

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. This week in school has been very busy with lots of excitement with the rehearsals for the Christmas events taking place over the next two weeks as well as lots of learning.



Year 1 – Penlee Museum

Last Friday, Year 1 visited Penlee Museum where they took part in an 'Old Toys' workshop. This linked with their history topic this term 'Toys Past and Present'. The children had a great time being shown some very old toys that, due to their age, they were not able to physically touch but, they were able to explore and play with old wooden toys and toys from the 1990's. It was really exciting, and we would like to say a huge thank you to the adults who supported the trip to make it possible.



Year 5/6 – STEM Workshop

On Monday and Tuesday, Year 6 and Year 5 respectively enjoyed a STEM workshop held by Megan Page, who is in the NAVY and based at RNAS Culdrose.

She talked to the children about her recent trips to the Caribbean to monitor storm activity and take part in turtle conservation projects. Megan answered lots of questions from the children. Her talk should inspire them to be adventurous in their lives and to care for others.

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The children enjoyed learning how 230 people aboard the HMS Dauntless live in close proximity, how important the 'mess' is and that sometimes, on board, they get Magnum ice-creams!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Megan for visiting all our classes over the last few weeks and sharing her experiences.

Year 4 Dunes visit



Last Thursday, the Year 4 outdoor learning group had an amazing afternoon of exploration and discovery at Gwithian Towans. They used binoculars, a compass and a map to get a sense of direction before heading into a sand dune 'blow out' to learn about the formation of sand dunes. They discovered rabbit warrens, badger setts and observed objects that they found closely using a variety of magnifiers. From a high point they also measured the wind speed and temperature using an anemometer. The children had silent time while relaxing in the marram grass, listening for Sky Larks and other birds. Finally, the children thoroughly enjoyed running down the sand dunes.



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Girls Football festival



On Wednesday, our Year 5/6 girls football team represented the school in a festival at Mounts Bay Academy. The girls worked really well as a team and were full of enthusiasm, never giving up. Their determination paid off with 3 matches drawn and 2 wins, with an impressive no goals conceded. Well done to all the girls and thank you to Mr Stephens for supporting.



Year 4 – Shakespeare Festival

On Wednesday, Year 4 children participated in the Shakespeare Festival 2023 and joined three other schools from Penwith to stage an amazing performance of King Lear at Sennen Community Centre. Our children performed brilliantly speaking their lines and acting their roles with enthusiasm and skill. The audience were impressed by their dramatic performance and we are proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to come along and support the performance.



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Early Reading Information Session for Parents/Carers

We would like to thank all the parents and carers from Reception, and Year 1 who attended our Early Reading sessions this week. We hope that you all enjoyed the sessions and found them informative.

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

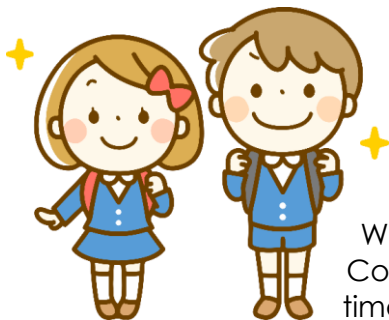
Parents/carers are invited to a short, open event to inform and create discussion around the topic of keeping children safe when using internet connected devices. Presented by Giles Hill, the Digital Strategy and Computing Lead for Aspire Academy Trust.

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



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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Christmas Post Box

We are delighted to announce that the Christmas post box will be appearing in the main corridor in the KS2 building from next Monday, 4th December. This will be available until the end of term for the children to post their Christmas cards to their friends. **Last Day for posting will be Thursday 14th December.**

Please can we ask that parents/carers ensure that both the **recipient's name and their year group** is marked clearly on the envelope to aid our Year 6 prefects when sorting into year groups for delivery. Thank you.



KS2 Christmas Carol Concert

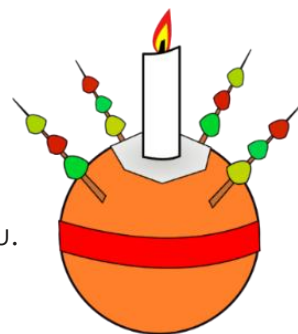


Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking part in their carol concert at Phillack Church, **next Wednesday, 6th December** starting at 5:00pm. Please can we ask that children and parents/carers **arrive no later than 4:45pm**. All children to please wear full school uniform, thank you.

Silent Night, Holy Night

EYFS /KS1 Christingle

The children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in their Christingle, being held at Phillack Church. This will take place on **Monday, 11th December** starting at 5:00pm. Please can we ask that children and parents/carers **arrive no later than 4:45pm**. All children to please wear full school uniform and to have long hair tied back, thank you.



There will be a retiring collection at both events with all proceeds going to the Church. Please do donate as generously as you can, Thank you!

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Name The Elf!



In conjunction with our Christmas Fayre taking place from 3:15pm next Friday, 8th December, the Friends of Connor Downs Academy have an Elf to name!

For **£1 a go**, you can put your name against one of the elf names on the board next to the elf. The winner will be chosen at the Fayre on Friday the 8th and they will be able to take the elf home with them!

The Elf is on display in the front office with a board full of names to choose from, so do come along and have a go, or two! Please pay Mrs Gallagher in cash, at reception for the number of goes you would like and then write your name on board under the names you choose!

Good luck to everyone – you could be the lucky of winner of the elf!

