



**Connor Downs
Academy**

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



**EYFS
Spring
Term 2026**



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Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During this Spring term it is wonderful to see how much the children have grown in confidence and independence. The reception children continue to flourish both as independent learners and as members of our wider school community. The children are confident to choose their own activities during their own 'playful learning' time and to choose the resources they will use to explore their own ideas. Social skills are developing as the children are building strong relationships and they enjoy working as a team when building and designing in the construction area. In reception class all children work together, sharing, taking turns and listening to each other's ideas.



The children work together to construct



Building strong friendships



We enjoy our daily toothbrushing sessions

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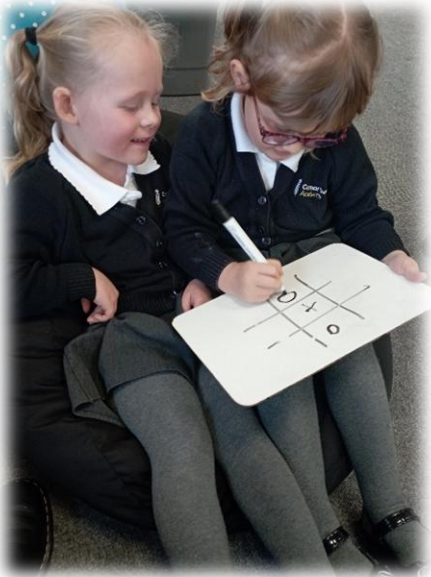
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Turn taking games



Enjoying outdoor play



Independent role play games



Collaborative games



Carrying out our daily routine

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Physical Development

The reception children have continued to improve their physical skills in a wide range of activities. Through teacher-led input, the children have continued to develop their understanding of pencil control. They have learnt how to hold a pencil with an effective grip to form long ladder letters, one-armed robot letters and curly caterpillar letters in handwriting. As a result, children in reception regularly produce writing which is of an outstanding quality and that is presented beautifully.

The children particularly enjoy fine motor challenges such as using tweezers to pick up as many pompoms as they can within one minute which develops their pencil grip and control. They have been mark making using pens, crayons, paint, mud and chalks, both inside and outside of the classroom.

In our P.E. lessons in the first half term we built on the gymnastics skills developed in the autumn term by posing our bodies in different ways and stopping to balance on a range of apparatus. The children have also learnt how to jump off low apparatus and land safely. In their own learning time, the children have chosen to use guttering to explore rolling vehicles and measuring how far they travel.



Building strength in Cultivating Futures



Learning to follow routines



Practising pencil control

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Throughout the second half term the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in dance sessions in PE. The sessions have allowed the children to learn and sing new and familiar nursery rhymes, and think about how we can move our bodies to represent different actions.



Learning to balance



Champion gymnastic poses



Performing to an audience



Communication and Language

Story time is a favourite part of our day; the children choose favourite books to read and share together as a class. They can show their good listening skills by making relevant comments and answering questions about the stories and books that they have heard. We love to read familiar stories over and over again and the children love to join in with reading them too.



Collaborative role play



Socialising at a teddy bears picnic



Working in pairs in maths

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Listening attentively to our peers

The children thoroughly enjoyed bringing in their own books from home during world book day. The children talked about their favourite book and enjoyed answering questions from other children about their book.



Sharing a story with older children



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Literacy

The children have shown fantastic progress during daily phonics sessions and are now becoming more confident and independent. The children have learnt digraphs and trigraphs and they are able to use these when blending to read and segmenting to spell. The children are now reading and writing words independently. Through their own initiated learning activities the children have had opportunities to put these skills into practice, for example, drawing and labelling plans before building in the construction area and writing cards and messages to family and friends.



