



Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



Year 2

Summer Term Newsletter

2026

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Year 2 Summer Term Newsletter 2026.

What an incredible year it has been in Year 2! We have filled this year with so many precious memories, from fantastic indoor learning to exciting outdoor adventures. Together, we have danced and sung in the classroom, shared so much laughter, and enjoyed special moments like our KS1 sleepover. We have built strong friendships, welcomed new members into our class and school, and truly grown together. Our classroom motto has always been *"we work together and no one gets left behind,"* and every single one of you has shown this in so many ways. This year has also been a wonderful start for me at Connor Downs Academy, and I feel so lucky to have been part of your journey. I believe in each one of you and all that you will continue to achieve.

Thank you, Year 2, for making our jobs the best in the world. 🧡

Love from, Miss Medcalf and Mrs Hackett



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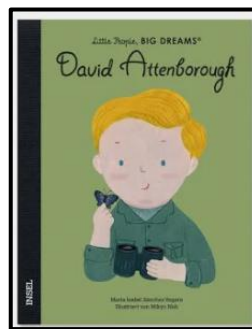
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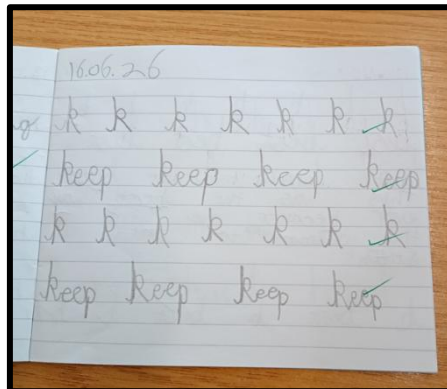
Our Year 2 Reading Journey

During the Summer Term, Year 2 pupils developed their reading skills through a range of engaging texts. They explored books by David Attenborough, learning about animals and the natural world, and enjoyed studying Goldilocks and the Three Bears to strengthen their comprehension and understanding of story structure. Children also took part in regular reading for pleasure activities and continued to practise their reading fluency, accuracy and understanding through daily reading opportunities.



Handwriting

This term, Year 2 have worked hard to develop their handwriting skills. The children have focused on correct letter formation, sizing, spacing, and presentation, showing increasing confidence and pride in their work. Their dedication and perseverance have led to fantastic progress, and it has been wonderful to see their handwriting becoming neater, more fluent, and consistent.



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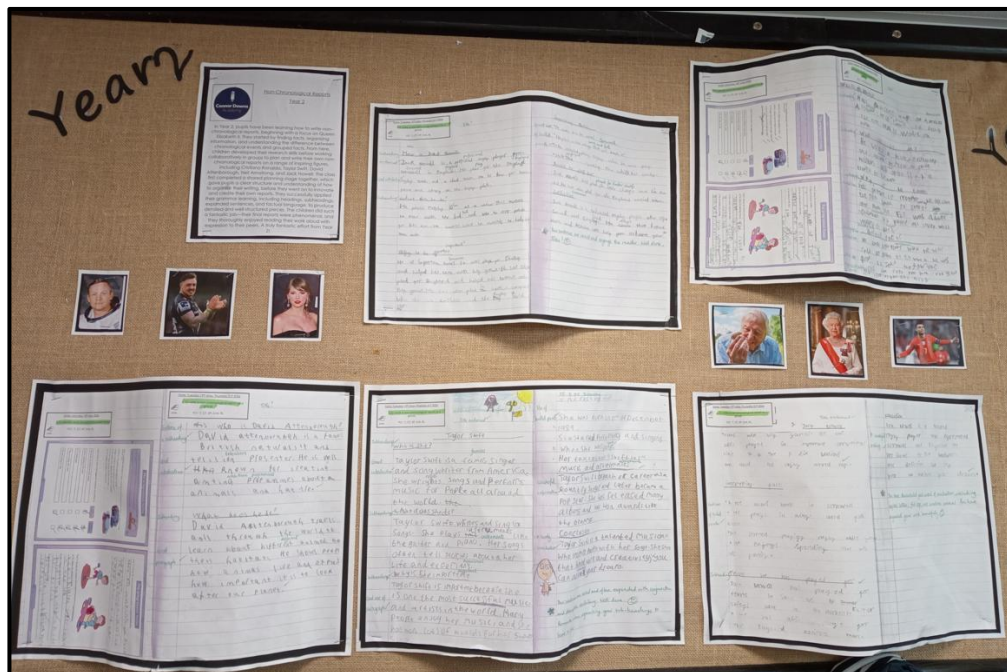
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English

During the first half of the summer term, Year 2 focused on writing non-chronological reports. Linking our learning to our History topic, *Kings and Queens*, the children learned how to organise information into sections, use headings and subheadings, and present interesting facts clearly for the reader.

