

Friday 14th October 2022

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. We have had another very full and engaging week in our Academy.



Mental Health Day – Monday 10th October

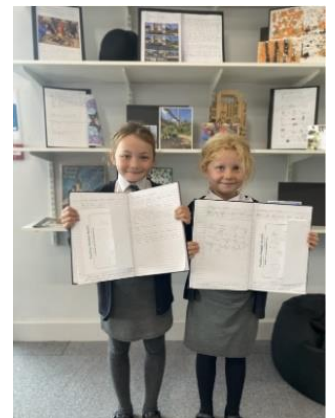


Monday this week marked Mental Health Day. We all have mental health and it affects how we think, feel and act and how we deal with life. In classes this week, the children have been looking at ways to identify behaviours which indicates where our mental health sits.



In Reception Class this week, the children have been reading the story of 'The Colour Monster' for Mental Health Awareness Week. The children looked at the different emotions the monster had throughout the story and thoroughly enjoyed acting out these emotions. The children also retold parts of the story using puppets.

Year 2 explored positive mental health. The children shared ideas, alongside our powerpoint. They then represented pictorially and in writing the things we can do to help to maintain our mental health. The children focused on remembering that we are all special just the way we are.



The children in Year 3 worked together to help each other feel happier by playing the Motional game, Guess The Picture. It was great to see their teamwork, co-operation and smiling faces as they played.

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



As part of World Mental Health Day, Year 4 completed their motional activity where they explored different percussive instruments. They were also looking to see if they could spot any adults in school wearing yellow to show their support for World Mental Health Day.

Year 5 took part in a musical activity combining playing rhythms to the sound of a heartbeat, with a focus on breathing exercises and keeping time in a group.



Year 6 – Outdoor Learning (Group 1)

Last Friday our year 6 outdoor learning group explored the unique and scientifically important habitat of Godrevy Warren. They learned about the history of the area, the formation of the dunes and the geology of the surrounding area. The area itself is not open to the public and is a site of specific scientific interest being home to around 25% of Cornwall's plant species. They walked around the warren observing habitats and wildlife, and also learned how to carry and use tools safely. They

particularly enjoyed digging up the shrubs and preparing the fire, while sheltering from the sudden deluge of rain.

This did not dampen their spirits and at the end of the afternoon they were rewarded with a roaring fire, which later became the oven for our baked potatoes. They all had a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



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New Addition

This week the children have been excited to welcome a new friend to Connor Downs Academy. The hedgehog has been named Prickles and Paws.

Year 2 – Lanhydrock House

On Friday 7th October Year 2 had an exciting trip to Lanhydrock House. The children were amazing history detectives and learnt so



many new things about the family that lived there and what life was like for them. They were curious and asked many questions. The children's learning journey will now continue back in the classroom through our exploration of the Victorian period. Thank you to all the parent/carers who came along to help. It was a wonderful day and the children represented Connor Downs Academy in a very positive way showing politeness and a great attitude to learning.

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Year 4 – Brass Lessons

The children in Year 4 have just begun a 10 week first access course to learn to play a variety of brass instruments. Each week, Mrs Burden, from Cornwall Music Service Trust is coming into school to deliver a lesson. The children are then able to take their instruments home with them to practice during the week.



Year 6 – World War 2



On Wednesday, Year 6 were visited by Mr Gallagher who brought in his collection of WW2 artefacts, including a pen and ink pot, some binoculars, old coins and decommissioned weapons.

The children enjoyed the opportunity to get close to history and handle the objects themselves. Thank you

Mr Gallagher for sharing your time and answering some very tricky questions!



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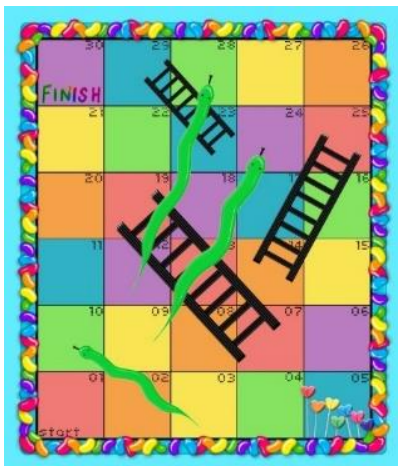
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Safeguarding - Child Protection In Sport

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) has released a new animation as part of their Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport campaign. The new campaign aims to equip parents and carers with the knowledge and confidence to raise any safeguarding concerns at their child's sports club.

