



**Connor Downs**  
Academy

# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



## EYFS Autumn Term 2022

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Reception Class have completed their first term at Connor Downs Academy! Mrs Bartaby and the entire YR team would like to say how very proud we are of all the children for their enthusiasm and hard work this term. The children have all settled well into school life since joining us in September, and they are all making very good progress across the entirety of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:**

This term, our primary aim has been to support the children during their transition to school, ensuring that all children arrive at school each morning happy, enthusiastic and eager to learn. To encourage this, we have focused on enabling the children to establish positive relationships with their friends and the staff in our reception classroom. Through collaborative circle time activities, teacher-led inputs and their participation in school events, the YR children have successfully integrated into life at Connor Downs Academy. We recognise and celebrate our differences; we are able to discuss our feelings and why we may feel a certain way; we understand that we are all a team and that we must always be kind, honest and try our best to support one another.



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## Physical Development

This term, the children have had many opportunities to develop their fine motor and gross motor skills. During our 'Playful Learning' time, the children have explored the ways in which they can develop their fine motor skills. They have practised handling tweezers and mark making tools to exercise their muscles at the 'finger gym'. They have enjoyed using the playdoh, using skills such as kneading, squeezing and rolling. In addition to this, the children have also learnt how to hold a pencil using an effective tripod grasp. This has supported their ability to form letters correctly and with greater confidence.

During P.E, the children have practised dressing and undressing themselves independently. Through this the children have become more confident at a range of tricky skills, such as fastening and unfastening shoes, zips and buttons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed using a range of equipment in the hall, during gymnastics. The children have used great balancing skills, moving over, under and across a range of equipment.

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## Communication and Language

Throughout the Autumn term, the children in reception class have enjoyed developing their communication and language skills during our daily circle time. During these sessions, the children are encouraged to share their thoughts, interests and learning with one another. This enables Mrs Bartaby to model new vocabulary to the children whilst allowing them to develop their independence and confidence as communicators.

The children have continued to enjoy 'show and tell' each week. The children bring in objects or work each week relating to the topic in class.



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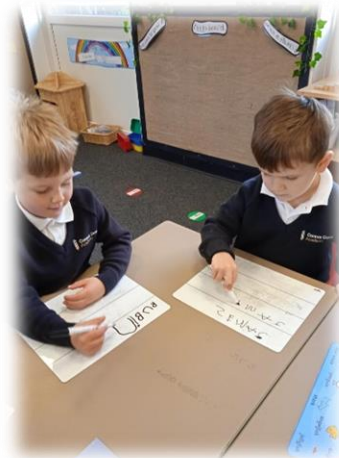
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## Literacy

The children are making fantastic progress in their daily phonics sessions. The children have demonstrated confidence and enthusiasm when learning Phase 2 graphemes and tricky words. It is amazing to see the progress the children are making daily. They are showing greater ease and confidence when writing and forming their letters. The children are also now blending orally and writing 3 letter words.

The children are also now writing in a Literacy book each book. The children practise sounds taught in phonics and are also beginning write simple words and sentences together with Mrs Bartaby. We had lots of fun writing a letter to Father Christmas, especially writing a long list of presents!



I have been so proud of all the reception children with the progress in their writing this term. The children are so keen and eager to write, even during playful learning.



## Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, we have spent a considerable amount of time focusing on numbers to 5. This has enabled the children to consolidate their understanding of basic number principles and has developed their confidence as mathematicians. The children recognise that number is an abstract idea and that numerals are one of many ways in which a number can be represented. Children have explored Numicon, money, oral counting, writing numerals and quantifying sets of objects and actions to support their daily understanding of numbers.

During our morning registration each day, the children practise their number formation. We think about maths when taking the register, using a range of time language to sequence the events of the day. For example: "First is the register" and "in the middle of day it's lunch time".

The children enjoy maths activities both in the classroom and outside. The children explored cultivating futures to make repeated patterns with a range of natural materials. We also looked outside for different 2D shapes.



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## Understanding the world

This term the children have shown such a keen interest in our topics of 'Autumn' and 'Celebrations'. The children have explored the topics through reading, writing, maths, art and in their playful learning. We have focussed our role play areas around the topics and activities, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Reception love to work outdoors, both in our own outdoor learning area and the cultivating futures area in the school grounds. Each week the children have thoroughly enjoyed 'Muddy Monday' sessions with Mr Costello. The children have made observations of animals and plants and are thoroughly enjoying observing, handling and taking care of the animals that live at our school.

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## Expressive Arts

From the beginning of the school year, the children have consistently enjoyed listening to a range of music. From nursery rhymes, phonic and mathematics songs, to Disney songs and even classical music. For the EYFS and KS1 Christmas Nativity, the children worked collaboratively to learn both the lyrics of the song, as well as a sequence of accompanying dance moves. The children's performance was absolutely sensational.

During our exciting topic of 'Autumn' and 'Celebrations', the creative area was always a hive of activity. The children had lots of fun getting very messy with leaves when making hedgehogs and trees. We also had lots of fun making fireworks and bonfire pictures. The children considered the colours carefully and even mixed their own paint to create the colour they needed.



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