

Friday 10th November 2023

Dear parents/carers,

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

This week in school we held an assembly to recognise the sacrifices made by so many in conflicts past and present. As part of the assembly, we held a one minute silence. We were so impressed by the respect shown by each and every pupil.



Service of Remembrance

Reminder: This Sunday, 12th 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 us at the War Memorial from 10:40am. Please can all children attending wear full school uniform and a poppy if they have one. Thank you for your support.

Year 1 – Chocolate Crispy Cakes



This week in English, Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed making chocolate crispy cakes. They sequenced and followed the instructions and have now used the experience and photos to write their own cooking instructions.



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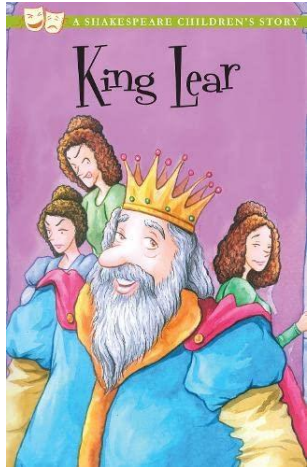
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Year 4 – Shakespeare Workshop

On Monday morning, Year 4 enjoyed their workshop with Connie Crosby and Imogen Roux from the Minack Theatre. They learned how to use their actor voices, how to stand on stage and the importance of facing the audience. Connie and Imogen described what happens in the play and then worked with the children to practice and perform the beginning of the play up to where King Lear sends Cordelia into exile. The children are all looking forward to performing at the Minack Theatre at the end of the month as part of their Shakespeare festival. Thank you to Connie and Imogen for coming into school to support the children and prepare them for their performance so admirably.

Year 5 – Kresen Kernow Performance



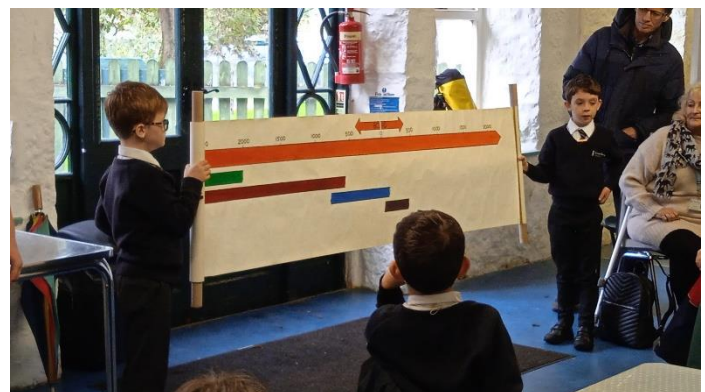
On Tuesday, Year 5 attended the Women in Cornwall Project at Kresen Kernow. Following a number of sessions in school working with Christine Judge from Cornwall Music Service Trust, the children performed their song to an audience. They then evaluated their performance and the project as a whole. Following this they were treated to a performance by Angeline, a professional musician, who played a variety of instruments and talked about the inspiration for her song writing. We would like to thank Christine



for helping us to learn the song and Mrs Burden for supporting us on the day.

Year 3 – Penlee Museum

Year 3 had a great Wednesday when they visited Penlee Museum. The children participated in a Stone Age to Iron Age workshop to enrich their learning in History: What do we know about the Stone Age?



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Led by Zoe, the Education Officer at the Museum and her assistant Rose, the class learnt about the chronological order of the Stone Age period involving a very long timeline.

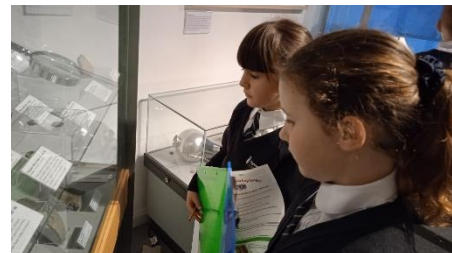
Then the children were able to handle artefacts such as arrow heads, flint tools, cups and combs made from antler and bowls made from pottery and wood.

The visit to the museum to see real Stone Age remains was a highlight. The children were thrilled to see real axe heads, arrow heads, pots and a fossilised tree discovered locally in West Cornwall.



The children and accompanying adults were amazed to see the golden collar necklace and coins found at Gwithian and the Roman coin hoard recently discovered by archaeologists in Hayle.

