

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. The final week of this half term has been incredibly busy with lots of exciting events taking place. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 23rd February 2026.



Elizabeth Sampson Playing Field Regeneration - Grand Opening

Last Friday, 6th February, six representatives from Year 6 were invited to attend the opening of the Elizabeth Sampson Park in Connor Downs. They watched the ribbon being cut and were first to play on the new equipment. They also sprinkled some grass seed on the new football pitch which will be ready to use shortly.



The children were so proud to see the designs they made for the park when they were in Year 4 come to life - including the zipwire and trampoline!



There will be another park opening ceremony when the final planting is completed and when the weather dries up, which the local community will be invited to.

The children adored their visit and were presented with gift bags from the construction company before returning to school with big smiles on their faces.



MEI LOCI

Thank you so much to Catherine and the team at Mei Loci and the Gwinear Gwithian Parish Council for inviting our children to work with them from the beginning to deliver the amazing new space for the local community to enjoy!

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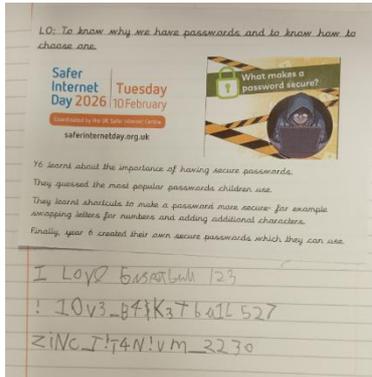
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Safer Internet Day

This year's theme for Safer Internet Day is 'The Safe and Responsible Use of AI'.

Year 6 have learnt about the importance of having secure passwords. They guessed the most common passwords were 'password' and '12345'. The children learnt to swap letters with digits and to use symbols and

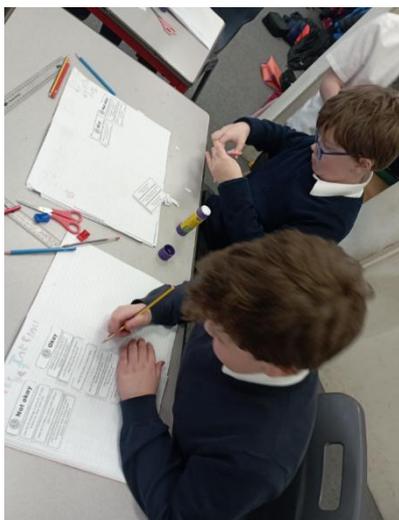
capital letters to make common words much more secure.



Year 1 talked about the rules to remember when we see pop ups: stop, close, tell. They drew a selection of their trusted adults, and we read a story about how images are shared online safely.

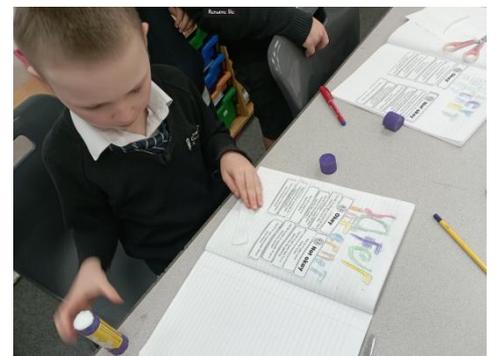


In Year 4, the children learnt about AI, looking at the different applications that produce music, art/images as well as text.



They witnessed how AI could be used to create content in a matter of seconds and discussed how easy it could be used to create something hurtful or unkind.

They then looked at a variety of scenarios, deciding, in their working pairs, if the use for AI was Okay, Not Okay or Depended on the situation.



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Year 5 – Minack Theatre

On Wednesday, Year 5 travelled to the Minack Theatre to take part in a workshop linked to their learning in English and History. The weather was incredibly kind to the group, and they enjoyed a backstage tour, followed by some warmup theatre games, before composing their own mini performances based on the

Titanic. They were all very excited to perform on the world famous Minack Theatre stage.

We would like to thank all the staff at the Minack Theatre who made it such a memorable visit. A special thankyou goes to Mrs Lane, Mrs Richards, Mrs Richardson and Mrs Penberthy who kindly supported the visit.



