



Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



EYFS Summer Term 2026



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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



What an incredible year the children have had in reception class. The children have all made fantastic progress during their first year at Connor Downs Academy and have now reached the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We are so incredibly proud of the children and everything they have achieved this year, both collectively and as individual learners.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

This term, the children have continued to think about the importance of taking turns and playing collaboratively with one another. During circle time sessions, we have spent time discussing our emotions; this has enabled the children to think reflectively and show sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others.



We had lots of fun on Careers Day and the children were inspired to role play and explore different job roles in our community.

In preparation for their transition to Year 1, the children have considered the different ways in which they could prepare themselves to meet the exciting challenges that they will face. As a class, we have talked about the differences they may experience in Year 1. We have talked about how exciting these new challenges will be. The children have enjoyed a range of opportunities to spend time within the Year 1 setting. The children are excited to explore the Year 1 outside area.

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Physical Development

During our swimming sessions this term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed developing an understanding of basic swimming techniques and water safety. They have practised moving through the water independently in a range of ways, developing confidence in the water and even practised jumping into the water when it is safe to do so. The children have shown amazing resilience during each session. Each session was filled with smiles and laughter.



The children have continued to improve their physical skills during sports day practise. A favourite was certainly the space hoppers. The children showed amazing friendship and enjoyment bouncing up and down the field. Lots of giggles and laughter was had by all.



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In the context of our classroom learning, the children have continuing to develop their fine motor strength and control. The class have been demonstrating their fantastic pencil control by producing brilliant drawings and pieces of written work. The children's improved pencil control has enabled them to write sentences with precision and skill.



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Communication and Language

The children are continually demonstrating fantastic communication and language skills. The children now listen attentively in a range of situations. They listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. The children are able to give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in different activities. Story time continues to be a favourite time of our day.

Our home corner, mud kitchen, and dressing up areas have generated lots of opportunities for the children to refine their communication and language skills.



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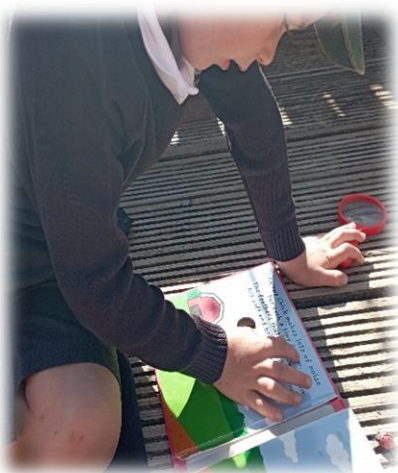
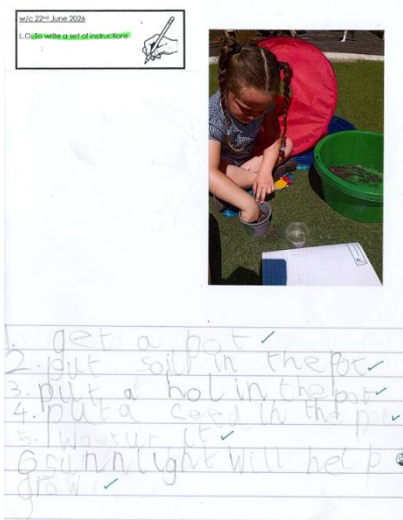
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Literacy

Through our sustained daily phonics sessions, the reception children have now successfully completed Phases 2 and Phase 3 of the phonics scheme 'Little Wandle'. The children are continuing to make incredible progress and are now reading and writing words and sentences using their phonic knowledge.



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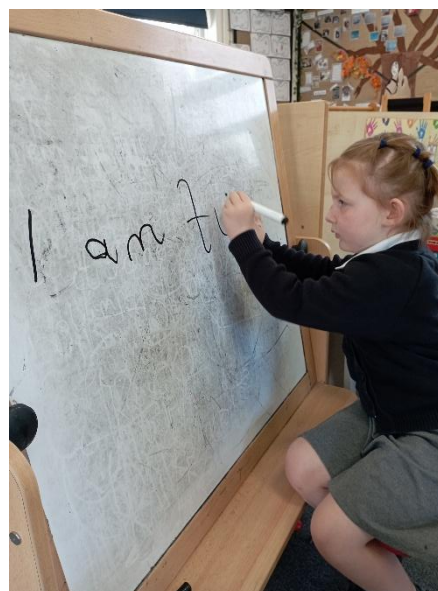
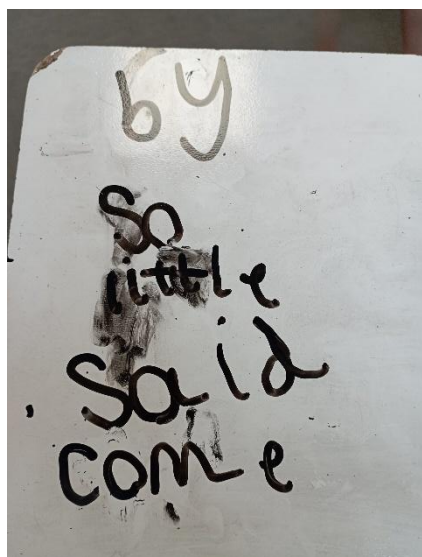
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I have been so proud of all the reception children with the progress in their writing this term. The children are so keen and eager to write, even during playful learning. The children have written some excellent sentences during our 'Under the Sea' topic .



Mathematics

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In Mathematics this term, the children have consolidated their understanding of the core mathematical skills and principles they have explored during their time in Reception. They are now able to count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20, placing them in order and recognising which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they are able to add and subtract two single-digit numbers, counting on or back to find the answer. In addition to this, they are able to solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.



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The children really enjoy exploring practical maths resources in playful learning time. Their exploration through play has enabled them to see patterns in number and secure their understanding of numbers 1 to 10.



The children have enjoyed designing and building with shape in a range of contexts, from paper crafts to large scale building in the outdoor area.



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Understanding the world

This term the children have shown such a keen interest in our topics of 'sowing and growing' and 'under the sea'. The children have explored the topics through reading, writing, art and in their playful learning. We have focussed many of our continuous provision areas around the topics and activities, both inside and outside of the classroom.



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The children have continued to thoroughly enjoy spending time with the animals and plants in cultivating futures. The children have made observations of animals and plants, considering and 'having a go' at explaining why some things occur and change over time. The children have also continued to have the opportunity to observe, handle and take care of our animals.

Expressive Arts and Design

The creative area continues to be a popular area in the classroom. The children are very imaginative and colourful in their creative designs.

We have explored a wide range of art techniques and the children love applying them to their own ideas and creations.

In music and computing, reception class have been exploring digital audio, and how we can use technology to make and enhance music. The class have recorded their own singing to listen back to and layer with sound effects and different music.



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Class Trip to Hayle Plants

Year R had a wonderful time at Hayle Plants, learning about the different plant species that grew there and seeing in real life what is needed to make plants grow. The children behaved excellently throughout the trip and represented Connor Downs Academy very well.

A highlight of the trip was having the chance to pot our own plant, and pick out a herb of choice to nurture as it grows. Many thanks to our parent helpers and support staff who made the trip possible!



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