

Friday 11th November 2022

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well. This week in school has been extremely busy with lots of exciting activities happening.

Today in school, we held a whole school assembly to recognise the sacrifices made by so many in conflicts past and present. As part of the assembly, we held a two minutes silence and we were so impressed by the respect shown by each and every pupil.



Class R – Poppy Biscuits

In Reception Class today the children thoroughly enjoyed making poppy biscuits and learning why we wear poppies at this time of year.



Service of Remembrance

This Sunday 13th November, our School Council will lay a wreath on behalf of Connor Downs Academy at Hayle War Memorial as part of the annual service of remembrance. Mrs Eddy and Mrs Kitching will be attending and invite all of our families to join with us at the War Memorial from 10:40am. Please can all children attending wear full school uniform.

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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



**Connor Downs
Academy**

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

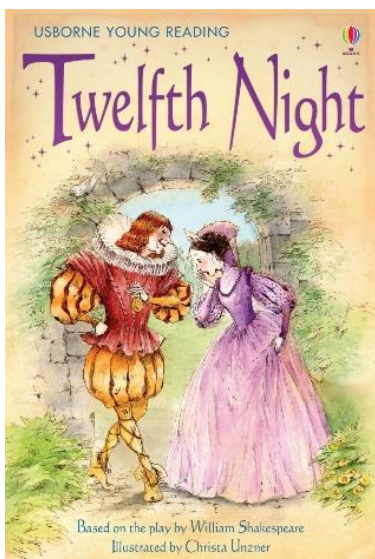


Years 1 and 2 Multiskills

On Monday, children from Year 1 and Year 2 represented Connor Downs Academy in a Multiskills event held at Mounts Bay Academy. The children competed against 9 other schools in a variety of activities and showed fantastic determination and great teamwork. The children's behaviour was exemplary. Well done to everyone who took part.



Year 4 – Shakespeare Workshop



On Monday afternoon, Year 4 enjoyed their workshop with John Brolly from the Minack Theatre. They learned how to use their actor voices, how to stand on stage and the importance of facing the audience. Mr Brolly described what happens in the first three acts of Twelfth Night and then worked with the children to practice and perform Act 4. The children are all looking forward to performing at the Minack Theatre next week as part of their Shakespeare

festival. Thank you to Mr Brolly for coming into school to support the children and prepare them for their performance.



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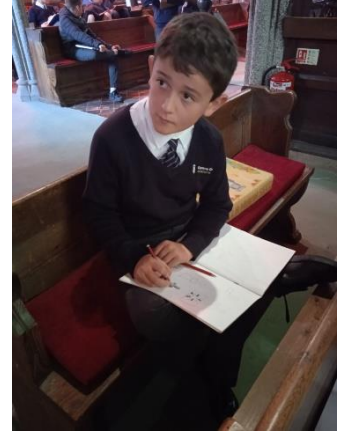


Year 6 – Truro Cathedral/Phillack Church

On Tuesday, Year 6 visited Truro Cathedral for the 'Golden Spires' Tour. The children identified the different features including the font and high altar, observed the shape of the building by lying on the floor and learnt about how Cathedrals are used as places of worship. The children also created stunning pieces of art

inspired by the stained glass windows. In the afternoon, they visited

Phillack Church where the children explored their local community Church and completed sketches in their sketchbook of interesting objects. Thank you to the Phillack Community for hosting us.



Bikeability – Year 5



This week some of our Year 5 pupils took part in Bikeability. Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme which helps children to learn practical skills and understand how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability gives everyone the confidence to cycle and enjoy the skill for life. The training programme is split up into 3 sessions – the first on the playground followed by two sessions on the roads. The first and second of three groups of Year 5 pupils began their sessions this week with the third

group beginning on 22nd November.

Bikeability – Group 1	Bikeability – Group 2	Bikeability – Group 3
Tuesday 8 th November	Thursday 15 th November	Tuesday 22 nd November
Thursday 10 th November	Tuesday 15 th November	Thursday 24 th November
Tuesday 15 th November	Friday 18 th November	Tuesday 29 th November

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Year 5 – Music

In Year 5 the children have learnt about The Interrelated Dimensions of Music. This involved, listening, appraising and then performing 'The Three Note Bossa' and discussing the texture, tempo and dynamics of the piece.



Children in Need

Next Friday, the 18th November 2022, is Children in Need day. We are inviting children to come to school on this day wearing their own clothes/Pudsey items for a donation of their choice which should be paid via ParentPay., which then goes direct to Children in Need. A link to the donations page can be found below. **Please note we are unable to accept cash donations.** Thank you for your support.