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Year 2

Disney Football Shooting Stars



This term in PE, Year 2 took part in the Disney Football Stars programme, led by Ewan, from Mounts Bay Academy. The children focused on developing key movement and ball-handling skills through imaginative, story-based sessions. Children explored dribbling, passing, shooting and spatial awareness while working as characters from their favourite Disney films, helping to bring energy, creativity and confidence to their learning. Across the unit, pupils improved



their coordination, teamwork and resilience, often collaborating in small-sided games and challenges that encouraged fair play and positive communication. The themed activities kept engagement high, and the children demonstrated excellent progress in both their technical skills and their understanding of how to play safely and cooperatively.

Science – Growing Plants

In Science, Year 2 have been learning about how plants grow and what they need to stay healthy. The children investigated the life cycle of a plant, observing how seeds change over time and identifying roots, stems, leaves and flowers. They carried out simple experiments to test what plants need to



grow well, including light, water and soil, and recorded their observations carefully over several weeks. As part of the unit, pupils also took part in an exciting plant-themed scavenger hunt, exploring the outdoor area to spot real examples of leaves, seeds, flowers and different types of plants. This hands-on activity helped the children apply their knowledge in a real environment while developing their observation and classification skills. Overall, pupils showed growing confidence in using scientific language and understanding how living things grow and survive. Year 2 are looking forward to now planting their tomato plants and observing the plant stages over time.



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Reception Class

In Reception, this week, the children have been learning to sing along to some nursery rhymes, in their Music lessons. They learnt to sing '1, 2, 3, 4, 5, once I caught a fish alive', 'Pat a cake' and '5 little ducks went swimming one day'. The children listened to 'Our House by Madness' and decided whether they liked it or not and reasons why.



They ended the lesson singing some well-known rhymes and enjoyed acting out 'Dingle, Dangle Scarecrow'. The children have really enjoyed learning new songs and have learnt the actions to go with them. They are beginning to use musical terms like pitch, rhythm, tempo and pulse when they are talking about different songs.



Arbor App Communications

Important reminder that all of our communications are now sent out via the Arbor App. Over recent weeks, we have become aware that a number of parents/carers are not receiving some of the communications that are being sent out. We have 100% of our parents/carers signed up to the App, so all messages should be received.

In the event that you have not been receiving communications, please try the following:

1. Uninstall the app from your phone and request a new link to be sent by emailing hello@connordowns.org.uk. This will be sent to you to enable you to reload the app.
2. Ensure you have push notifications enabled for the app.

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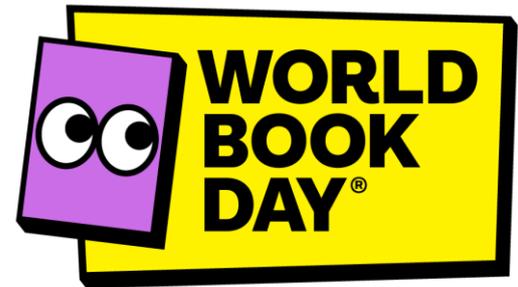
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World Book Day

World Book day this year is on **Thursday 5th March 2026**. To mark this day and to raise funds to go towards more Accelerated Reader books for our school library, we are inviting children, for a donation of £1 (via ParentPay), to dress up as their favourite book character and bring their book to school with them to share with their classes. We encourage all children to take part in this fun day by wearing either a purchased dress-up costume, a home made costume, or alternatively, children can wear their own clothes. There is no expectation for any family to pay out for expensive costumes unless they want to.



World Book Day® is a registered charity, company and trademark.



Every child will also be given a £1 book token supplied by the National Literacy Trust that they can use towards purchasing a book of their choice from any retailer. More information can be found by using the link below:

[Families - World Book Day](#)



League sponsors

We would like to say a huge thank you to Green Fern Mortgage & Financial Services and Two Ways Holiday Cottage for sponsoring the Connor Downs Team, 'Accurate Archaeologists' in the Lego League competition. The team of 10 have been tasked with building robots out of Lego and will attend RNAS Culdrose airbase on Wednesday 11th March to take part, alongside many other schools.

This year's theme, Unearthed, challenges students to explore archaeology, uncovering the past to drive future innovations through STEM-based robot games and projects.



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Parent Consultations

Booking via the Arbor App – opens at 7:00pm tonight

Parent Consultations are being held on **Tuesday 3rd March and Wednesday 4th March 2026**.

The booking portal for Parent Consultations, via the Arbor App, will be **opening at 7:00pm, tonight, Friday, 13th February and will close at 7:00pm on Monday 2nd March**. 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 3rd and Wednesday 4th March 2026**. 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 3rd March 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 **Tuesday 3rd March 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.