In the afternoon the children made a brooch in the style of a Romano British coin and a Bronze age coil pot. We were delighted by the comments shared from Zoe and members of the public on how polite and well behaved the children were. One person came into the museum to share with Ms Speight how lovely it was to see the children so engaged and buzzing with their learning.



Finally, the children were able to visit the Art gallery where The Newlyn School paintings are hanging. Linked to their learning about Cornish artists in the 20th Century, the children were amazed to see large scale paintings by artists "School is Out" Elizabeth Forbes and "The Rain it Raineth every day" by Norman Garstin.



We would like to thank Zoe and the team at Penlee Museum for an amazing day and also Mrs Richards and Mrs Rothero for their support with the visit.

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Year 5 – Newquay Zoo

On Thursday, Year 5 visited Newquay Zoo to understand how animals are adapted to their environment with a special focus on the Humboldt penguins and how they have adapted to swimming which links to the children's learning in science. Thank you to Mabel and Jacob for their report.

On Thursday the 9th November 2023, Year 5 went to Newquay Zoo to see all of the animals.



Black and white ruffed lemurs

First of all, Year 5 went to the black and white ruffed lemurs, they lived near the pond where the pelicans and the ducks lived. The tour guide (Emma) told us that they were called Barry, Yoda, Astrid and Sara and that they lived in a tiny hut in the middle of the lake.

Monkeys

Next Year 5 went to the monkey enclosure and there were squirrel monkeys, they were banging on the glass and they kept sticking their tongues out at us. The monkeys were swinging upside down on their ropes and then jumping from platform to platform.



Otters

Year 5 enjoyed looking at the Otters, but they were very stinky and they smelt like fish. The otter enclosure used to be the lion enclosure until the lions moved away to another zoo.



Penguins

After the Otters, Year 5 went to see the Penguins. We were told that each Penguin has a different marking of spots. We learned about a Penguin called Ringo who used to flirt with lots of other Penguins that already had a mate. Finally he found a mate called William. Ringo and William found an 'egg' and took it in turns to sit on it. They did this for around a month until they realised that it was just a pebble. Year 5 found this story very funny!



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Reception Class

Reception class have been learning about Diwali this week. They thoroughly enjoyed making their own Diyas using salt dough. The children then decorated the Diyas using lots of different colours.



Thank you!

We would like to say a big thank you to all our parent/carer volunteers who have helped us out on our visits. This week in particular we would like to thank, Mrs Shilston, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Kevern for their help with swimming; Mrs Thomas for helping with the Cross Country; Mrs Allen and Mrs Kevern for helping with the Newquay Zoo visit for Year 5 and Mrs Rees, Miss Primus and Mrs Hodge for helping with Year 4's visit to the Eden Project.

A huge thank you also needs to go to Mr Lewis and Mr Gallagher for driving the minibuses for lots of our visits and supporting our staff and children.



Children in Need



Friday the 17th November 2023 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 using the link below. Please note we are unable to accept cash donations. Thank you for your support.

[Children in Need 2023 - Donations](#)

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TIS UK Award

Connor Downs Academy is a Nationally accredited Trauma Informed School.

A trauma informed school is one that is able to support children who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning. The objective is to bring about a whole school /organisational cultural shift where the wellbeing of all is the highest priority. TIS UK schools implement many interventions to ensure the relational and emotional health of all. The interventions are evidence based with the backing of over 1,000 research studies from psychology and neuroscience. (TIS UK 2023)

Connor Downs Academy achieved the national status of a Trauma Informed School in 2019.

We recently welcomed TIS UK Consultant Jules Sanders to Connor Downs Academy to review our TIS provision as part of our reaccreditation and are delighted to have been reaccredited in 2023. Please see link to access the report on the school website.

