

Friday 10th October 2025

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. This week has seen representatives from Years 4, 5 and 6 take part in the first Cross Country event of the year and a very special visit to our Year 6 class as part of their World War II topic.



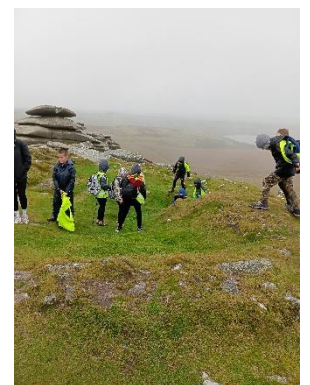
Year 5 – Rough Tor

Last Friday, as part of their outdoor and adventurous PE provision and as a fantastic enhancement to their topic about Sir Ernest Shackleton (English and History), Year 5 visited Rough Tor with Aspire's Outdoor learning lead, Mr Turnham. The children were amazing and arrived at school early dressed and ready for adventure.



There was a sense of excitement as the buses arrived on Bodmin Moor, even though it was raining, and everyone could see the task in front of them. The children embarked on the challenge with great grit and determination and were asked to reflect on how Shackleton and his team might have felt on their hike to safety. Despite

the poor visibility, there were several opportunities to enjoy the wonderful countryside and for the children to develop their map skills. Unfortunately, due to the declining weather, the children all returned to the minibuses, for a change of clothes and some lunch. It was clear that everyone had enjoyed the experience! We would like to thank Mr Gallagher, Mr Marrion, Mrs Penberthy and Mrs Kessell for supporting the children on the visit.



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Cross Country



On Wednesday, 8th October, a group of our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went to Mounts Bay Academy to take part in the first cross country event of the year. Year 6 ran the course 3 times, Year 5, 2 laps and Year 4 1 lap. There were some really impressive performances. We are so proud of each and every pupil who took part, supported one another with such enthusiasm and gave it their all!

Year 6 – World War II Presentation

On Thursday, the children in Year 6 welcomed Mr Gallagher into class as part of their History lesson, to give a presentation on World War II. Mr Gallagher brought with him a number of artefacts including a quill, a de-commissioned rifle and coins, as well as lots of other interesting items. The children were very enthusiastic and asked many questions, which were met by very knowledgeable responses from Mr Gallagher. They were even lucky enough to read some of the entries from the schools log book which was kept during the war.



We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Gallagher for visiting us and helping bring this era of history to life for the children.



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Year R – Balance Bikes

Year R have been making great progress in their balance bike skills, and have been growing their steering control and ability to glide. They are also learning about the different parts of the bike and how they work together to make the bike move. We are so proud of you all!



Friends of Connor Downs Academy – Fundraising Events – October

Camel Trail Staff Sponsored Walk/Ride – Tomorrow

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

Tomorrow, **Saturday 11th October**, the 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!

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.

The GoFundMe Page is now sitting at £735, which is incredible, but please dig deep and sponsor our staff in this endeavour if you haven't already. There has been talk of dressing our staff up during their event if we can raise enough money!

[Connor Downs Go Fund Me Page](#)

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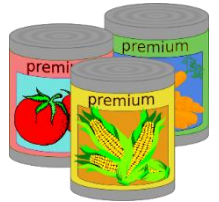
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Harvest Assembly



Reminder: We are holding our Harvest Assembly for our pupils next **Wednesday, 15th October**. We are politely requesting parents/carers to send in either tins/packets 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 to those families who have already donated items and for your continued support to our Academy and our local community.



Tempest Photos

Reminder: Tempest will be coming into school on Wednesday, 22nd October 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 the day looking extra smart in their full school uniforms and black school shoes. Thank you.



Flu Immunisations

Reminder: Further to the information emailed to all parents/carers on 29th September, the nasal flu vaccinations are taking place in school **next Thursday, 16th October**. If you would like for your child to have the flu vaccination in school, please use the link below to give your consent.

If your child has already had their vaccination this year, or you do not wish for your child to have the vaccination, no action is required.

The vaccination will not be given without consent being given. Thank you.

Date of Session: Thursday 16th October

Flu Link: <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

School Code: EE142144

Deadline to submit: Tuesday 14th October, noon

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Parent Consultations - Reminder

The booking portal for Parent Consultations, via the Arbor App, will be **opening at 7:00pm, on Monday, 13th October and closes at 7:00pm on Monday 20th October**. If you do not have access to the Arbor App, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk for a new link to be sent to you.

Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Parent Consultations are being held on **Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd October 2025**. Appointments will run in 10-minute intervals with the first appointments at **15:30** and the final appointments at **17:50**. All appointments will take place in your **child's classroom**, with their books being available for you to review either while you wait, during the appointment or afterwards.

Year R only

For Year R, appointments with Miss Marshall will be held on **Tuesday 21st October only**. They will run in 10-minute intervals, with the first appointment being at **15:30** and the final appointment at **17:50**. All Year R appointments will take place in the **Year R classroom**.

Year 1 only

For Year 1, appointments with Miss Johnson will be held on **Wednesday 22nd October only**. They will run in 10-minute intervals, with the first appointment being at **15:10** and the final appointment at **17:50**. All Year 1 appointments will be held in the **Year 1 classroom**.

Please email hello@connordowns.org.uk if you encounter any difficulties. Thank you.

At the start of each parent/carer evening, Jana Cowan-Dickie, Family Worker for Cornwall Council, will be available to meet with parents/carers to introduce herself as the Family Support Link Worker for Connor Downs Academy. Please see information below. If you would like to book an appointment to speak with Jana, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk

Please also note that **Ms Scaife, our TIS Practitioner and Senior Mental Health Lead** will be available to any parents/carers on **Tuesday 21st October** during the parent consultation period from 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

Early Help - Family Support Worker

I need some support with my child's behaviour.

I need help if there is any concern or challenge during our evening school support sessions.

I have said I find this the best way to get help for my child's needs at school.

the family really struggle with this.

I know it's a challenge to manage these things at home and I need some support from the school.

I don't know what support I need, I just need some advice.



Hello my name is
Jana Cowan-Dickie
I am the Family Support Link Worker
for your school

If you need some advice or support for your family,
please talk to the school to find out when the next
Early Help drop in/coffee morning will be.

If you are really struggling and cannot wait, please ask the school to
pass on your details and I will be happy to contact you.

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IPMs - Reminder

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have returned their signed IPM's. Please can we request that all parents/carers whose child has an IPM return a signed copy to school no later than Monday next week. Thank you for your support.

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.

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



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.

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



CORNWALL COUNCIL Together for Families

Starting school
September 2026

The deadline for applications is **15 January 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
Application form and information: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
Telephone: 0300 1234 101

www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

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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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 you will get your child 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 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.

Photo © Adobe stock j0586988 06/21

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.

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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Reminders

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 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.

Attendance

<u>Attendance</u>		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year R	98.0 %
2 nd Place	Year 4	98.4 %
3 rd Place	Year 2	99.2 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 10th October 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 17th 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 – Millie

For being such a positive and happy member of the class and for showing resilience in her learning. Well done, Millie!

Year 1 – Jacob

For his excellent work in maths and dedication to working systematically. Well done, Jacob!

Year 2 – Florence

For the amazing resilience you show and the 100% effort you give to every task set. Florence is such a lovely member of the Year 2 class who is always kind and considerate to others. Well done, Florence!

Year 3 – Idris

For his great work in English to write a description with a super illustration for display. Well done, Idris!

Year 4 – Alfie (Year 4)

For his excellent effort and determination to progress with his phonics. Well done, Alfie!

Year 5 – Charlie (Year 5)

For making pleasing progress in PE in our attacking and defending games, beginning to learn the rules. Well done, Charlie!

Year 6 – Jacob M

For showing a dedicated effort and determination in all his lessons and being a sociable member of the class. Well done, Jacob!

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Writer – Louie (Year R)

For working hard to practice his grapheme formation in phonics and in provision time. Well done, Louie!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Alice (Year 1)

For reading consistently at home every night and working hard in phonics. Well done, Alice!

KS2 Reader – Emily (Year 4)

For reading with such enthusiasm and reaching her targets both at home and in school. Well done, Emily!

Mathematician – Noah V (Year 3)

For great work with his maths partner to calculate on his white board in White Rose maths. Well done, Noah!

Numbots/Rock Star – Henry (Year 6)

For his dedication to accessing TTRS every night and striving to achieve the best scores he can. Well done, Henry!

Performer – Zak L (Year 5)

For his grit and determination at the Mounts Bay Academy cross country event. Well done, Zak!

Character – Evelyn (Year 6)

For being a very caring member of our school community and looking out for everyone in Year 6. Well done, Evelyn!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School