Watch the animation: [Keeping your child safe in sport animation](#)

Read the news story: [NSPCC campaign calls on parents to play their part in keeping children safe in sport](#)



Are you having a sort out of toys and games?

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already donated, but If you have any good quality games (Chess, Jenga, Top Trumps, Connect 4 etc) that need a new home, Year 5 and Year 6 are looking to replenish their wet playtime cupboards. They would be very grateful for any donations you could make. Thank you!



Tempest Photos

A reminder that Tempest will be coming into school on Monday to take individual and sibling photos. If you would like a sibling photo with siblings not attending Connor Downs Academy, **please arrive at the school office at 8:20am** to sign in. The photographer will be ready to take photos from 08:30am. You will be given a number and photos will be taken first to enable parents/carers to get younger/older siblings to nursery/school. Children with siblings within Connor Downs Academy will have their photos taken during the morning. Please can we ask that all children come to school on Monday looking extra smart in their full school uniforms and black school shoes. Thank you.



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The Big Dune Draw – Saturday 29th October

The 'Friends of the Towans Art Club' is part of the charity, 'Friends of the Towans', that works to conserve, manage and protect the Towans through inclusion and involvement of the community and visitors. The new Art Club is funded by the Dynamic Dunescape project.
<https://dynamicdunescape.co.uk>

As part of the club they are taking part in The Big Dune Draw on Saturday October 29th. They are reaching out to schools nearby who have families that would like to join in this event. The event is free and there are no number restrictions.

It will take place at Gwithian Chapel starting 12:45pm until 3pm. They will then celebrate people's work back at Gwithian Chapel with tea treats 3:30pm -5:30pm.

They will be drawing outside on the dunes so are asking people to please wear appropriate footwear and some warm layers, hat, gloves, etc.

They are asking people to bring A4 or A5 cartridge paper and a board or sketchbook to lean on as well as drawing materials they like. However, they will have some materials people can borrow. For instance, 2B pencils, water soluble coloured pencils, rubbers and sharpeners, however they only have a limited supply.

For more information, please access the link below:

https://thebigdraw.org/event/Big_Dune_Draw/9969



The Big Dune Draw at Gwithian

THE 2022^o BIG DRAW FESTIVAL

COME BACK TO COLOUR

Saturday 29th October

Saturday 29th October

WE ARE PART OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST DRAWING FESTIVAL!

25+ COUNTRIES | 1000+ EVENTS | 500,000+ PEOPLE

JOIN US!

Meet artists Hilary Jean Gibson and Dominica Williamson (Friends of The Towans Art Club leaders) at Gwithian Chapel at **12:45pm**, ready to explore and draw the dunes nearby!

Refreshments after at 3:30pm and a chance to enjoy viewing work created at our previous events in the beautiful Towans

Email hilarygibson@hotmail.co.uk to book your free place!

Vote for your favourite Big Draw event: www.thebigdraw.org/vote
SHARE YOUR DRAWINGS! #TheBigDraw #ComeBackToColour

@The_Big_Draw @thebigdraw TheBigDrawOfficial Organised by thebigdraw.org

DYNAMIC DUNESCAPES **The Wildlife Trusts** **HERITAGE FUND** **Towans Partnership** **FRIENDS OF THE TOWANS**

Dynamic Dunescape is a partnership project rejuvenating sand dunes across England and Wales, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the EU LIFE Programme. Partners are Natural England, Plantlife, Natural Resources Wales, National Trust and The Wildlife Trusts.
dynamicdunescape.co.uk @dynamicdunes

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Parent/Carer Consultations

A reminder that Parent/Carer Consultations are being held next **Monday, 17th October** and **Tuesday 18th October**. Bookings via the Arbor App have now closed but if you have not yet booked an appointment with your child/ren's teacher/s, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk and we can arrange a time for you. Thank you.