[Connor Downs Academy TIS UK 2023 Report](#)

Key strengths identified in the TIS UK 2023 report are:

Connor Downs is an extremely happy, nurturing school where pupils are cared for as individuals and are provided with a real sense of belonging. The school is highly inclusive and values every child, recognising their own unique strengths and needs. Positive relationships between staff and pupils are cherished and the family atmosphere that has been created greatly supports children to feel safe, and nurtured. The children express that they feel safe in school, are treated fairly and they can talk to any adult if they need help or feel sad. Pupils know that they can approach any adult in school if they need help, and they are happy to do so. The children enjoy a vast array of experiences that foster their love of learning and desire to explore the world around them. A great deal of thought has gone into making the school environment as enriched as possible. The thoughtfully developed outdoors area known as 'Cultivating Futures, and the skilled staff that work there, are a huge asset to the school. The focus upon biophilia, its links to mental health and also the way it supports to ignite the CARE, SEEKING and PLAY systems is a considerable strength.

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Staff have had good levels of both TIS training and other CPD and all staff are skilled in their understanding and use of PACE and empathic listening which they use across the school to support all pupils. Trauma informed practices are clearly embedded at Connor Downs and are woven into the ethos of the school like a golden thread running throughout. The TIS practitioners model their skills exceptionally well and have championed the approach with the support of the highly committed Headteacher which has enabled it to become fully embraced by all other members of staff.

The school staff display excellent relational skills, and all staff readily adopt the role of Emotionally Available Adults (EAA) for both children and other adults. As a staff they are a close team and are highly supportive of each other. They are led by a calm, caring, child centred Headteacher who really drives the nurturing and inclusive ethos of the school. (TIS UK 2023).

Parent/Carer Survey 2023

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

1. 96% agree their child is happy at Connor Downs Academy
2. 96% agree their child feels safe at school
3. 83% agree the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
4. 96% agree the school and staff respond well to concerns
5. 92% agree the school has high expectations for their child
6. 94% agree their child does well at Connor Downs Academy
7. 85% agree the school lets them know how their child is doing in school
8. 86% agree the school supports their child's wider development
9. 92% would recommend Connor Downs Academy to another parent/carers

'Absolutely amazing school and supportive in all aspects very caring'.

'The staff are extremely helpful, excellent communication. My child is so happy at Connor Downs academy'.

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'I couldn't wish for better school than Connor Downs Academy. This school is amazing in every way possible. That family feel like atmosphere there is incredible. All staff are very friendly, welcoming and always there to help if needed to. Sadly, our journey there is coming to an end as my daughter is going to the secondary school next year, but the fundamental values she's got at this school is priceless. Every day she's happily going to the school and having a blast there. Really want to thank all the staff for this amazing journey and so many happy memories which will be cherished the lifetime'.

'My son says that this school is brilliant, and my partner and me agree. He loves the sporting events and the school trips. He is very happy in class and we are really pleased with the progress he is making'.

'My children could not be happier at this school. They are both engaged and challenged greatly within their age group, with the outdoor learning being an extra added plus. There is also a great selection of extra curriculum activities available which they both extremely enjoy taking part in'.

'The school has really supported my children to become part of the Connor Downs family. Children are nurtured and challenged in their daily lessons and through a wide range of extra-curricular activities. The range of clubs is great and there is something for everyone. The weekly newsletter is always filled with happy children making memories. I have appreciated parent consultation meetings and staff are more than happy to speak on an ad hoc basis at the door. My children feel safe and valued and are always filled with stories from their day at school especially if they have been to cultivating future on a bug hunt with Mr Costello. The school's high expectations for behaviour and academic achievement means that I have recommended this school to others. Connor Downs is a great school and I feel lucky that my children get to experience all they have to offer. Thank you to all the staff for making Connor Downs such a special place'.

'We are very thankful to the school and all the staff for keeping our children happy and safe. The communication is amazing, the staff are always approachable in the mornings and after school'.

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'My daughter in year 6 has autism and I am so happy with all the school do to help support her, building her confidence, and giving her further opportunities to help her succeed. They are supportive of any concerns I may have as a parent and they always help reassure me as a parent too. All the teachers in Connor Downs know my child as an individual and I know they will always be there for her. Her academic level is continuously growing and I couldn't be prouder, and that is down to all the amazing team at this school. I would definitely recommend this school to another parent. Thank you for all you do'.

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. All staff, including the Head of School and SLT are available at the start and end of every day and are visible and accessible on the school gate/doors to answer or address any of your queries. 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 X 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.

A very small percentage (4%) of parents/carers raised a concern that their children do not feel safe in school

We would kindly ask that these parents/carers come forward and make an appointment to meet with Mrs Eddy face to face so that these concerns may be discussed and addressed fully.