Retelling a story



Writing cards to loved ones



Blending sounds to read words

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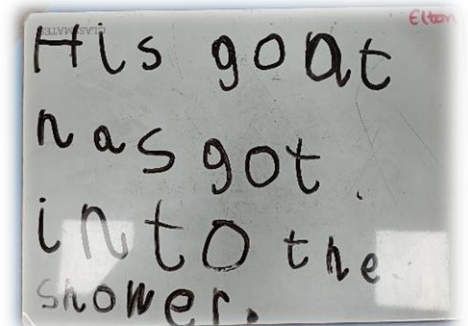
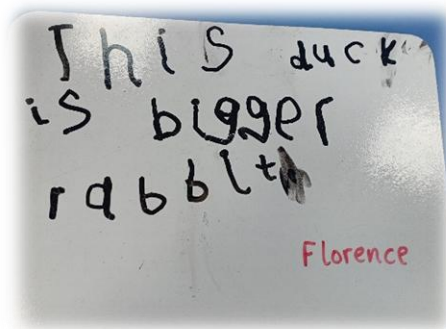
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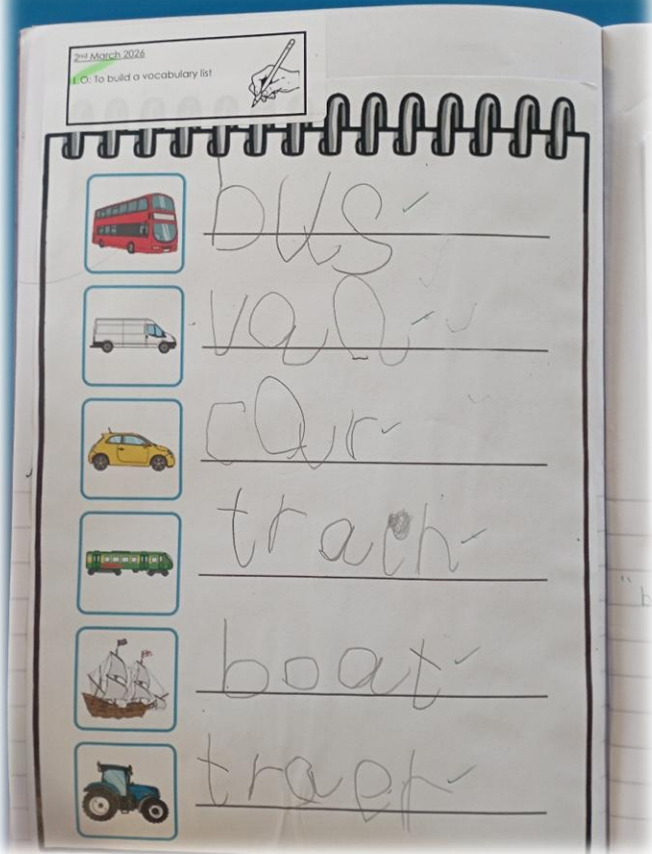


Through shared and guided writing, the children have written for a range of purposes. For example, when finding out about polar regions the children enjoyed finding out and writing new and exciting facts about polar bears and penguins.

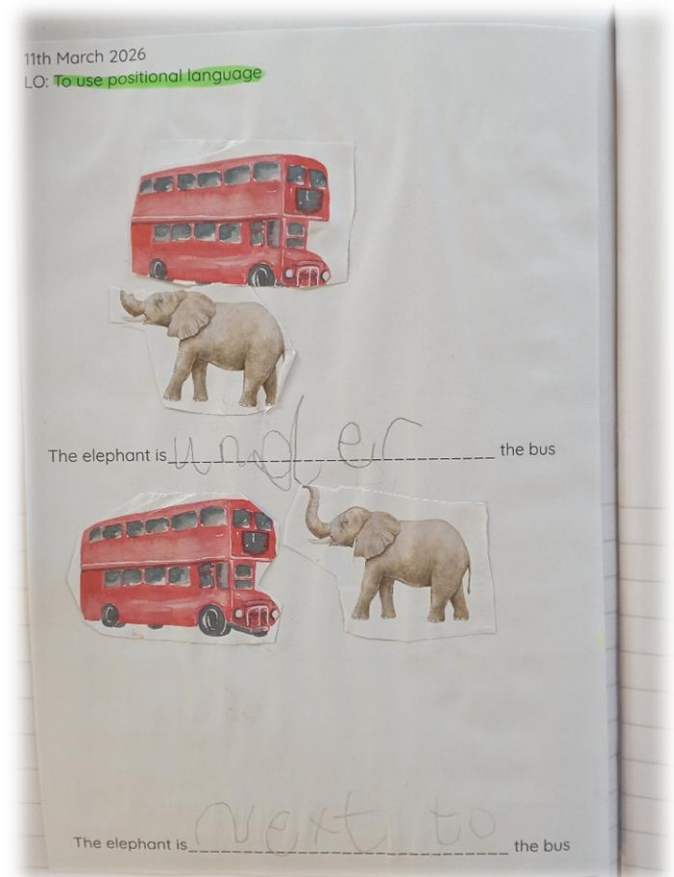
During Drawing Club sessions, the children are becoming much more creative and ambitious with their ideas, and independently composing 'magic codes' of decodable words or simple sentences which complement their pictures.



