

Friday 24th April 2026

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and that you all had an enjoyable Easter holiday. On behalf of myself and all the staff at Connor Downs Academy, I would like to welcome all our children back for what is planned to be a very busy and exciting summer term.



Year 5/6 Rugby

On Wednesday 22nd April, boys and girls from Years 5 and 6, competed in the Community Cup against schools from all over Cornwall.

Both teams played fairly and showed great respect and resilience in every game.

Team A won all of their games with scores of; 7 – 0, 8 – 0, 11 – 0, 13 – 0, 7 – 0 and 7 – 1.

Team B also won all of their games; 5 – 0, 5 – 0, 4 – 1, 3 – 0, 5 – 0 and 5 – 1.

Between them both teams, only conceded 3 tries which is absolutely fantastic.

A huge thank you to Mrs Hackett, Mr Gallagher and Mrs Rothero for supporting the teams to attend the event. All the adults were so complimentary about each and every child who took part, representing Connor Downs Academy with such pride. We are really proud of you all!



It's now time to vote for your Samworth Brothers Community Cup Finalists!

The TWO schools with the most 'likes' on their team photo and the Cornish Pirates Facebook page, will progress to the final, held at The Mennaye, next **Saturday, 2nd May**, when The Cornish Pirates face Coventry in their final home game of the season. Voting closes at 9am on Monday, with the finalists announced later that day. Please can we ask all parents/carers, family and friends to 'like' the Connor Downs photo and secure the teams, a place in the final next week.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DBahnGgbC/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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Farm and Country Roadshow

On Wednesday the Royal Cornwall Farm & Country Roadshow visited Connor Downs Academy.



Children in EYFS, Years 1, 2 and 3 had a great morning with Sharon, the Education officer from the British Agricultural Association.

Sharon explained how the farmers of Cornwall are involved in food production to provide us with our morning cereal and milk, bread, meat and vegetables for our lunches and dinners at home, not forgetting delicious Cornish pasties. The children were also interested to learn that sheep and cow hides were used to make leather shoes, furry suede boots and wool jumpers.



The children explored a range of activities such as handling a cow and sheep's hides, dressing up in animal costumes and even a tractor drivers' overalls. They experienced games and puzzles that illustrated the different cuts of meat that animals and poultry give us. When

handling, wheat, oats and barley, the children were surprised to hear that a combine harvester cost 1 million pounds.



Sharon said:

"I was impressed with the children and their knowledge at such young ages. The impact of the outdoor learning and management of your livestock really has made a difference. This led to confident discussion and interaction. I hope the children enjoyed themselves as much as I did."

Thank you to Sharon for bringing the roadshow to Connor Downs Academy and we look forward to welcoming her back in June when she will return to work with the children in Years 4, 5 and 6.



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Year 4 – Design and Technology



This week, Year 4 have started to make their mini greenhouses, as part of their next DT project.



Year 4 – Camp Kernow Parent/Carer Meeting

Next **Wednesday, 29th May at 3:30pm**, there will be a parent/carers meeting for all those children who are attending the Year 4 Camp Kernow Residential in May. The meeting will be to discuss the itinerary and kit list and to answer any questions you may have. Please collect your child from Mr Foulds at the end of the day (if they are not attending an after-school club) and come to the main school office and sign in with Mrs Gallagher.



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Celebrating Success



|22/04/2026

Dear Mrs Eddy,

I am writing to congratulate you on Connor Downs Academy's success in achieving Gold in the School Games Mark for the academic year 2024/25.

This award is a testament to your school's commitment to supporting all children to be physically active on a daily basis, and I am delighted that your hard work, alongside your teachers and pupils, has been recognised in this way.

At a time when many children and young people face many different challenges, regular physical activity is vital for their development, wellbeing and access to skills.

Opportunities to be active at school are essential, especially for those children less likely to be active outside the school day, and your school's commitment to PE, school sport and play is making a difference to children today whilst improving their life chances for tomorrow.

Thank you, and congratulations to all those involved at your school and across the community for helping support more children and young people to access the enormous benefits which come from being physically active.