Coats/Spare Shoes

With the weather turning more autumnal and the risk of rain being greater, please can we ask all parents/carers to ensure their child/ren come to school every day with a warm, waterproof coat. Also, as the term progresses, a change of shoes that can be kept in school to wear at break times and lunch times to access the field. Thank you.

Wildflower Seed Packets

Mr Costello has sent home a packet of wildflower seeds with every child this week. Connor Downs Academy have teamed up with North Cornwall B-Lines in a mission to help save Cornwall's rare and threatened bees. There is a pack of UK native wildflowers for every child in a hope that they can be planted to create a small wildflower area.



Children's Hospice South West – Santas on the Run

Campaign 2022



The Eden Project are hosting an in person event on behalf of Children's Hospice South West's Christmas fundraising appeal, **Santas on the Run 2022**. Due to the cost of living, the early bird tickets for the fun 2k festive fun run have been reduced to £4.50 for a child and £9.00 for an adult. This gives participants free entry into The Eden Project for the day to experience a wonderful family day out.

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Attendance – Late Arrivals

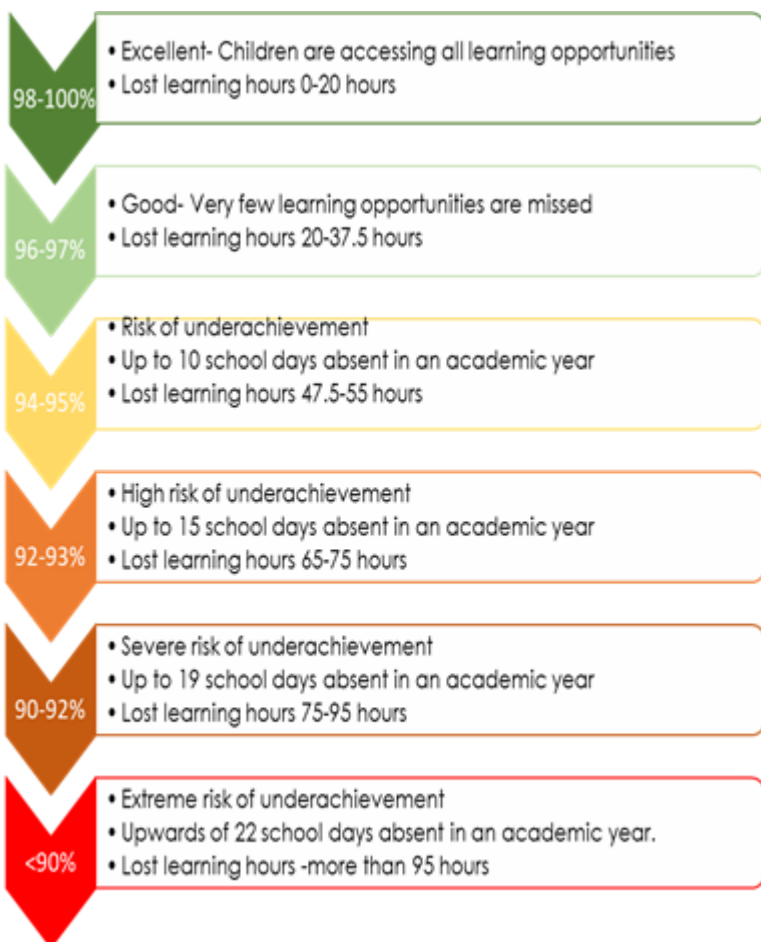
A reminder that our gates open at 08:30am and close at 08:45am, with registration at 08:45am.

Any children arriving after this time, must be signed in at the school office by an adult. Children must not be left at the gate or dropped off by car, regardless of their year group.

We appreciate that there are times where issues beyond your control arise, leading to a late arrival but a prompt arrival is key to your child/ren accessing every part of the school day.

Catching up an absent or late child can also affect others in the class, as adults time has to be spent on one child.

Thank you for your support and understanding with this.



