

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

Girls Football

On Wednesday, 28th January, our Year 5/6 girls football team took part in a football festival, held at Mounts Bay Academy. Showing great teamwork and determination, the team, played two matches, securing one win and one draw, of which they were very proud. Special mention to Amelia for scoring a 'cracking goal', in the words of the team!



Thank you to Mr Foulds, Mr Gallagher and Mrs Rautenbach for taking us and to all the parents/carers who came along to support.



Healthy Schools Reminder

We would like to politely remind parents/carers that we are a healthy school and to that effect, we only allow fruit as a mid-morning snack. We provide fresh fruit for every child in school, thanks to the Gwinear Gwithian Sustainable Community Fund who each year, kindly facilitate funding to enable every child to access fresh fruit at school.

Over recent weeks we have seen increasing numbers of children having sweets, crisps, cakes/cake bars, fruit winders etc as a mid-morning snack. These are not permitted.



Please encourage your children to take advantage of the free fruit on offer in school or bring in a healthy snack from home. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Gwinear-Gwithian
Sustainable Community Fund

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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



A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear Janice,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Connor Downs Academy achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Your sincerely,
Bridget

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education

Sharing Success

This week we were delighted to receive the email copied here from the Secretary of State for Education, regarding the excellent outcomes disadvantaged pupils at Connor Downs Academy achieved at the end of the 2024/2025 academic year.

This recognition is testament to the tireless work of all our staff in ensuring every child who attends Connor Downs Academy receives the best education they can. It also shows how all our pupils work so hard to be the best that they can be, feeling proud of themselves and to be part of the Connor Downs Academy family.

Thank you to the parents/carers for their continuing support in ensuring your child/children are in school, in the correct uniform and ready to learn each and every day.

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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 PAYMENTS NOW BEING TAKEN**

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.

AIST Parent Forums – Information for Parents

Next week, the Autism in Schools team is running some online forums for all parents/carers of pupils at schools within the Aspire Academy Trust.

The topic for these forums is: *Masking and Anxiety*

Please note that these sessions are not case specific for individual pupils, but rather an opportunity to discuss and talk through advice and strategies to support children with neurodiverse needs.

These forums are free to attend.

Please see below for the dates, times and the Teams Link to join your preferred session.

Date	Time	Teams Link:
Monday 2nd February	1.15-2.45pm	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/38860274493098?p=VcCcMDgcvT0eYhQici Meeting ID: 388 602 744 930 98 Passcode: SC93Jp9V
Tuesday 3rd February	9.30 - 11am	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/32635646384328?p=vTBWEPwf1VUmnbcIIR Meeting ID: 326 356 463 843 28 Passcode: NZ2Tm2vG
Thursday 5th February	10.00am - 11.30am	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/36567886523852?p=i6LJF3D22WpmQx5qJg Meeting ID: 365 678 865 238 52 Passcode: cS6gR66w

Menu Change – Thursday 12th February

Next Thursday, 12th February, there will be a change to the publicised menu on Parent Pay, to mark the Lunar New Year.

The options available are shown here on the poster, but the usual Jacket Potato and Pasta options will also be available.

Please book the meat or vegetarian option on Parent Pay if your child would like either of the Chinese options.



TT Rock Stars/Numbots

Please can we remind parents/carers to encourage their child/children to

regularly access TT Rockstars and Numbots for Year 2 at home. These fantastic provisions offer a fun and exciting way to really embed children's Times Table knowledge.

Login details can be found inside the front cover of your child/children's Home-School Link books.

Thank you for your continued support.



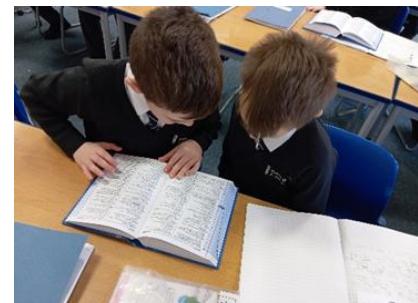
New Dictionaries and Thesaurus

Year 3 were very excited to unpack their new dictionaries and thesaurus this week.



The children have been busy learning how to use them to find spellings and definition of new words in their English lessons.

A big thank you to everyone involved in Friends of Connor Downs who raised funds to enable the purchase of the new books.



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Diary Dates - Spring Term 2026

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
 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 2	100.0 %
2 nd Place	Year 5	98.5 %
3 rd Place	Year R	98.0 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars
Friday 30th 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 6th February 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 – Scarlett

For her efforts and determination to meet some personal goals. Miss Marshall and Miss Abel are really proud of how far she has come in Reception. Well done, Scarlett!

Year 1 – Alice

For showing increased confidence in her work and when answering questions on the carpet. Well done, Alice!

Year 2 – Ava R

For her superb diary entry, writing as Florence Nightingale and being such a kind friend to her peers. Well done, Ava!

Year 3 – Sienna H

For showing kindness and thoughtfulness to all her friends. Sienna is always there to help everyone in Year 3. Thank you and well done, Sienna!

Year 4 – Harry

For excellent cooperative learning as part of a group in computing. Well done, Harry!

Year 5 – Harriet

For her mature approach to learning and the way she demonstrates this in her work. Well done, Harriet!

Year 6 – Billy

For detailed and thoughtful responses in his PSHE book about making good choices to be healthy. Well done, Billy!

Writer – Idris (Year 3)

For including super facts about volcanoes when writing his explanation report. Well done, Idris!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Remi (Year 1)

For excellent progress in phonics and demonstrating this across all lessons. Well done, Remi!

KS2 Reader – Reuben (Year 5)

For showing great effort in reading a book each day in school independently. Well done, Reuben!

Mathematician – Jack (Year R)

For his dedication to practicing his number formation each day. This has really supported Jack with the rest of his maths learning. Well done, Jack!

Numbots/Rock Star – Lilly-Rose (Year 2)

For earning a super 1,375 coins. Well done, Lilly-Rose!

Performer – Otis (Year 4)

For performing the tune 'Flea fly' and learning the language of music – G on the stave. Otis showed great listening and an excellent application of learning. Well done, Otis!

Character – Sydney (Year 6)

For being kind, thoughtful and helpful every day to children and adults in school. Sydney always has a smile on his face. Well done, Sydney!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School