Diary Dates - Spring Term 2026

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
 Thursday 5th March – World Book Day – 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 – FOEDA 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 R	98.0 %
2 nd Place	Year 3	98.3 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 13th February 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 27th 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 – Florence

For being so kind, thoughtful and positive to everybody in school. Florence is a joy to have in the class! Well done, Florence!

Year 1 – Olivia

For her enthusiasm in every lesson and effort and determination with her work. Olivia's joy is infectious! Well done, Olivia!

Year 2 – Conor

For following the school rules beautifully and demonstrating them in caring ways. Conor is always ready to learn, showing super listening and producing work that is always to a high standard. Well done, Conor!

Year 3 – James

For great creative word choices writing a kenning poem about a volcano erupting. Well done, James!

Year 4 – Ollie

For his perseverance and determination to complete tasks. Ollie has a great attitude to learning. Well done, Ollie!

Year 5 – Zak L

For his thoughtful questions and excellent behaviour on the Year 5 visit to the Minack Theatre. Well done, Zak!

Year 6 – Emilie-Rose

For the super effort she has been putting into practising her timestables. It is well worth all the effort! Keep up the great work! Well done, Emilie-Rose!

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Writer – Louie (Year R)

For working so hard to use the correct pencil grip which has really supported his handwriting. Well done, Louie!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Leo (Year 1)

For his excellent progress in phonics. Leo's confidence when reading and writing has really improved as a result of his progress. Well done, Leo!

KS2 Reader – Eden (Year 3)

For her increased confidence and progress with reading. Well done, Eden!

Mathematician – Elsie B (Year 5)

For her determination to learn new skills and to always trying her best in maths. Well done, Elsie!

Numbots/Rock Star – Ethan (Year 4)

For achieving a fantastic 7,644 correct answers on TTRs in the last five days. Keep up the good work Ethan! Well done!

Performer – Ava H (Year 2)

For her beautiful recall on her innovative poem. Ava used expression, appropriate tone, rhyming words and wonderful body language when delivering her verses producing a lovely performance. Well done, Ava!

Character – Annabelle (Year 6)

For showing such kindness to a younger child in offering to play with her at breaktimes. Well done, Annabelle!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Eddy
Head of School



**Connor Downs
Academy**

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

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HALF TERM

WITH

FOR AGES 5 – 16

Fun sports and activity sessions throughout the day for children in Reception to year 11



ADD LUNCH FOR £5

A balanced meal with a pudding

LUDGVAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

16TH – 20TH FEBRUARY 10-2PM £20



MONDAY

COLOUR FUN



TUESDAY

BEACH THEME



WEDNESDAY

NERF BATTLE



THURSDAY

MOVIE THEME



FRIDAY

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February Half Term Activities – Coast Community CIC at Ludgvan Community Centre

During half term, Coast are once again offering fun active session for children aged 5 – 16, running from 16th to 20th February between 10am and 2pm. There will be themed activity days throughout the week. There is also an option to add a balanced lunch for £5.

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**Connor Downs
Academy**

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Be part of Cornwall's most colourful 5k fun run this summer

Rainbow Run returns to RAF St Mawgan Newquay on Saturday 20 June 2026 and is open to anyone aged 5 years old and over.

You can run, walk, or jog whilst being showered in powder paint at 8 different colour stations.

Included in the price is a bespoke 2026 Rainbow run medal, an event village full of stalls, games, food vendors and entertainment and 8 colour stations.

As well as making memories on this fun-filled day out, you will be raising vital funds for Children's Hospice South West. By taking part, you're pledging to raise £35 as an individual or £93 as a family. Last year £107,000 was raised!

Sponsored by: **KERNOW COATINGS**

children's hospice **SOUTH WEST**

The brightest fun run for everyone!

Saturday 20 June 2026 at RAF St Mawgan, Newquay

Sign up today chsw.org.uk/rainbow

Registered Charity No. 1003314

rainbow RUN

The earlier you sign up, the more you save! **Our Super-duper early-bird, saving 30% is on sale until 2 April.**

Sign up at: [Rainbow Run Cornwall 2026 | Children's Hospice South West](https://chsw.org.uk/rainbow)

Contact Number for enquiries: 01726 871800

Email for enquiries: kiley.pearce@chsw.org.uk

Keep up to date with the latest announcements on our Facebook page: [Rainbow Run Cornwall 2026 | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rainbowrun2026)

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