

Friday 26th September 2025

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. This week we were delighted to be able to host two groups of SCITT students (trainee teachers) into our academy to observe the fantastic provision and behaviour of our wonderful children. As always, the children shone through with their superb manners and behaviour and they were all keen to talk to the special visitors about their school. We are so very proud of each and every one of them!



Wellbeing Champions



Congratulations to our 6 newly appointed Wellbeing Champions who were all presented with their badges this week.



The children will work closely with Miss Scaife and Mrs Crease, our Wellbeing Champions and Mentors to help develop new ideas to support health and wellbeing amongst the children and staff.

Bag 2 School Collection – Thank you!

A huge thank you to all the families that donated their unwanted clothes to our Bag2School appeal. We raised a fantastic **£84** which will be used for additional resources for all the children across the school. We will arrange another collection for after half term!



Mr Costello's visit

Sadly, due to personal circumstances, Mr Costello's planned visit for today, had to be postponed. We will share a new date with parents/carers and children, once this has been confirmed. Mr Costello is keen to come into school for a proper farewell and this will happen as soon as he is able. Thank you for your understanding and support.

T: 01736 753135

E: hello@connordowns.org.uk

W: www.connordowns.org.uk

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



Re-Scheduled - Royal Cornwall Hospitals Charity – Non School Uniform Day –
Thursday 2nd October 2025

September is Children's cancer awareness month.

Connor Downs Academy has registered to help raise funds to support in the RCHC to raise awareness of childhood cancers and raise funds for Cornwall's Children's Cancer Unit.

On Thursday 2nd October, we will be inviting all children to come to school in their own clothes for a donation of their choice.

Please use the link below to the Charity's Just Giving Page and make your donation.

Please note, we cannot accept cash as this is not a fundraising event for School, Thank you!

Just Giving Non School Uniform Day for Children's Cancer Unit Fund

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING - Parent/carer communication – Whats App and other social media platforms



Social media platforms have age restrictions, usually a minimum of 13 years, to comply with data protection laws like the [Children's Online Privacy Protection Act \(COPPA\)](#) which prohibit the collection of personal data from children under 13 without parental consent, and to protect primary-aged children from inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and mental health risks associated with social media use.



It has sadly come to our attention that some of our children are accessing social media platforms which are not age appropriate for them and understandably this is causing concerning issues.



Please can we kindly ask all parents to carefully monitor your child/children's access to any social media platforms to safeguard themselves and to avoid potential allegations being made.



As a reminder the **age ratings** on the following social media apps is **13+** meaning that **no children below Year 8** should be using any of these platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, X, What's App.



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Friends of Connor Downs Academy – Fundraising Events – October

Camel Trail Staff Sponsored Walk/Ride

A brave group of Connor Downs Academy staff have set themselves a huge challenge and they need your support.

On **Saturday 11th October**, this group will be cycling 18 miles along the whole length of the Camel Trail. Not content with that, they will then be walking the 18 miles back to where they started!



Meanwhile, in school, during the week leading up to this, all pupils of Connor Downs Academy will be attempting to combine their efforts to match the 36 miles that our staff will be covering, by walking laps of the school field.

Everyone involved in this attempt are doing so to raise funds to enhance our reading provision in school. We are looking to raise enough money to purchase resources and help to create inviting and comfortable book corners within all classrooms to help nurture a love of reading.

Please dig deep and sponsor our pupils and staff in this endeavour. There has been talk of dressing our staff up during their event if we can raise enough money!

[Connor Downs Go Fund Me Page](#)

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.



Thank you.

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Starting Secondary School – September 2026 – Application Deadline 31st October 2025



CORNWALL COUNCIL
one and all - o'nys hagyll

Together for Families


The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025

Transfer to secondary school

September 2026

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

Information and guidance
Application form and information: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
Telephone: 0300 1234 101

 Scan me

www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

Applying for a secondary school place for September 2026

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 home to school travel assistance.

...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 2025

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: 2 March 2026. 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.

