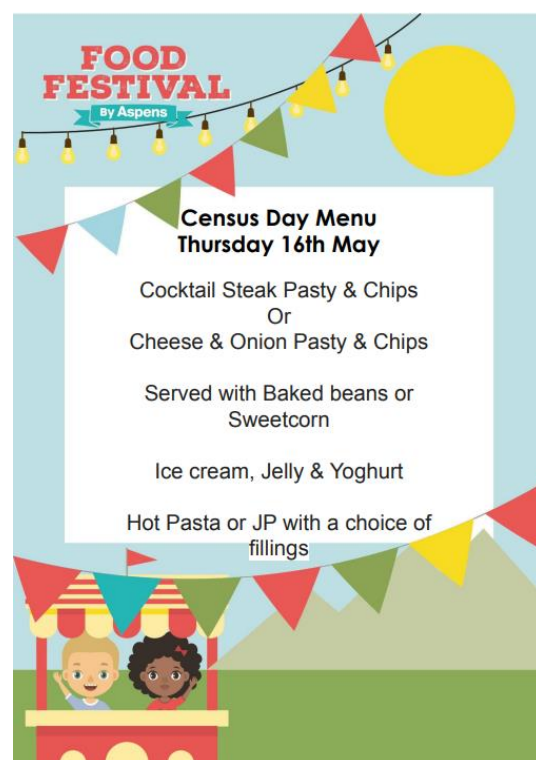
and a member of the Year 6 team will get back to you. I am sure you will join me in wishing all the Year 6 pupils the very best of luck for next week. They have all worked so hard this year and we are all so proud of you!

Census Day Lunch

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, we observe National School Census Day, a crucial event where the Department for Education (DfE) gathers vital information from every school. This data aids in future planning and plays a pivotal role in determining school budgets.

One significant data point we must report is the count of Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 students partaking in Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) on this specific day. The information collected during the census influences the allocation of funding for our school's hot meal program throughout the year. It's essential to note that if your child doesn't participate in the meal service on May 16th, it impacts our funding for the remainder of the year. Should your child opt to have a meal on any other day, we must cover the cost from our school budget, as funding is solely based on meal consumption during the designated census days in October and January annually.

Here is the menu for the census day:



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Household Support Fund Changes

The entitlement criteria for automatic payments from the Household Support Fund is changing. If you have any questions regarding the changes, please DO NOT contact the school. You will need to contact Cornwall Council direct.

In order to be entitled to a payment from the Household Support Fund scheme in 2024, you must be responsible for at least one child and on 3rd June 2024 either:

- be entitled to Council Tax Support or
- have been placed in emergency accommodation by the Council

You will receive £80 per child. If you are already in receipt of Council Tax Support, then you don't have to do anything else – you will receive your payment automatically.

To find out if you are eligible for Council Tax Support, please check the information here <https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators> .

You can make a claim for Council Tax Support by using this link <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/council-tax-support/apply-for-council-tax-support/>

It is important that you submit your application by 31st May 2024.

You may also be entitled to help from the Household Support Fund via one of the Household Support Fund partners. Their details can be found here <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/household-support-fund/>

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.

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Friends of Connor Downs Academy Discos

The Friends of Connor Downs Academy are delighted to confirm that the autumn term disco will take place on **Thursday, 23rd May 2024.**

Reception and Years 1 and 2 from 5:00pm until 6:00pm and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 from 6:15pm until 7:15pm.

The **entrance fee is £1.50** per child payable on the door and sweets are available to purchase from the canteen. Please note, no drinks will be available to purchase so please could your child bring a named drinks bottle with them. Please **no fizzy drinks**, thank you.

Please could we ask all parents/carers to ensure they send their child with a named wallet/purse containing their money for refreshments so that each child's money is kept safe. Thank you.

Children should be dropped off at the back door to the school and signed in by a member of staff or Friends committee. Please note that all children, regardless of walk home permissions for KS2 children will not be permitted to leave the school premises without an adult. **Please ensure you arrange for your child/children to be collected. Thank you.**

Tempest School Photographs – Class Photos

Tempest will be coming into school after half term on **Tuesday 4th June** to take class photographs. Please ensure your child is wearing their full school uniform (this also includes navy and white gingham summer dresses with a navy cardigan with the Connor Downs Academy logo), including black school shoes only.

As a reminder, if your child has hair longer than shoulder length it must be tied back for school. Any hair accessories must be small and, in the school, navy colour.

Thank you.



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Diary Dates

Monday 13th May – Swimming – Year 2 – Week 3
 Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May – KS2 SATs
 Monday 20th May – Swimming – Year 2 – Week 4
 Tuesday 21st May – Science hour for parents/carers – 9am – 10am
 Thursday 23rd May – FOCCA Discos – Please see above for more information.
 Friday 24th May – Last Day of first half of summer term – **3:15pm FINISH**

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May – Half Term

Attendance

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 2	99.1 %
2 nd Place	Year 4	98.3 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.



Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 10th May 2024

We are delighted to be able to invite the parents/carers of the winners below to join us at our next Shine assembly of the summer term, on **Friday 17th May** to see their child receive their certificate.

Please come along to the main reception **no earlier than 2:35pm**. A special well done to:

Year R – Florence

For her confidence in using mathematical language when talking about shapes. Well done, Florence!

Year 1 – Noah V

For his amazing effort in every lesson. Noah always gives 100% to everything he does. Well done, Noah!

Year 2 – Dylan M

For the amazing reasoning maths skills Dylan applies so well to answer additional challenges effectively. Well done, Dylan!

Year 3 – James

For using the pointillism drawing technique to create a sketch of a steam engine. Well done, James!

Year 4 – Peyton

For always showing excellent behaviour for learning and giving 100% to every task. Well done, Peyton!

Year 5 – Finley

For his thoughtful inputs when solving the class mystery of the Red-Headed League. Well done, Finley!

Year 6 – Charley

For showing increasing confidence and developing skills during our French lessons. Well done, Charley!

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Writer – Otis (Year 2)

For carefully applying his knowledge and understanding of spelling, punctuations and grammar to his writing activities. Well done, Otis!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Hugo (Year 1)

For his amazing progress in phonics and improved reading fluency. Well done, Hugo. We are so proud of you!

KS2 Reader – Joseph (Year 4)

For using his VIPERS reading comprehension skills precisely during our guided reading sessions. Well done, Joseph!

Mathematician – Solomon (Year 6)

For excellent effort in maths, particularly with arithmetic and encouraging more challenge. Well done, Solomon!

Numbots/Rock Star – Harry (Year 5)

For gaining 50,000 all-time correct answers. Well done, Harry!

Performer – Ailla (Year R)

For her enthusiasm and effort when reciting a poem about a ladybird. Well done, Ailla!

Character – Zachary P (Year 3)

For showing such kindness and understanding to his new classmate. Well done, Zachary!

Kind regards,

Mrs Eddy
Head of School