Yours sincerely,

Perran Moon MP

This week we were delighted to receive a letter from Perran Moon MP, congratulating Connor Downs Academy on our success in achieving Gold in the School Games Mark for the last academic year.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all members of staff and parent/carer volunteers, who so generously support our PE provision.

From attending festivals and fixtures, driving buses, and swapping classes, to encouraging active play and dance at break times – you all make a huge difference! Your support in ensuring children have their PE kits in school ready, reply slips handed in and in delivering high-quality PE is truly appreciated.

You have braved cold, wind, rain—and even the swimming pool—with enthusiasm and commitment, always putting our children first.

It has been wonderful to see this dedication recognised through the School Games Mark Gold Award and by our local MP on the day our rugby players returned triumphant!

Thank you for everything you do to support, inspire, and enrich the lives of our children.

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5* Rating for Connor Downs Kitchen

Following a routine kitchen inspection today from Environmental Health, we are delighted to share that our kitchen have continued with the highest standards and have been awarded the highest accolade of 5*. Well done to you all for all your hard work and dedication in producing and serving fantastic food. Thank you!



After School Clubs

Please note, all school led after-school clubs for this term will start next week.

Year 6 SATs

A reminder to all parents/carers of our Year 6 pupils, that your child will sit their SATs assessments between **Monday 11th May and Thursday 14th May**. It is imperative that your child attends school on each and every day to ensure they are able to take these assessments. Thank you for your support and if you have any questions, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk and a member of the Year 6 team will get back to you.

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

A reminder that the Friends of Connor Downs Academy are holding their next meeting on **Monday 27th April from 3:30pm**. All welcome. If you have a few hours free that you could give to FOCDA at some of their events, please do come along and see what they do. Any time, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated and you do not have sign up to be on the committee. They look forward to welcoming current and new members on Monday. Please come to the school office to sign in.

Diary Dates – Summer Term 2026

Monday 27th April – Swimming – Year 2 – Week 1
Tuesday 28th April – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Monday 4th May – **BANK HOLIDAY – School Closed**
Tuesday 5th May – FINAL Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May – Year 6 SATs
Monday 11th May – Swimming – Year 2 – Week 2
Monday 18th May – Tempest Class Photos – more information to follow
Monday 18th May – Swimming – Year 2 – Week 3
Tuesday 19th May – Year 3 – Tate Gallery visit – details TBC
Wednesday 20th May – Year 1 – Pendennis Castle visit – details TBC
Thursday 21st May – FOCDA Disco's – more information to follow
Thursday 21st May – Friday 22nd May – Year 4 Camp Kernow Residential
Friday 22nd May – Last Day of first half of summer term – **Finish at 3:15pm**

Half Term

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Monday 1st June – First day of second half of summer term
Monday 1st June – Sports Day Practice
Tuesday 2nd June – Year 6 – St Michael's Mount visit – details TBC
Wednesday 3rd June – Year 3 – Gym session – details TBC
Friday 5th June – Year 5 – Geevor Tin Mine visit – details TBC
Monday 8th – Friday 12th June – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
Monday 8th June – Swimming – Year 1 – Week 1
Wednesday 10th June – Aspire Games – Year 5
Thursday 11th June – Sports Day Practice
Monday 15th June – Swimming – Year 1 – Week 2
Monday 15th June – Year 3 camping on school field

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Tuesday 16th June – Year 6 camping on school field
 Wednesday 17th June – Year 5 camping on school field
 Wednesday 17th June – Year 3 – Gym session – details TBC
 Thursday 18th June – Year 4 camping on school field
 Thursday 18th June – Year 6 – Surf Day
 Monday 22nd June – Swimming – Year 1 – Week 3
 Wednesday 24th June – Year 3 – Gym session – details TBC
 Thursday 25th June – Year 5 – Surf Day
 Monday 29th June – Swimming – Year R – Week 1
 Wednesday 1st July – Year 3 – Gym session – details TBC
 Thursday 2nd July – Sports Day Afternoon – more details to follow
 Friday 3rd July – FOCDA Summer Fayre – more details to follow
 Monday 6th July – Swimming – Year R – Week 2
 Wednesday 8th – Friday 10th July – Year 6 Barton Hall Residential
 Monday 13th July – Swimming – Year R – Week 3
 Wednesday 15th July – Year 3 Gym session – details TBC
 Wednesday 22nd July – Year 3 Gym session – details TBC
 Wednesday 22nd July – Year 6 Leavers Prom – more details to follow
 Thursday 23rd July – Year 6 – Leavers Church Service and Leavers Assembly – more details to follow
 Thursday 23rd July – Last day of Term - **Finish at 2:00pm**