Photo © Adobe stock j0586988 06/25

Starting School – September 2026 – Application Deadline – 15th January 2026



CORNWALL COUNCIL
one and all - o'nys hagyll

Together for Families

The deadline for applications is 15 January 2026

Starting school

September 2026

Applying for a place in a reception class for children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022

Attending a nursery or pre-school
You will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. Please note that if a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Information and guidance
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 Scan me

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Applying for a reception class place for September 2026

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

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...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 15 January 2026

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: 16 April 2026. 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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Reminders



Although this week has seen some beautiful sunshine, we are now moving towards more autumnal weather. 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 full details of the illness. We have staff and children in school with weakened immune systems that need to be kept away from certain illnesses. Thank you.

Friends of Connor Downs Academy – AGM

The Friends of Connor Downs Academy will be holding their AGM on **Monday, 13th October at 3:30pm**. They are looking to recruit some new members, to help in arranging and facilitating fundraising events to be able to support the children in our school with resources and opportunities. With ever decreasing budgets in all schools, it is becoming even more important for charities like the Friends, to be able to help schools to support a variety of ways to extend the opportunities available to all children.



Connor Downs

If you are interested in either becoming a committee member, in the first instance, please contact the Friends via Mrs Gallagher in the school office or by emailing hello@connordowns.org.uk. Thank you.

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Census Day – Menu Change – Thursday 2nd October

On Thursday, 2nd October 2025, we observe National School Census Day, a crucial event where the Department for Education (DfE) gathers vital information from every school. This data aids in future planning and plays a pivotal role in determining school budgets.

One significant data point we must report is the count of Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 students partaking in Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) on this specific day. The information collected during the census influences the allocation of funding for our school's hot meal program throughout the year. It's essential to note that if your child doesn't participate in the meal service on 2nd October, it impacts our funding for the remainder of the year.



Should your child opt to have a meal on any other day, we must cover the cost from our school budget, as funding is solely based on meal consumption during the designated census days in October and January annually.

The menu can be found on the poster above. Please note, this menu is not advertised on ParentPay but these will be the meat/vegetarian options on the day so please book in the normal way. Thank you!

<u>Attendance</u>		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 4	99.5 %
2 nd Place	Year 2	98.3 %
3 rd Place	Year 3	98.2 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 26th September 2025

*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 3rd October 2025** 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 – Lola

For always being a positive member of the class, making great choices and for always being helpful to staff and to her peers. Well done, Lola!

Year 1 – Greyson

For working really hard in lessons, particularly in Phonics and English. Greyson is growing in confidence, leading to him asking to write extra words in English lessons! Well done, Greyson!

Year 2 – Rueben

Reuben is a shining star in Year two. He has a thirst for learning and is always willing to give more. Reuben is a fantastic role-model to all his peers! Well done, Reuben!

Year 3 – Zander

For great explaining and use of mathematical vocabulary to answer questions in maths. Well done, Zander!

Year 4 – Aaliyah

For making a positive start in joining the Year 4 class. Aaliyah always tries her best to be her best. Well done, Aaliyah!

Year 5 – Sophie

For her ability and desire to work hard and take on the challenge questions in maths. Well done, Sophie!

Year 6 – Sydney

For his daily enthusiasm and positive engagement with Year 6 teaching and learning. Well done, Sydney!

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Writer – Delilah (Year 2)

For the phenomenal progress Delilah has made in her writing. Delilah is using the appropriate letter families and taking care with her loops and flicks. This progress is making her reading much more fluent as well. Well done, Delilah!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Elton (EYFS)

For making great progress in phonics and showing brilliant blending skills in every session. Well done, Elton!

KS2 Reader – James (Year 5)

For challenging himself with a variety of hard texts and reading regularly. Well done, James!

Mathematician – Bella-Grace (Year 6)

For consistently working hard by listening and applying new learnt skills with precision and accuracy. Well done, Bella-Grace!

Numbots/Rock Star – Joseph (Year 4)

For having accumulated over a million points on TT RockStars. Well done, Joseph!

Performer – Isaac (Year 3)

For reading aloud to the class with great fluency and expression in comprehension. Well done, Isaac!

Character – Olivia (Year 1)

For being such a kind friend. Olivia always offers to help her friends. Well done, Olivia!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School