

Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. We have had another full and exciting time in school this week.



Year 6 – Hayle Academy Transition Day



On Thursday, Year 6 were invited to Hayle Academy for a transition day. The aim of the day was to showcase what Hayle has to offer as a Secondary School. The children took part in several lessons which enabled them to have a good look around the whole school and meet the staff. Some of the children joined in with a music lesson where they composed rhythms, a drama lesson where they played games to help them think quickly and French, where the children learned how to say vocabulary to talk about clothes. In science, the children lit Bunsen burners and learned about scientific labels, art, where they drew mythical creatures and maths where they learned that maths can be magic! This is always an excellent opportunity for the children to get excited out the next stage of their education. Thank you to all the staff and students at Hayle Academy for making us feel so welcome!



T: 01736 753135

E: hello@connordowns.org.uk

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Year 4 – Brass Lessons

In their first brass lesson this week, the children learned how to place their mouthpiece correctly, the value of different notes and how to produce sounds using their instrument. The children all played two short pieces using the notes C and D.



Year 4 – Dance

Rosie, from Mounts Bay Academy visited this week for the second dance session where the children revisited the warmup game from last week. They then ran through the dance moves learned last week and began to learn how to work effectively with

a partner to create a 'fight' sequence for the dance. Rosie demonstrated how to work well with your partner and explained how important effective communication was.



Art

Art club got off to a great start this week with children from Years 3, 4 and 5 exploring pattern and colour. It was brilliant to see the children confidently using their mark making skills which they have learnt during their art, drawing and doodle Friday lessons, to create their spiral designs.



Year 6 explored different painting and printing techniques in their art lesson this week. The children enjoyed using different materials such as string, lace, and fingerprints to create textures in their sketchbooks with some exciting results. Meanwhile, one pupil finished his work on using lines to show perspective in his landscape picture.



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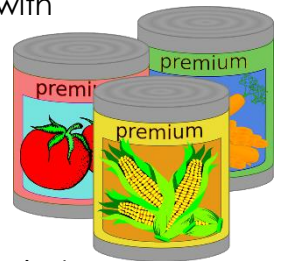
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Harvest Assemblies

Next week, we will be holding our Harvest Assemblies for our pupils on Tuesday, for EYFS/KS1 and Wednesday, for KS2. This year, we are politely requesting parents/carers to send in either a tin or packet of food with their child/children that we can then donate to the Connor Downs Food Cupboard as part of the Harvest celebrations. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support to our Academy and our local community.



Reminders

As the weather has turned more autumnal this week, please can we remind parents/carers to ensure their child/children come 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.



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 on the absence line giving details of the illness. Thank you.

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.

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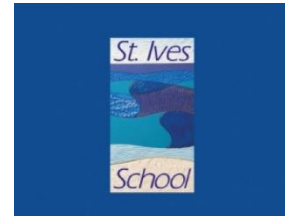
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St Ives School Open Day/Open Evening

Open Day

We are delighted to invite all Year 6 students from our feeder primary schools to our Open Day on Thursday 28th September. We are going to run a day to immerse students in what secondary school life will be like with a variety of different lessons throughout the day. We do have some capacity to welcome students from schools outside of the main town areas and if your child would like to join us, please use the link below to book a place.



[St Ives School Open Day Booking Form](#)

On the day, lunch will be provided by our school, however, students will require a snack for breaktime and plenty to drink. Your child is also welcome to bring lunch if they would prefer. If your child has specific dietary requirements, please do contact us to let us know. Students should wear their primary school uniform and will also be taking part in PE during the day so will need suitable footwear.

Open Evening

We are running our Open Evening on Thursday 28th September from 5pm to 7.30pm. This will be open to parents and students from all year groups but is predominantly aimed at Year 5 and Year 6 parents and students. The evening will provide you with an opportunity to see the school and meet with our teachers and leadership team. We will also be running two presentations during the evening to share messages about our school ethos and priorities. These will be repeated at 5:30pm and 6:30pm. Staff and students will be available to support with tours of the school and you will have the opportunity to view our school.

Family Support Worker

Family Support Advice is available from our school's link Family Worker, Jana Cowan-Dickie on any issues that may be affecting your family. We offer you a friendly, supportive service that meets your needs or introduces you to a service that can help you. We also offer parenting courses and information on these can also be given. If you feel you need some friendly advice or any kind of family support, please feel free to contact school and we will arrange for Jana to contact you directly. Jana will also be available to meet parents/carers face to face in school on **Wednesday 18th October from 9.30am till 10.30am**. If you have any questions with regards to this session, please feel free to contact Jana via school.

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Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



Cycle to School Week



Cycle to School Week is back!

Organised by [The Bikeability Trust](https://www.bikeability.org/) and Sustrans, Cycle to School Week is a fantastic opportunity to promote active travel in your schools.