Summer Holidays
Friday 24th July 2026 to Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Thursday 3rd September – **INSET DAY** – School closed to pupils
 Friday 4th September – **INSET DAY** – School closed to pupils
 Monday 7th September – 1st day of Autumn term – Years 1 – 6 only

Attendance

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year R	98.2 %
2 nd Place	Year 2	98.1 %
3 rd Place	Year 5	97.9 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 24th April 2026

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 summer term, on **Friday 1st May 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 a great first week back at school and settling back into classroom routines. Well done for your hard work, Keira!

Year 1 – Leo

For showing increased enthusiasm and independence with his work. What a great start to the term. Well done, Leo!

Year 2 – Nola

For her increased confidence and focus in all aspects of her learning. Nola is truly shining! Well done, Nola!

Year 3 – Noah B

For showing great kindness in class. Noah can always be relied upon to step in and support his friends. Thank you and well done, Noah!

Year 4 – Ethan

For his fantastic efforts to improve all areas of his learning. Ethan is a great role model to all his peers. Well done, Ethan!

Year 5 – Lola

For the speed and accuracy when completing her daily spiral maths review. Well done, Lola!

Year 6 – Layton

For settling into Connor Downs so fantastically. Layton is a kind and thoughtful member of the class who is working so hard. Well done, Layton!

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Writer – Alexis (Year 2)

For her incredible knowledge of the different word classes, grammatical structures of writing as well as the application to her writing. Alexis' work is enjoyable to read with elements of cohesion. Simply brilliant! Well done, Alexis!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Jacob (Year 1)

For all the hard work he puts into phonics and reading. Jacob has made excellent progress and the Year 1 staff are very proud of him. Well done, Jacob!

KS2 Reader – Annabelle (Year 6)

For her dedication and commitment to reading. Annabelle was excited to share her love of reading with our special visitors this week. Well done, Annabelle!

Mathematician – Arthur (Year 5)

For his determination to do his best in every lesson. Arthur is making great progress in all areas of maths. Well done, Arthur!

Numbots/Rock Star – Lyla (Year 4)

For her incredible improvement on her MTC assessments following her increased time spent on TTRS. Well done, Lyla!

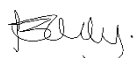
Performer – William (Year 3)

For impressing our special visitor when sharing his knowledge of farming and animals at the Farm and Country Roadshow. Well done, William!

Character – Perran (Year 6)

For showing excellent team spirit during the rugby tournament this week. Well done, Perran!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

Autism in Schools Team – Free Online Parent Forums – Summer Term 2026

Please see listed below a number of parent forums available **free of charge** to parents/carers with children attending one of the Aspire Academies.

Autism in Schools Team ~ Free Online Parent Forums Summer Term 2026		
DATE/TIME	TOPIC	TEAMS LINK
Friday 1st May 9.30 - 11am	Demand Avoidance	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39672605297496?p=KC9fDczgmksB5w6Gkr Meeting ID: 396 726 052 974 96 Passcode: uZ2tT2bo
Tuesday 5th May 1.15 - 2.45pm	Demand Avoidance	Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 347 294 968 287 7 Passcode: qm62hB6o
Wednesday 6th May 9.30 - 11am	Demand Avoidance	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/326069780861739?p=zKye1Qsn3cixakCaU1 Meeting ID: 326 069 780 861 739 Passcode: RH2Km36D

