

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and were able to enjoy the Christmas and New Year holiday. The children have all settled back into the school routine quickly and are looking forward to another exciting term despite the challenges thrown up by the weather this week!



Extreme Weather Conditions



We would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents/carers for their support and understanding during the adverse weather conditions this week. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding to the changes made to ensure our school remained safe and operational. The children were a credit to you all and school this week ran smoothly.

Holiday Cover for School Animals

During the school holidays, a dedicated team of parents/carers and staff members came into school to help look after our animals.



A massive thank you must be said to everyone who helped out over the Christmas break. Without your unwavering support, it really would be difficult to have the animals on site, who are a huge part of our Connor Downs family. Thank you to everyone who willingly gave up their time to support!

Spare Clothes – KS1 Girls



KS1 are looking for any donations of new or slightly used socks, tights and trousers which can be kept in the classrooms as spares in the event of clothing becoming dirty or wet. If anyone has any school items that they can donate, please do pass them to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your support.

T: 01736 753135

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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

Attendance

In line with the Aspire Academy Trust attendance policy, from January 2024, those children who are identified with an attendance falling below 95%, their parents/carers will be contacted.

The Aspire Academy Trust believes that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the most progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child due to exceptional circumstances

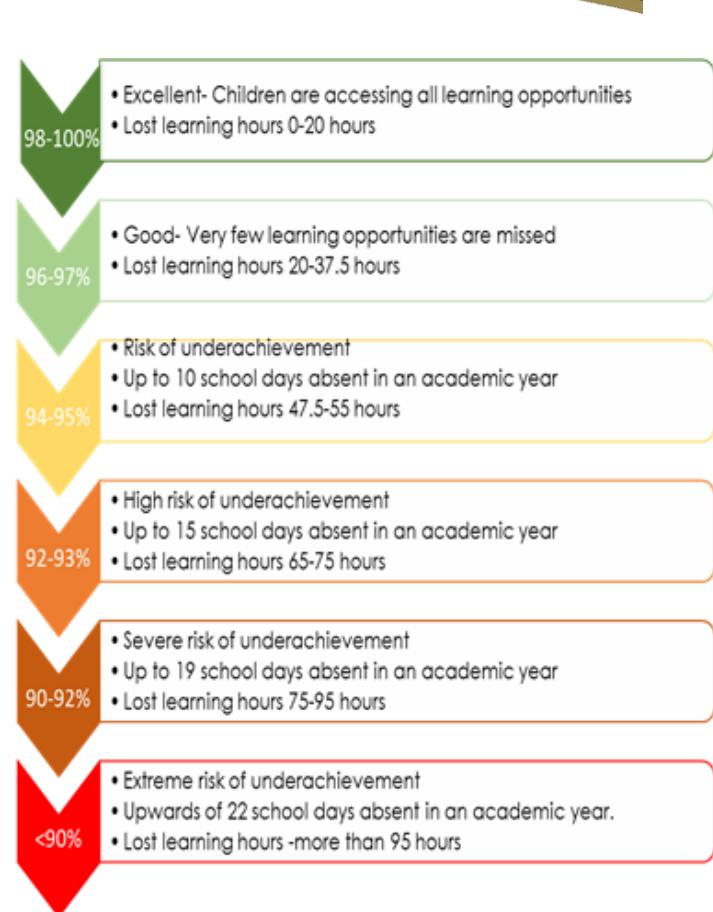
If your child is unwell, please let school know as soon as possible on the morning of their absence, giving the actual reason (sickness, tonsillitis ... more detail than just, unwell please) and every day that they are away. If we don't hear from you, you will receive a text asking why your child is absent. If you do not reply to the text, you will then receive a phone call from us. If we receive no response by 11am school staff will make a safeguarding visit to your home.

We will **not authorise** absence for:

- Holidays
- A birthday treat
- Over-sleeping due to a late night or being tired
- Looking after other children
- Letting the gas man in etc

Unauthorised absences can lead to legal action in some cases.

Please also see the Whole School attendance letter emailed to parents/carers on 5th January 2026 as a reminder of the new penalty notices that are now being issued. A copy is also attached alongside this newsletter.



