



Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



EYFS
Autumn
2025



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Connor Downs Academy, Mutton Hill, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5DH

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Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

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



Reception Class have completed their first term at Connor Downs Academy! Miss Marshall and Miss Abel would like to say how very proud we are of all the children for their enthusiasm and hard work this term. The children have all settled well into school life since joining us in September, and they are all making very good progress across the entirety of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

This term, our primary aim has been to support the children during their transition to school, ensuring that all children arrive at school each morning happy, enthusiastic and eager to learn. To encourage this, we have focused on enabling the children to establish positive relationships with their friends and the staff in our reception classroom. Through our daily routines, activities and teacher-led inputs, the YR children have successfully integrated into life at Connor Downs Academy. We recognise and celebrate our differences; we can discuss our feelings and why we may feel a certain way; we understand that we are all a team and that we must always be kind, honest and try our best to support one another.



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Physical Development

This term, the children have had many opportunities to develop their fine motor and gross motor skills. During Continuous Provision inside and outside of the classroom, the children have explored the ways in which they can develop their fine motor skills. They have practised handling tweezers and mark making tools to exercise their muscles. They have enjoyed using the play dough, using skills such as kneading, squeezing and rolling. In addition to this, the children are also learning how to hold a pencil. This is supporting their ability to form letters correctly and with greater confidence. Children thoroughly enjoy our dough disco sessions, where we manipulate the dough alongside songs and rhymes.

During P.E, the children have practised dressing and undressing themselves independently. Through this the children have become more confident at a range of tricky skills, such as fastening and unfastening shoes, zips and buttons. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring different ways of moving a ball with different body parts. The children have pushed, rolled and bounced balls.

We have also had the opportunity to complete a block of balanceability sessions, giving the children the core skills and strength they need to balance and glide.



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Communication and Language

Throughout this Autumn term, the children in reception class have enjoyed developing their communication and language skills during our daily circle time. During these sessions, the children are encouraged to share their thoughts, interests and learning with one another. This enables Miss Marshall to model new vocabulary to the children whilst allowing them to develop their independence and confidence as communicators.

The children also enjoy story time, where we read a wide range of high-quality texts, including beloved story books, poems, information texts and nursery rhymes. These are actively explored through role play, puppet shows and drawing activities.



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Literacy

The children are making fantastic progress in their daily phonics sessions. The children have demonstrated confidence and enthusiasm when learning Phase 2 graphemes and tricky words. It is amazing to see the progress the children are making daily. They are showing greater ease and confidence when writing and forming their letters. Year R are already showing their love of reading and enjoy opportunities to read with Miss Abel and Miss Marshall.

The children have also been enjoying Drawing Club sessions, in which we discover a new text, traditional tale or animation, learn some ambitious vocabulary and then mark make in response to the story, using phonics graphemes and maths symbols to create 'magic codes,' which bring our pictures to life.



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Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, we have looked at recognising, copying and creating repeating patterns, using a range of resources and media. We have learned about measures, including sizes, weights, and capacities of different containers. The children enjoy practicing their maths skills in continuous provision time, and discover new maths ideas using the open-ended maths resources we have available. The children enjoy maths activities both in the classroom and outside.

We have also been concentrating on the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, giving the children a strong foundation of counting and grouping. The children are starting to subitise (instantly recognising a small number of objects without counting) numbers up to five.

During our morning registration each day we use a range of time language to sequence the events of the day. For example: "First is the register" and "in the middle of day it is lunch time".



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Understanding the world

This term the children have shown such a keen interest in our topics of 'All About Me' and 'Festivals.' The children have explored the topics through reading, writing, maths, art and in their playful learning. We have focused our role play areas around the topics and activities, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Reception love to work outdoors, both in our own outdoor area and the Cultivating Futures area in the school grounds. The children have made observations of animals and plants and are thoroughly enjoying observing, handling and taking care of the animals that live at our school.

We have explored role play enhancements including caring for babies, celebrating festivals such as Diwali and Christmas, and most recently, a post office, where the children have written and posted letters to one another.



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Expressive Arts and Design

From the beginning of the school year, the children have consistently had access to a range of creative materials, and have made creations both with and without adult support. Imaginations are developed through creative prompts in the art area, from which the children can paint, collage, colour and draw however they choose.

The creative area is always a hive of activity. The children have enjoyed painting hedgehogs, collaging Diya lamps for Diwali and making mixed media houses which prompted rich conversations about the children's own homes and families. We have learned to experiment with colour and even mix colours together to make new ones.

The nativity play has given the children opportunity to sing and dance in front of a live audience, and I'm sure you will agree that they performed spectacularly!



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