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Reminders



Jumpers/Warm Waterproof Coats

As the weather has now turned more autumnal, please can we remind parents/carers to ensure their child comes to school with a school jumper and 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/have 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 detailing the full reason for absence on the absence line. Thank you.

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.**

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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.

Attendance

Attending school regularly and on time is **so important**, both academically and socially. Children who are absent from school:

- Miss vital learning
- Miss their friends
- Can find it difficult to catch up when they come back

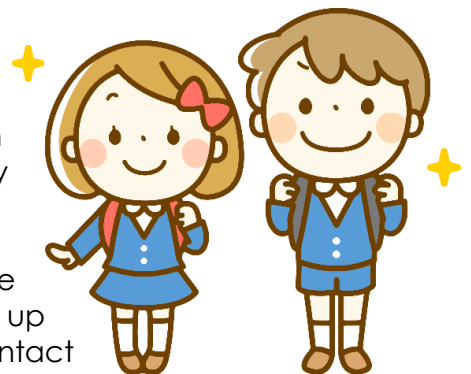
Please see attached to this newsletter, the Aspire School Attendance Booklet, detailing what we will be doing as a school to monitor attendance.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the school office by emailing hello@connordowns.org.uk. We thank you for your support and understanding.

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.





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, 30th November 2023.**

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.

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.

Attendance

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 6	97.6 %
2 nd Place	Year 3	97.2 %
Joint 3 rd Place	Year 1	97.0 %
Joint 3 rd Place	Year 2	97.0 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 10th November 2023

*We are delighted to be able to invite the parents/carers of the winners below to join us at our next Shine assembly of the autumn term, on **Friday 17th November 2023** 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 – Jacob

For showing fantastic manners in the classroom and around the school. Well done, Jacob!

Year 1 – Eden

For gaining confidence and sharing her answers in whole class learning time. Well done, Eden!

Year 2 – Otis

For your addition and subtraction skills in maths. Your work is a pleasure to mark and share. Well done, Otis!

Year 3 – Arthur

For super work with answering question about the Stone Age in our visit to Penlee Museum. Well done, Arthur!

Year 4 – Jacob H

For always being willing to offer his good ideas and suggestions in lessons. Well done, Jacob!

Year 5 – Corey

For his bravery and excellent performance at Kresen Kernow. Well done, Corey!

Year 6 – Isla

For always ensuring her homework is completed to a very high standard. Well done, Isla!

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Writer – Dylan (Year 1)

For writing an amazingly detailed set of instructions for making crispy cakes. Well done, Dylan!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Missy (Year R)

For showing great progress when blending Phase 2 sounds. Well done, Missy!

KS2 Reader – James (Year 3)

For super effort with reading every night, James is a super role model in Year 3. Well done, James!

Mathematician – Cayden (Year 5)

For his practical maths and regular NumberSense work. Well done, Cayden!

Numbots/Rock Star – Evelyn (Year 2)

For achieving first place in Numbots demonstrating her commitment and skills in maths. Well done, Evelyn!

Performer – William (Year 6)

For performing a superb sequence in gymnastics with his partner. Well done, William!

Character – Linkcon (Year 4)

For showing amazing teamwork skills when working in Lego group. Well done, Linkcon!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2023

Monday 13th November – Year 5 Swimming – Week 2
Monday 20th November – Year 5 Swimming – Week 3
Monday 20th November – 'Friends of Connor Downs Academy Meeting' – All welcome – 3:30pm
Friday 17th November – Children in Need Day – Wear Own Clothes/Pudsey themed clothes
Monday 27th November – Year 5 Swimming – Week 4
Monday 27th November – Friday 1st December – **FINAL WEEK OF AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS**
Thursday 30th 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

Monday 4th December – Year 5 Swimming – Week 5
Tuesday 5th December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity – Performance 1 - 2:00pm start (more details to follow)
Wednesday 6th December – KS2 Carol Concert at Phillack Church - 5:00pm start (more details to follow)
Thursday 7th December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity – Performance 2 - 5:00pm start (more details to follow)
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 (more details to follow)
Monday 11th December – EYFS/KS1 Christingle at Phillack Church - 5:00pm start (more details to follow)
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

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