The children then applied these skills by researching and writing reports about subjects that interested them. We were delighted to see a fantastic variety of topics, including Cristiano Ronaldo, Taylor Swift, David Attenborough, Neil Armstrong, and Cornwall's own Jack Nowell. They worked hard to gather facts, organise their ideas, and create informative and engaging pieces of writing.

We were incredibly impressed by the quality of their work, which showcased not only their growing writing skills but also their enthusiasm, creativity, and pride in their learning. Well done, Year 2 – we are so proud of all our budding authors!



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During the next part of the summer term, the children had a wonderful time exploring the story *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. As a class, we enthusiastically retold the story through actions, role play and discussion, and the children had great fun bringing the characters to life. This exciting activity helped the children to memorise the sequence of events and develop a deeper understanding of the story. Building on this knowledge, the children then wrote their own newspaper reports about the events in the story. Their confidence and creativity shone through as they innovated their ideas during the planning stage and applied their understanding to their independent newspaper report writing. Mrs Hackett and I were incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and hard work throughout this learning journey.



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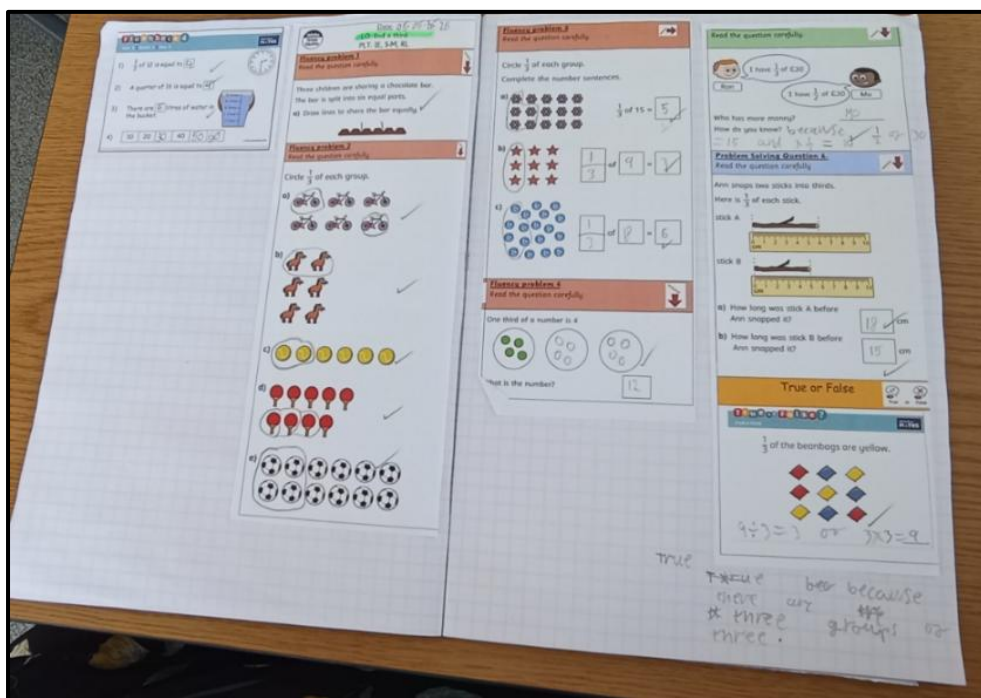
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Maths

This summer term, Year 2 have been busy developing their understanding of fractions and time. In maths, the children have explored halves, quarters and thirds, learning how to recognise, find and use fractions in practical ways. Alongside this, they have been building confidence in telling the time, including reading both analogue and digital clocks, and understanding key vocabulary such as o'clock, half past and quarter to/past. This learning supported the children in developing a strong understanding of time, as they were able to use their prior knowledge of fractions to split the clock into quarters. The children also enjoyed using Lego to identify and explore 5-minute intervals, which further strengthened their understanding. It has been wonderful to see their growing independence and enthusiasm as they apply these skills in a range of activities.