Time2Move Holiday Programme



SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Coast
ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Ofsted
Registered
See website for details

TIME MOVE
Holiday Programme

This Christmas Holiday

Hayle Academy –
3rd January

St Ives Leisure Centre –
20th – 21st December

Helston Community College –
20th – 22nd December

£18 for Non Free School
Meal places

FREE **Free Half Day Places for FSM Children**

ACTIVITIES
Swimming
Dodgeball
Tennis
Football
Cricket
Rugby
and so much more

AGES 5-16

SCAN TO BOOK 07939863010

www.coastactivityprogramme.com
info@coastactivityprogramme.com

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Request for costumes

Some of our parents/carers are kindly donating costumes that their children have worn over previous years for the EYFS/KS1 Nativities. If there are any other parents/carers that may have costumes that they no longer have need for and they would like to donate them to school, please pass them into Mrs Gallagher in the school office. Thank you!



Christmas Jumper Day 8th December 2023

In another effort to raise funds, the Friends of Connor Downs Academy have arranged a Christmas Jumper Day to take place **next Friday, 8th December**. Children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper in place of their usual school jumper on for a £1 donation. Please send your £1 in cash in a named envelope to your child's/children's class on the morning of the 8th. Usual school uniform expectations still apply apart from the Christmas jumper. Thank you for your support.

After School Clubs

Reminder that after school clubs have now finished for the autumn term. The only club still running is My Chance to Dance on a Monday and the final session will be on Monday 11th December. Thank you.

Details of Spring clubs will be shared at the beginning of next term, thank you.

Shine Assembly Update

Due to the early closure of school today as a result of a burst water main in the village, the planned Shine Assembly for this afternoon as has been rearranged for next Thursday at 2:45pm.

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Christmas Fayre

FRIENDS OF CONNOR DOWNS ACADEMY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2023

3:15PM – 4:45PM

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE
FESTIVE FUN!**

- ❖ **CLASS CHRISTMAS STALLS**
- ❖ **CRAFT ROOM**
- ❖ **VARIETY OF CHRISTMAS GAMES**
- ❖ **SANTA'S GROTTO (£3.50 PER CHILD) TO INCLUDE A GIFT FROM SANTA**
- ❖ **BRASS PERFORMANCE FROM YEAR 4 AND CHRISTMAS SONGS FROM THE CHOIR**
- ❖ **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE (TO BE DRAWN AT 4:30PM AT THE FAYRE)**
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE**
- ❖ **HOMEMADE CAKE SALE**
- ❖ **HOT FOOD**
- ❖ **NAME THE ELF (WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED AT 4:30PM AT THE FAYRE)**



**PLEASE NOTE, WE CAN TAKE CARD PAYMENTS AT THE FAYRE. YOU WILL BE GIVEN
TOKENS TO SPEND AT THE VARIOUS STALLS TO THE MONETARY VALUE OF YOUR CARD
PAYMENT. THANK YOU!**

Wonka Bars!

We will also be selling 'Wonka Bars' at the Christmas Fayre – will you be the one to win one of the 5 Golden Tickets?



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Requests for donations for the Christmas Fayre

We are looking for any donations to help with this year's Christmas Fayre.



Cake Sale: Are you a home baker who would be willing to provide us with some homemade cakes/buns/traybakes/cookies to sell at the Fayre? To be allergy aware, an ingredients sheet must be completed to go alongside your baking. Please note, **NO NUTS**. **PLEASE COULD ALL CAKES/BAKES BE BROUGHT TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY LUNCHTIME ON FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER, THANK YOU!**

Book Sale: Do you have any children's books that your children have either grown out of or no longer read. A Box for donations is available in the school main entrance. All donations would be greatly appreciated for our book stall!



Christmas Raffle: We will be holding a raffle at the Christmas Fayre with tickets being sold on the day. We are politely requesting that if any parents/carers would like to donate a raffle prize, or has any links to any local businesses that may be able to help, please see Mrs Gallagher in the school office or email hello@connordowns.org.uk.



We know how wonderfully our parent/carer and wider community support our school, so we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone of you of you who are able to assist in any way. The more money we can raise the more opportunities we can offer our children.



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TTRS and Numbots

We're excited that your child has both a Times Tables Rock Stars and NumBots account! To learn all about Times Tables Rock Stars and download free resources to help your child, please visit the dedicated parent/carer information page here -

trockstars.com/parents/

Encourage your child engage with the programme regularly. The guiding principle should be "little and often", e.g. three - five minutes, four or five times a week (spaced practice is more effective than blocked practice). Thank you for your continued support.



Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2023

Monday 4th December – Year 5 Swimming – Week 5
 Tuesday 5th December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity – Performance 1 - 2:00pm start
 Wednesday 6th December – KS2 Carol Concert at Phillack Church - 5:00pm start
 Thursday 7th December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity – Performance 2 - 5:00pm start
 Friday 8th December – FOCDA Christmas Jumper Day – Wear a Christmas jumper/favourite jumper for a £1 donation (more details to follow)
 Friday 8th December – FOCDA Christmas Fayre – 3:30pm start
 Monday 11th December – EYFS/KS1 Christingle at Phillack Church - 5:00pm start
 Wednesday 13th December – Christmas Dinner
 Friday 15th December – Christmas Parties
 Friday 15th December – Final Day of Autumn Term – **2:00pm Finish**
 Monday 18th December – **Inset Day (School Closed)**
 Tuesday 19th December – **Inset Day (School Closed)**

Wednesday 20th December 2023 – Wednesday 3rd January 2024 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Thursday 4th January 2024 - First day of Spring term

Attendance

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 2	98.5 %
2 nd Place	Year 1	98.0 %
3 rd Place	Year 6	97.9 %

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Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Kind Regards,

Mrs Eddy
Head of School

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