

Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear parents/carers,

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



Outdoor Learning

Over the recent weeks, children from across the school have been working with Miss Pedley in and around Cultivating Futures and helping with our animals.

Year 5 and the animal cadets had lots of fun making enrichments boxes for our rabbits. These puzzle boxes were filled with treats and the rabbit's behaviour was observed to see how they responded.



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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

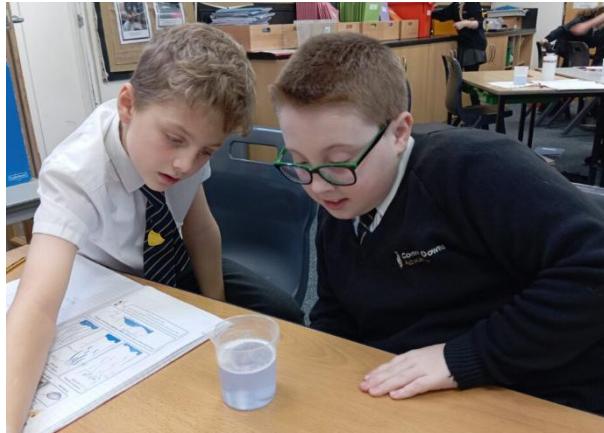
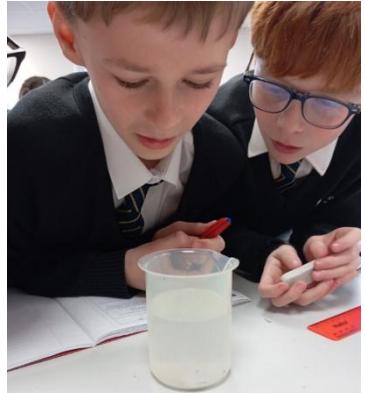


Year 5 – Science

Year 5 have been busy exploring irreversible changes in science this week. They conducted a practical investigation using weak acids—lemon juice and vinegar—and combined them with bicarbonate of soda to observe the reactions.

The children carefully measured, mixed, and recorded their observations, noting the production of gas and the formation of new substances. This hands-on experiment

helped them understand that some changes cannot be undone, deepening their scientific enquiry skills and enthusiasm for learning.



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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Friends of Connor Downs Academy



New System:

The Friends of Connor Downs Academy are trialling a new system for our termly disco's starting with the spring term disco being held on **Thursday 12th February**.

The changes are as follows:

Disco timings:

Years R, 1 and 2 – Straight after school from **3:30pm until 4:30pm**

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – from **4:45pm until 5:45pm**

Payment:

Admission price will remain the same at **£1.50**

Instead of payment on the door on the day of the disco, we would encourage all those intending to attend the event to **prepay** for their child/children's place.

Payment should be made, **in cash/by card**, direct to Mrs Gallagher in the school office, who will record all those who have paid in advance and this will be shared with the staff/volunteers supporting the discos. We hope that this will benefit all children, but particularly, those in Years R, 1 and 2.

As usual, refreshments will be available to purchase, so for those in Year R, 1 and 2 particularly, we would ask for their 'spending money' to be passed to the class teacher in a named purse and this will be given to them before going into the disco.

ANY PREPAYMENTS WILL BE REFUNDED IF A CHILD/CHILDREN DO NOT ATTEND THE EVENT.

PLEASE NOTE, THEY WILL STILL BE ABLE TO TAKE MONEY ON THE DOOR IN CASE PARENTS/CARERS DO NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO PAY IN ADVANCE.

Clothing:

With the earlier start, the children in Year R, 1 and 2 should bring their disco clothes into school on the morning of the disco and hand them to the class teacher in a named bag.

On changing at the end of the day, each child will be guided to put all their school uniform back in the bag that their disco clothes have come in and these will be given to parents/carers when they come to collect at the end of the disco.

Diary Dates - Spring Term 2026

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 4, 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
Tuesday 24th February - Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Thursday 26th February – Year 5 – Tolvaddon Fire Station visit
Monday 2nd March – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 1
Tuesday 3rd March – Parent Consultations – More details to follow
Wednesday 4th March – Parent Consultations – More details to follow
Monday 9th March – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 2
Tuesday 10th March - Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 11th March – Lego League (Year 5/6)
Monday 16th March – FOCDA meeting – from 3:30pm – all welcome
Tuesday 17th March - Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Tuesday 24th March - Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Monday 30th March – Swimming – Year 3 – Week 3
Tuesday 31st March - Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Thursday 2nd April – Last day of Term - **Finish at 2:00pm**

Friday 3rd April – Friday 17th April 2026

Monday 20th April – First day of summer term

Attendance

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 3	100.0 %
2 nd Place	Year 4	99.6 %
3 rd Place	Year 6	99.2 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.



Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars
Friday 23rd January 2026

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 spring term, on **Friday 30th 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 – Keira

For showing amazing kindness to her friends this week and making great choices.
Well done, Keira!

Year 1 – Bailey

For showing brilliant effort with his work and asking excellent questions during lessons.
Well done, Bailey!

Year 2 – Jacob

For his attention to detail when writing Florence Nightingale facts during English. Well done, Jacob!

Year 3 – Maisie

For her super effort in maths reasoning, writing her own challenge for a friend to complete. Maisie always gives 100% in everything she does. Well Done, Maisie!

Year 4 – Dylan M

For always showing great behaviour for learning and being fully engaged with all tasks to achieve his best. Well done, Dylan!

Year 5 – Daniel

For his positive attitude towards his work and always trying his best. Well done, Daniel!

Year 6 – Ruan

For sharing your ideas in maths lessons and having an exceptionally neat, accurate book. Well done, Ruan!

Writer – Reiley (Year 1)

For her excellent effort during phonics sessions, which is now being reflected in her writing. Well done, Reiley!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Amelia (Year 2)

For reading with increased fluency, accuracy, expression and enjoyment! Well done, Amelia!

KS2 Reader – Phoebe (Year 5)

For her persistence and determination to quiz and improve her reading level. Well done, Phoebe!

Mathematician – Elton (Year R)

For his brilliant use of mathematical language and investigation of mass using scales to weigh heavy and light objects. Well done, Elton!

Numbots/Rock Star – Carter (Year 6)

For having the highest number of minutes played per day over the last week. Well done, Carter!

Performer – Charlie (Year 3)

For his progress and effort in learning to pass the ball in PE when playing Tag Rugby. Well done, Charlie!

Character – Harrison (Year 4)

For being a shining example to others showing a kind and caring disposition to all. Well done, Harrison!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School