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Thursday 7th May 9.30 - 11am	Demand Avoidan ce	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/349696516208781?p=7ZnuH4IAoBvHdW026u Meeting ID: 349 696 516 208 781 Passcode: wi6mE7ix
Friday 8th May 9.30 - 11am	Demand Avoidan ce	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/341645064354831?p=yAuy3EBUfPasUVHVGJ Meeting ID: 341 645 064 354 831 Passcode: mi6Tz3vd
Friday 12th June 9.30 - 11am	Transitio n and Preparat ion for Change	Microsoft Teams Need help? Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 322 426 088 585 4 Passcode: gi2Yn7Fa
Monday 29th June 9.30 - 11am	Transitio n and Preparat ion for Change	Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/321423822322237?p=Gz3cB8NqG9r7HMrQNW Meeting ID: 321 423 822 322 237 Passcode: wo6r7wh7

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Monday 29th June 1 - 2.30pm	Transition and Preparation for Change	<p>Microsoft Teams meeting</p> <p>Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/355605377062097?p=dscMpEJF9Kwfcc1s7G Meeting ID: 355 605 377 062 097 Passcode: 4Eh7sK6y</p>
Tuesday 30th June 1 - 2.30pm	Transition and Preparation for Change	<p>Microsoft Teams meeting</p> <p>Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/384959309674625?p=TvKk1v3sdOopiWhDUm Meeting ID: 384 959 309 674 625 Passcode: ZS7eA3iL</p>
Wednesday 1st July 9.30 - 11am	Transition and Preparation for Change	<p>Microsoft Teams meeting</p> <p>Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/339299821298132?p=dHIAU9D8z9xpkBthSh Meeting ID: 339 299 821 298 132 Passcode: 9XJ6L5FQ</p>

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THE PARENT TOOLSHED

WHERE: THE COVE MACMILLAN CENTRE, TRURO
WHEN: THURS 9TH JULY 2026

PARENTING WITH CANCER IS HARD.

FEELING GUILTY
NO ENERGY
FEELING ANXIOUS
WHAT DO I TELL MY KIDS
ARE MY KIDS OK?

Come together for a day with other parents, who 'get it'.

Learn tools & practical solutions to help you .

Lunch & refreshments provided and resources to take home.




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Book online at www.fruitflycollective.com/toolshed



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PAPAYA

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

ONLINE PARENT TALK WITH NICOLA:

CORNWALL SCHOOLS PARENT TALK
MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2026 – 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM



JOINING LINK:

[ACCESS VIA THE TEAMS LINK HERE](#)



Nicola
MacDonald

Nicola MacDonald is a Resilience Coach and Author of the non-fiction book, *Resilient Teen*. She is the Founder of My Resilient Mind and Co-Founder of The Digital Detox Club. She runs resilience workshops and talks for schools, parents, and adults in the workplace. She specialises in mindfulness, tech addiction, youth mental health and conscious parenting.

Nicola is an empowering and uplifting speaker who shares her knowledge in a non-judgemental way linking to her own experiences of parenthood and her own previous struggles with teen anxiety.

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Parenting in the **digital age** has never been more complex, with issues surrounding screen time, social media use, and gaming.

Many parents are concerned about their children's mental health, especially the impact of screens on it.

In this interactive talk, Nicola unpacks some of the **complex issues** surrounding smartphone use and, in a **non-judgmental** manner, aims to help you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

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**Connor Downs
Academy**

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

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2026 Summer Cricket – All Stars and Dynamos

Junior Cricket at Hayle CC in 2026

All Stars Cricket for 5-8 year olds
Starting Tuesday 2nd June - 5.00pm – 5.45pm
Book via: www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars

Dynamos Cricket for 8-11 year olds
Starting Tuesday 2nd June - 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Book via: www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscricket

Hayle CC Girls, U11s, U13s & U15s

U13s & U15s (School Years 7 to 10) - Monday 6.00pm – 7.30pm from 20th April.

U11 Hardball (School Years 4 to 6) – Tuesday 6.00pm – 7.30pm from 21st April.

Girls (School Years 4 to 8) - Tuesday 6.00pm – 7.30pm from 21st April.

Just turn up & register at the first session.

Boys and Girls Welcome to All Sessions

Contact Tim Marrion for more info:
07817 743633 / timmarrion@me.com

CIVIC CAFE

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