The national event will take place between **25-29 September**, with lots of opportunities to get involved, win prizes, and learn valuable skills for all ages.

Make a pledge to cycle more and WIN!



This year, children and their families can make a pledge to cycle more during Cycle to School Week and beyond. Pledges are being accepted from **now** until Friday 25th September.

Participants are asked to fill in the online form to make a pledge using the following link: [Cycle to School Week Pledge](https://www.cycletotheworld.org.uk/pledge)

Each pledge will be entered into a **prize draw** to win fantastic prizes from Bikeability partners.



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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.

Diary Dates

Monday 25th September – Year 6 Swimming – Week 2

Monday 2nd October – Year 6 Swimming – Week 3

Tuesday 3rd October – Maths Morning – Parents/carers invited (Timings TBC)

Thursday 5th October – Friends of Connor Downs Academy AGM – 3:30pm

Monday 9th October – Year 6 Swimming – Week 4

Tuesday 10th October – Parents Evening (1) – (more information to follow)

Wednesday 11th October – Parents Evening (2) – (more information to follow)

Monday 16th October – Tempest Photographs – Individual and Family

Monday 16th October – Year 6 Swimming – Week 5

Wednesday 18th October – BAGS2SCHOOL Collection

Friday 20th October – Last Day of first half of Autumn Term – Finish at 3:15pm

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Bags2School

In an effort to raise funds, the Friends of Connor Downs Academy have arranged another Bags2School collection for next **Wednesday 18th October**. Bags will be sent home with children once they have been received.

Please encourage all your family and friends to sort through their unwanted clothing, bedding and towels. The more we collect the more funds can be raised. All funds go towards additional resources and opportunities for all children. Thank you, as always, for your support.



PLEASE BRING BAGS INTO SCHOOL ON THE MORNING OF COLLECTION AND LEAVE IN THE PLAYGROUND WITH MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS. THANK YOU!



Important Parking Information – Connor Hill

As many of you have seen, Wales&West Utilities have been working around Carwin Rise and the bottom of Connor Hill. They are in the process of upgrading the gas pipes in the area. A representative has called into school today to advise that this work will be moving up through the entire village with rolling traffic lights as they complete each section.

Important note – **From 9th October**, there will be **no parking availability on Connor Hill** while these works take place. Wherever possible, during this period of works, please can we ask parents/carers to park sensibly and courteously further up in the village in areas not affected by the works and walk to school. Thank you for your support and understanding.



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Attendance

<u>Attendance</u> Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 3	100.0 %
2 nd Place	Year R	99.6 %
3 rd Place	Year 6	98.9 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 22nd September 2023

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 29th September 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 – Freddie

For coming to school every day this week with a big smile. We are very proud of the progress Freddie has made socially in class. Well done, Freddie!

Year 1 – Alvah

For his amazing effort and attitude to learning in our English and Maths lessons. Well done, Alvah!

Year 2 – Sully

For excellent work in history, interpreting sources and great historical questioning. Well done, Sully!

Year 3 – Sonnie

For demonstrating outstanding manners and kindness to everyone in Year 3. Sonnie is always ready to help his friends and still give 100 % effort to all of his work. Well done, Sonnie!

Year 4 – Bella-Grace

For being such a helpful and caring member of the class. Bella-Grace is a great role model for following our school rules. Well done, Bella-Grace!

Year 5 – Sam

For his conscientious attitude to all his work. Well done, Sam!

Year 6 – Mia

For showcasing impressive swimming during our first swimming session and showing excellent motivation. Well done, Mia!

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Writer – Eryss (Year 5)

For the fantastic range of sentence types used in her re-telling of 'Wing it'. Well done, Eryss!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Freya (Year R)

For reading and writing phase 2 sounds. Freya is remembering sounds and independently writing them on her whiteboard. Well done, Freya!

KS2 Reader – Amelia (Year 3)

For taking a risk to learn the meaning of challenging words using a dictionary in reading comprehension. Well done, Amelia!

Mathematician – Maci (Year 6)

For showing excellent listening skills, applying new concepts and working well during independent learning time. Well done, Maci!

Rock Star – Ella (Year 4)

For working hard to improve her recall of times tables knowledge and to improve her speed. Well done, Ella!

Performer – Evelyn (Year 2)

For performing excellent dodging skills in PE and demonstrating her skills in front of others. Well done, Evelyn!

Moki Fitness Tracker – Bella V (Year 4)

For recording the greatest number of steps in a week using the Moki Fitness Trackers. Bella's total was an amazing 28,130 steps. Well done, Bella!

Character – Levan (Year 1)

For being a fantastic role model, always following the school rules and showing impeccable manners. Well done, Levan!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School