[Children in Need Donations](#)

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**Mrs Allan's Famous Fish
fingers, chips & beans**

**Cheesy Bean Wrap,
chips & sweetcorn**

Spotty cookie

**Salad, Fruit & homemade
yoghurt**

Aspens

**We're raising money for
BBC Children in Need**

This activity has been organised in
support of BBC Children in Need.
Please contact the organiser for further
information.

Special Menu

Please see poster for Children in Need
special menu next Friday.



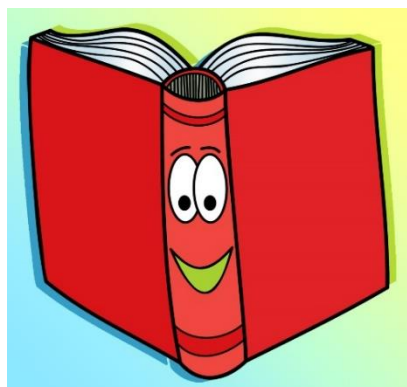
Sponsored Reading Event

This week, a letter has been sent home to all
children along with a sponsorship form. The
sponsored reading event will take place in



school between Monday 21st and Monday 28th November.

In conjunction with Usborne books, we are promoting and encouraging children to read for pleasure. Being a confident, fluent reader is a vital life skill which is recognised to make a significant difference to children's future success. Books open doors to new worlds, allow children to walk in someone else's footsteps, help them to learn new skills and encourage pupils to explore new ideas.



Usborne Books have generously agreed to match the amount of money raised in our school community to enable us to develop both our School Library and the collections held in each of our classrooms. If every child were to raise just £1 of sponsorship, this would raise an incredible £400 with the match funding from Usborne.

A payment item has been set up on ParentPay and we ask that all sponsorship is paid in via ParentPay by the deadline of **Friday 2nd December**.

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Year 6 Homework Grid Tasks

Ella in Year 6 has produced some amazing work for some of her homework grid tasks. We hope that these inspire you to have a go at some of the challenges set by the other class teachers.

Reminders



Jumpers/Warm Coats

As the weather has now turned more autumnal, please can we remind parents/carers to ensure their child comes to school with a warm, waterproof coat every day. We are encouraging the children to get some fresh air at all break and lunch times as well as taking advantage of our amazing outdoor area during lesson times, so it is vital that your child has a coat to wear to keep them as dry and warm as possible.



Illness

Naturally, with the colder weather comes more illness, in terms of colds, sickness bugs etc. If your child/children has a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, the school policy is the requirement for them to be kept away from school for 48 hours from the last occurrence.

Please can we also remind parents/carers, that if your child/children is/are absent from school due to illness, please ensure you telephone the school every morning they are absent and leave a message on the absence line. Thank you.

Breaktime Snacks

A reminder to all parents that we are a Healthy School and we encourage children to have a piece of fruit at breaktimes. Chocolate, crisps, cereal bars are not allowed.



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Medication

Medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to child's health or school attendance not to do so.

Prescription medicines can only be administered if prescribed for a child by a doctor or a dentist. The medicine must be:

- In date
- Labelled with the child's name
- Provided in its original container as dispensed by a pharmacist
- Include instructions for administration, dosage and storage.

The medicine must be accompanied by a completed 'Parental Agreement for setting to Administer Medicine' form. This form can be obtained from the school office.

All medicines must be passed to/collected from an adult in the school office. Medicine must never be sent to school with a child in their bag.

Non prescribed medicines, such as Calpol, Ibuprofen, cough sweets, cough syrup, antacid tablets to name but a few, should not be sent into school with a child under any circumstances and are **not permitted to be given by staff**. Should your child require a 'top up' of Calpol, for example, an adult must attend the school at the required time, e.g. lunchtime to give the medicine to the child.



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, 24th**

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.

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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.**

Parent/Carer Survey 2022

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have completed our parent/carers survey. We have been delighted by the responses.

1. 100% agree their child is happy at Connor Downs Academy
2. 99% agree their child feels safe at school
3. 98% agree the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
4. 100% agree the school and staff respond well to concerns
5. 95% agree the school has high expectations for their child
6. 99% agree their child does well at Connor Downs Academy
7. 87% agree the school lets them know how their child is doing in school
8. 94% agree the school supports their child's wider development
9. 98% would recommend Connor Downs Academy to another parent/carers

'My daughter is extremely happy in this school. All teachers are absolutely amazing and give support and encouragement in everything. Couldn't wish for better school and really thankful for all the staff for making it best start in learning journey.'

