



**Connor Downs  
Academy**

# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

## EYFS Spring Term 2023



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



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During this Spring term it is wonderful to see how much the children have grown in confidence and independence. The reception children continue to flourish both as independent learners and as members of our wider school community. The children are confident to choose their own activities during their own 'playful learning' time and to choose the resources they will use and use their own ideas. Social skills are developing as they work together in our new home corner and the children are working as a team when building and designing in the construction area. In reception class all children work together, sharing, taking turns and listening to each other's ideas.



## Physical Development

The reception children have continued to improve their physical skills in a wide range of activities. Through teacher-led input, the children have continued to develop their understanding of pencil control. They have learnt how to hold a pencil with an effective grip to form long ladder letters, one armed robot letters and curly caterpillar letters in handwriting. As a result, children in reception regularly produce writing which is of an outstanding quality and that is presented beautifully.

The children particularly enjoyed challenges such as using tweezers to pick up as many pompoms as they can within one minute to improve their fine motor skills and in turn developing their pencil grip

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and control. They have been mark making using pens, crayons, paint, mud and chalks, both inside and outside of the classroom.

In our P.E. lessons we have built on the gymnastics skills developed in the autumn term by travelling in different ways and stopping to balance on a range of apparatus. The children have also learnt how to jump off low apparatus and land safely. In their own learning time, the children have chosen to use guttering to explore rolling vehicles and measuring how far they travel.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in balance bike sessions this half term. The sessions have provided the children with a positive experience of using and riding bikes. The children developed basic movement patterns, dynamic balances and gross motor skills through a range of fun activities and games.



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## Communication and Language

Story time is a favourite part of our day, the children choose favourite books to read and share together as a class. They are able to show their good listening skills by making relevant comments and answering questions about the stories and books that they have heard. We love to read familiar stories over and over again and the children love to join in with reading them too.



The children thoroughly enjoyed bringing in their own books from home during world book day. The children talked about their favourite book and enjoyed answering questions from other children about their book.

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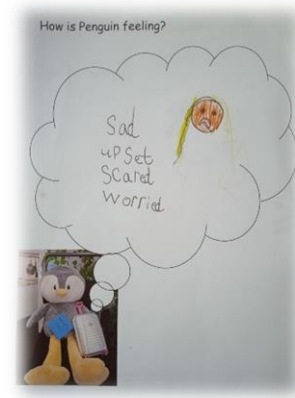
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## Literacy

The children have shown fantastic progress during daily phonics sessions and are now becoming more confident and independent. The children have learnt digraphs and trigraphs and they are able to use these when blending to read and segmenting to spell. The children are now reading and writing words independently. Through their own initiated learning activities the children have had opportunities to put these skills into practice, for example, writing lists of ingredients in the mud kitchen outside, drawing and labelling plans before building in the construction area and writing cards and messages to family and friends.



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Through shared and guided writing, the children have written for a range of purposes. For example, on World Book Day they wrote descriptions of their book character. When finding out about Polar regions the children pretended to be explorers writing facts about penguins and polar bears. They drew pictures of what they looked like, labelled them and wrote sentences to describe them. The children thoroughly enjoyed writing imaginatively about a lost penguin who we found in our classroom one morning.

## Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, the children have consolidated their understanding of the core mathematical skills and principles they explored in the Autumn term. The children are now able to confidently write their numerals from 0-10. They have also begun to recognise and practise writing their numerals from 10-20, using visual aids such as number lines and number fans to independently support themselves. The children can compare numbers, order numbers forwards and backwards, find one more and one less and are beginning to add and subtract.

We continue to teach maths daily as a whole class teacher led activity. Following this teaching session, children will then have a follow up task which involves: working with the teacher, independent learning, extended provision opportunities and continuous play opportunities. Children can find maths hidden in all areas of our provision.

When finding out about polar bears we compared the length and height using longer and shorter. We used cubes as a unit of measure as well as being introduced to using rulers and tape measures. The children have been using their reasoning skills when deducing the names of shapes when building models outside. They are using mathematical vocabulary to describe the properties of the shapes when doing this. They have also explored making different shapes with natural objects in cultivating futures.

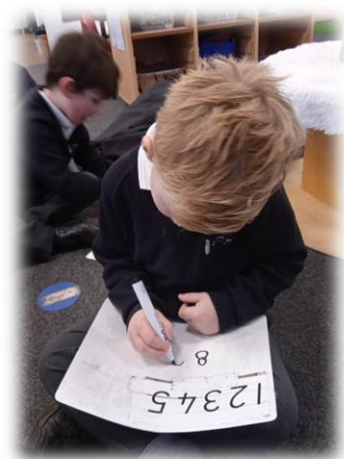
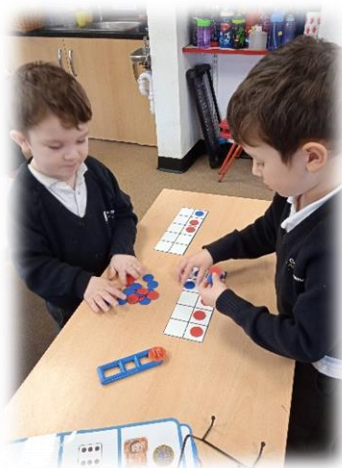




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## Understanding the World

The children were very excited to visit Tehidy Woods this term. The children explored the environment around them, naming and describing what they could see and hear. The children were very excited to meet the friendly squirrels.



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The children thoroughly enjoyed learning facts and information about the polar regions. We explored climate, animals and the daily life of such a contrasting locality. The children enjoyed exploring maps, globes and google maps to locate the different localities.

The children were super excited to explore snow during our Winter topic and what better way than a snow day! We brought as much snow into the classroom for the children to explore. The children enjoyed touching and playing with the snow and ice and seeing the changes at first hand throughout the day. This then led to the children hunting for frost and ice each morning around our school.





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Reception love to work outdoors, both in our own outdoor learning area and the cultivating futures area in the school grounds. They thoroughly enjoy observing, handling and taking care of the animals that live at our school. The children are continuing to enjoy their weekly sessions with Mr Costello. They have been exploring what life is living in our school pond.



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## Expressive Arts and Design

During our exciting topic of the polar regions, the creative area was a hive of activity as children chose to make a variety of polar animals. The children had lots of fun getting very messy with cotton wool when making their fluffy polar bears. We also made penguins from paper plates. The children considered the colours carefully and joined the different parts of the penguin together.

The children have also been creative outside. We created pictures using natural resources such as leaves, sticks, stones and other resources the children could find. We even made pictures in the frost, one cold morning.



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