Attendance this week

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 4	97.0 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 14th October 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 21st October** 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 – Brodie

For his growing confidence in all activities in Reception. Brodie is trying especially hard writing his name. Well done Brodie!

Year 1 – Sully

For making a great start to Year 1. Sully has an excellent attitude towards his learning and is willing to take on any challenge he is given. Sully is also a wonderful friend to everyone in the class. Well done Sully!

Year 2 – Zachary P

For excellent progress through our Place Value unit reflected in your end of unit assessment. Well done Zachary!

Year 3 – Lois

For a brilliant word collection with our pattern, her homework word bird. Well done Lois!

Year 4 – Hunter

For showing increased skill and independence in his fluency and reasoning in maths. Well done!

Year 5 – Amelia B

For an excellent Shackleton biography that weaved together facts in chronological order. Well done Amelia!

Year 6 – Charlie M

For putting so much care and attention into your handwriting. Well done Charlie!

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Writer – Unique (Year 5)

For using "inhospitable" in our biography of Shackleton. Well done Unique!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Joseph (Year 1)

For the amazing effort he puts in and the progress he has made in his phonics and reading at home every night. Well done Joseph!

KS2 Reader – Tino (Year 4)

For writing detailed full sentence answers in his reading comprehensions. Well done Tino!

Mathematician – Layla (Year 6)

For careful presentation in your maths book this week working on multiplication. Well done Layla!

Performer – Noah B (Year R)

For retelling the story 'The Colour Monster' with confidence and excitement. Well done Noah!

Moki Fitness Tracker – Chester (Year 5)

For recording the greatest number of steps in a week using the Moki Fitness Trackers. Chester's total was 44,190 steps. Well done Chester!

Citizen – Peyton (Year 3)

For showing kindness and helping younger children in Art Club. Peyton is a super role model to everyone. Well done Peyton!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

Dates for Diary – Autumn Term

Monday 17th October – Parents/Carers Consultations 1 – 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Tuesday 18th October – Parents/Carers Consultations 2 – 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Friday 21st October – Friends of Connor Downs Academy – AGM 3:30pm – all welcome – please sign in at the school office.

Friday 21st October – Last Day of Half Term – **FINISH at 3:15pm**

Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October – HALF TERM

Monday 31st October – First day of second half of autumn term

Monday 31st October – DEADLINE FOR YEAR 6 APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Friday 4th November – Flu vaccinations – more information to follow

Thursday 10th November – Year R Vision Screening Tests

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

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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Transfer to Secondary School – September 2023

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED - DEADLINE IS 31ST OCTOBER 2022

If you have a child in Year 6 and have not yet applied for their secondary school place, please be advised the deadline is fast approaching. We are encouraging every parent/carer to ensure they meet this deadline to give their child the best chance of securing their 1st choice secondary school.



Together
for Families

The
deadline for
applications is
**31 October
2022**

Transfer to secondary school September 2023

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

Information and guidance

Website and application form: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Post: School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 101

Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on 0800 587 8191



www.cornwall.gov.uk

Applying for a **secondary school** place for **September 2023**

Special Educational Needs

If an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan has been issued for your child you do not need to complete an application form. Please contact the Statutory SEN Service for more information: Tel: 01872 324242 Email: statutorysen@cornwall.gov.uk

1 Decide on your preferred schools

You are strongly advised to name **three** preferences on the application form. **Naming a second or third preference does not give you any less chance of getting a place at your preferred school.** When making your decision you should...

...think about **how your child will get to school.** Go to www.cornwall.gov.uk/schooltransport for more information on whether your child would be entitled to transport to school.

...look at the **admission arrangements** on our website that will be used to allocate places for each school.

...consider naming your **nearest or designated school** as one of your preferences. You can find your nearest or designated school on our website.

...look at the detailed **admissions information** on our website, also available on request.

2 Submit your application by **31 October 2022**

Apply online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

3 Wait to find out which school you have been allocated

If you applied on time you will be notified of your allocation on **National Offer Day: 1 March 2023. Apply on time!** Late applications will only be dealt with after National Offer Day and there may not be any places left at your preferred schools.

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