'The school is committed to providing a wide range of extra curricular opportunities which my child loves. We always know that the next sports trip or educational visit is never far away.'

'I really appreciate everything Connor downs staff does for my children! My youngest has recently started school and she has settled in beautifully and loves every member of staff. I love the extra curricular activities that they do at the school, the trips are incredible! Both my children love accessing the amazing PE lessons that are provided. Connor Downs go above and beyond for every pupil and we feel privileged to be apart of such a special school.'

'My boys love the school. They are well supported and are progressing well. I like how all the different years interact and how the children play together and look out for each other.'

'Amazing school. We feel very lucky to be a part of it.'

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Some parents/carers expressed a desire for increased communication.

As a school, we are always seeking to improve our communication channels and this will be reviewed. Please know that staff are always available to address any concerns which you may have. Please do speak directly with the class teacher and where this is not possible, please do telephone or email and a member of staff will contact you to discuss your concerns.

As a reminder, we have an open-door policy, The home/sharer books are a two-way communication between parents/carers and school and are monitored daily. There are termly open evenings, termly newsletter, weekly newsletter and regular Twitter and FaceBook updates on the school website. An annual report is also provided towards the end of the summer term for each child.

Some parents/carers expressed a desire for their child to have a wider school development.

As a school, we continually review our provision to ensure it is as enriching and engaging as possible. We are looking forward to the extensive range of educational visits which are on offer for all year groups over the coming year.

Dates for Diary – Autumn Term

Friday 18th November – 'Friends of Connor Downs Academy' meeting – 3:30pm - all welcome

Thursday 24th November- 'Friends of Connor Downs Academy' autumn term discos

- Years R, 1 and 2 – 5:00pm to 6:00pm
- Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – 6:15pm – 7:15pm
- £1.50 entry fee payable on the door
- Refreshments available to buy

Tuesday 6th December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity – Performance 1 – 1:30pm

Thursday 8th December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity – Performance 2 – 5:00pm

Friday 9th December – Christmas Fayre from 3:30pm

Monday 12th December – EYFS/KS1 Christingle at Phillack Church – 5:00pm

Tuesday 13th December – KS2 Carol Concert at Phillack Church – 6:00pm

Wednesday 14th December – Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 16th December – Last Day of autumn Term – **FINISH at 2:00pm**

Monday 19th December – Monday 2nd January 2023 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – First day of spring term

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Attendance this week

<u>Attendance</u> Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 2	98.3 %
2 nd Place	Year 1	97.0 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 11th November 2022

*We are delighted to be able to invite the parents/carers of the winners below to join us at our first Shine assembly of the autumn term, on **Friday 18th November** 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 – Zoey

For her amazing independent writing during phonics. Well done Zoey!

Year 1 – Alfie

For his excellent effort in maths and phonics. Alfie is starting to use his number skills and is making great progress with his blending in phonics. Well done Alfie!

Year 2 – Reuben

For excellent progress in phonics and impressive writing. Well done Reuben!

Year 3 – Charlie

For super work all areas but particularly in Science, learning about nutrition of animals. Well done Charlie!

Year 4 – Amara

For being a friendly member of the class, showing great behaviour for learning and consistently giving 100% to everything she does. Well done Amara!

Year 5 – Oriana

For her excellent comprehension skills about a newspaper report. Well done Oriana!

Year 6 – Ella RM

For making a superb effort with your homework tasks. Well done Ella!

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Writer – Ella (Year 3)

For writing an excellent recount using consistent joined handwriting. Well done Ella!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Zak L

For being an enthusiastic and committed reader across a range of genres. Well done Zak!

KS2 Reader – Harry (Year 4)

For consistently reading above his target and showing resilience in quizzing. We are proud of your dedication, Harry. Well done!

Mathematician – McKenzie (Year 5)

For his continued effort and determination to improve his maths skills. Well done McKenzie!

Performer – Ethan (Year 1)

For his amazing effort and enthusiasm at the Key Stage 1 multi-skills tournament. Ethan showed great coordination when using a tennis racket. Well done Ethan!

Moki Fitness Tracker – Orla (Year 6)

For recording the greatest number of steps in a week using the Moki Fitness Trackers. Orla's total was an incredible 28,349 steps. Well done Orla!

Citizen – Alfie (Year 6)

For being an excellent citizen in making your donation to Truro Cathedral. Well done Alfie, we are proud of you!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School