Writing from phonics sessions



Phonically spelling a vocabulary list



Using positional language



Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, the children have consolidated their understanding of the core mathematical skills and principles they explored in the Autumn term. The children are now able to confidently write their numerals from 0-10. They have also begun to recognise and practise writing their numerals from 10-20, using visual aids such as number lines and number fans to independently support themselves. The children can compare numbers, order numbers forwards and backwards, find one more and one less and are beginning to add and subtract.

We continue to teach maths daily as a whole class teacher led activity. Following this teaching session, children will then have a follow up task which involves: working with the teacher, independent learning, extended provision opportunities and continuous play opportunities. Children can find maths hidden in all areas of our provision.

We have learned about sizes, and how to compare length and height using the vocabulary longer and shorter. We used cubes as a unit of measure as well as being introduced to using rulers and tape measures. We have also talked about and explored capacity, using different containers to scoop and pour both water and rice, using rich vocabulary to describe how full or empty their containers were.

The children have been working very hard learning number bonds to 10. The children have shown a real flair adding 2 numbers to 10.

The children have been using their reasoning skills when learning about 2D and 3D shapes. They are using mathematical vocabulary to describe the properties of the shapes when doing this. They have also explored 2D and 3D shapes in their environment.

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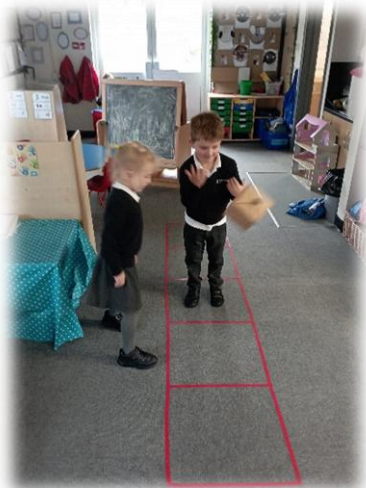
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Using a giant 5 frame to bring maths to life



Using counters to understand parts and wholes



Exploring capacity



Exploring weight



Practising repeating patterns



Exploring capacity

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Matching number sentences



Sequencing events to make a sandwich



Learning number bonds to 10



Counting objects with accuracy

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Understanding the World

In spring half term one, the children enjoyed learning facts and information about the polar regions. We explored climate, animals and the daily life of such a contrasting locality. The children particularly enjoyed using maps and globes to locate and compare the different localities.



Learning about polar habitats



Exploring melting using coloured ice



Using warm water to melt ice



Home corner role play

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In the second half term, we have focused on the topic 'journeys.' We started small, by discussing our local environment and how we might travel around it, building up to longer journeys within Cornwall, then the UK, then abroad. The children really enjoyed discussing different forms of transport and recreated them in both small-scale and large-scale construction.

Eventually, we began talking about journeys to other planets, beginning to learn about space and our Solar System. We explored this in conjunction with British Space Week, and conducted experiments including seeing if food would grow on the moon, and melting crayons to represent the cratered surface of planets.

The children have enjoyed transforming the classroom using silver foil blankets, cardboard rockets and a paper mache solar system to fully immerse themselves in their topic learning.



Aeroplane role play



Making collage cars



Exploring a space themed sensory tray

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Reception love to work outdoors, both in our own outdoor learning area and the cultivating futures area in the school grounds. They thoroughly enjoy observing, handling and taking care of the animals that live at our school. We have also been visited by some newly hatched chicks, and a tortoise, giving the children rich experiences of nature and animal care.



Drawing the chicks from observation



Making balloon animals in the outdoor classroom



Meeting Shelley the Tortoise

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In computing, the class have been learning about debugging – finding problems and fixing them. They did this by learning about floating and sinking and building their own tin foil boats.



Testing our foil boats and debugging to help them float

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Expressive Arts and Design

During our exciting topic of the polar regions, the creative area was always busy as children chose to make a variety of polar scenes, including northern lights pastels, watercolour snowscapes and collaged penguins.

The creative area continues to be a popular area in the classroom. The children are very imaginative and colourful in their creative designs and enjoy using a range of materials to express themselves and their ideas.

This half term, the children have built on their creative skills even more and have created beautiful artwork inspired by our own and other planets they have been learning about.

Reception class love music and have been expressing themselves with new and familiar songs and dances. During music lessons with Mrs Crease, the class have learned different action songs.

During each music lesson, the children listened to a range of songs and decided whether they liked them or not. They started to use the interrelated dimensions of music – pulse, rhythm, pitch (high and low sounds) and tempo (speed of the music) - to explain why they did or did not like each piece they listened to.



Dancing along to music

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Making play dough models



Printing with paint



Decorating and writing friendship cards



We loved making paper mache planets



All busy making collage penguins

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