Spring Term National School Census Day – Thursday 15th January 2026



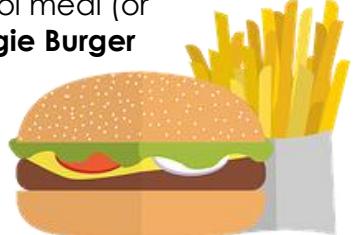
Dear Families,

Next Thursday is a National School Census Day, when the Department for Education (DfE) collects information about each school with the data being used to set future school budgets. One of the figures reportable is the number of Reception and Years 1 and 2 children who have a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on this day.

The census data is then used to determine the funding we receive for our hot meals for the year. We **do not** receive funding for the number of meals we supply throughout the year, only those taken on the census days each year.

Our solution to this problem is to ask every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try the school meal (or part of it) on Census Day which is **Meat/Veggie Burger served with chips and beans/salad followed by sweet campfire brownies or fruit**. Your

child will then be fully funded to have hot meals during the year thus saving the school any additional costs. You are welcome to send in a packed lunch as a back-up. Please book this special menu via ParentPay - jacket potatoes and hot tomato pasta are also available. 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.

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Diary Dates - Spring Term 2026

Monday 12th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 1
 Thursday 15th January - Spring Term Census Day – special menu as advertised above
 Monday 19th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 2
 Monday 19th January – FOCDA meeting – all welcome – from 3:30pm
 Tuesday 20th January – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
 Monday 26th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 3
 Tuesday 27th January – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
 Monday 2nd February – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 4
 Tuesday 3rd February – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
 Tuesday 3rd February – Year 4 – Kresen Kernow visit
 Wednesday 4th February - Cross Country – Years 5 and 6 only
 Monday 9th February – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 5 (Final session)
 Tuesday 10th February – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
 Thursday 12th February – Friends of Connor Downs Academy Disco – more details to follow
 Friday 13th February – Last Day of 1st half of spring term – **Finish at 3:15pm**
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February – Half Term Holiday
 Monday 23rd February – First day of 2nd half of spring term

Attendance

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
Joint 1 st Place	Year 3	100.0 %
Joint 1 st Place	Year 6	100.0 %
2 nd Place	Year 4	99.1 %
3 rd Place	Year 2	97.0 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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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 spring term, on **Friday 16th January 2026** 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 her enthusiasm in Year R's new topic and her amazing attitude to learning. Well done, Lola!

Year 1 – Markas

For showing great resilience to all the changes so far this term, and for brilliant number formation. Well done, Markas!

Year 2 – Bowen

For having an amazing attitude for learning and giving 100% to all subjects. Well done, Bowen!

Year 3 – Archie

For his confidence and skill in using his times tables knowledge to multiply a 2-digit number by 10. Well done, Archie!

Year 4 – Arthur

For consistently being ready to learn and always giving 100% effort in every task he is given. Well done, Arthur!

Year 5 – Sonnie

For his determination to conquer long multiplication by really listening to advice. Well done, Sonnie!

Year 6 – Isaac

For his excellent answers during the class dicussions about the Worst Day of the Week. Well done, Isaac!

Writer – Stella (Year 5)

For her creative sentences when retelling 'The Piano'. Well done, Stella!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Adam (Year 2)

For his fluent reading and showing expression during guided reading each day. Well done, Adam!

KS2 Reader – Billy (Year 6)

For his enjoyment in Roald Dahl's books and sharing his enthusiasm and interest with his peers. Well done, Billy!

Mathematician – Greyson (Year 1)

For his brilliant efforts adding to 20. Greyson is working really hard which can be seen by the accuracy of his answers. Well done, Greyson!

Numbots/Rock Star – Emilia (Year 4)

For using TT Rocks stars daily and continually practising her tables, Emilia has increased on her MTC assessment by 44%. Wow! Way to go Emilia! Well done!

Performer – Florence (Year R)

For engaging enthusiastically in the Year R new music topic and having the confidence to perform in front of the class. Well done, Florence!

Character – Jago (Year 3)

For showing great kindness and care when playing with his peers. Well done, Jago!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School