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During the second half of the summer term, Year 2 pupils have been learning about statistics, focusing on pictograms and block diagrams. They developed their skills in collecting, organising and interpreting data, and confidently answered questions about the information presented. As part of a practical pictogram activity, the children selected their own topics and used cones to represent data, demonstrating a secure understanding of how to interpret and explain their findings during a whole-class plenary. They also explored position and direction, using mathematical vocabulary such as left, right, clockwise and anticlockwise to describe movement and turns. It has been pleasing to see the children apply their mathematical knowledge with increasing confidence.

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Science

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This summer term, Year 2 became Super Scientists through a range of exciting investigations both in the classroom and outdoors. The children began by exploring what makes a scientist and learned about the work of famous scientists, including Sir Isaac Newton, linking his discoveries about gravity to their own investigations. They also explored sound, learning about Alexander Graham Bell, and investigated electricity and the inventors who have helped shape the modern world. Throughout the term, the children worked scientifically by asking questions, making predictions, carrying out tests, recording results, and explaining their findings. They thoroughly enjoyed combining research with practical investigations and demonstrated excellent curiosity, teamwork, and resilience.



Art

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This term, the children have been inspired by the artwork of Henri Rousseau, particularly his famous painting *Tiger in a Tropical Storm (Surprised!)* and his striking self-portraits. They explored Rousseau's unique style and used his work as inspiration to create their own landscape artwork. Throughout the term, the children have developed a range of artistic skills, including sketching, painting, colour mixing, shading and adding detail to create depth and texture. They learnt how to observe closely, experiment with different brush techniques, and carefully compose their landscapes using foreground and background features. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating their vibrant jungle scenes and were proud to showcase their creativity and growing artistic confidence.



Design Technology

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At the beginning of the summer term, Year 2 enjoyed learning about vehicles and mechanisms. We explored how different mechanisms, such as wheels, axles and levers, help things move. The children investigated a range of vehicles and discussed how they are designed for different purposes. Using their new knowledge, the children designed and made their own moving vehicles. They showed fantastic creativity, problem-solving skills and perseverance while building and testing their models. We were very impressed with their enthusiasm and the thoughtful designs they produced. Well done, Year 2!



During the second half of the summer term, Year 2 pupils enjoyed making pizzas while learning about healthy eating and the origins of pizza around the world. They applied their understanding of fractions by cutting their pizzas into equal parts, including halves and quarters. This enjoyable activity combined learning in food technology, geography and mathematics.



Physical Education

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At the beginning of the Summer Term, the children enjoyed swimming lessons at St Ives Leisure Centre, where they worked hard to develop their water confidence, swimming techniques and overall fitness. During the second half of the term, our PE lessons focused on developing hands and feet ball skills through a range of fun games and activities. We also explored dance and athletics, building coordination, balance, speed and teamwork. These skills linked closely to our preparations for Sports Day, where the children had the opportunity to demonstrate their determination, enthusiasm and excellent sporting spirit. We have been incredibly proud of the effort and progress shown by everyone throughout the term.



Music

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This term, the children have enjoyed learning and performing *The Friendship Song*, exploring its rhythm, melody and message about kindness and friendship. They developed their singing skills, practised keeping in time with the music and discussed how music can help us express feelings and emotions. More recently, we have been working on *Reflect, Rewind, Replay*, a unit that encouraged the children to revisit and celebrate the musical knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the year. The children have enjoyed listening to, appraising and performing a variety of music while growing in confidence and enthusiasm for the subject.

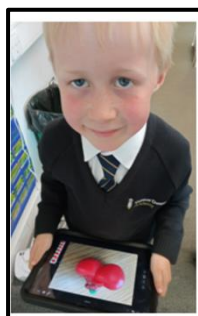


Computing

During the summer term, Year 2 pupils explored digital photography and digital sound. They learned how to take clear photographs from different angles, consider composition, and use simple editing tools to enhance their images. In digital sound, the children recorded, played back and modified audio, developing their understanding of how technology can be used to capture and share ideas. These engaging activities helped to build their creativity, problem-solving skills and confidence in using digital technology.



PSHE





During the summer term, Year 2 pupils learned about growing and changing, including how to keep themselves safe and respect personal boundaries. They explored the importance of speaking to trusted adults and created a class campaign to reinforce the message that it is okay to say "Stop!" if they feel uncomfortable. This learning linked closely to our school values, and we were extremely proud of the maturity, confidence and respect the children demonstrated throughout this topic.



Geography

This summer term, Year 2 have enjoyed becoming Map Makers in Geography. The children learned how to read and create simple maps, use map symbols and keys, and follow the four main compass points – north, south, east and west. They explored maps of the United Kingdom, identifying the four countries and locating key landmarks. As part of their learning about weather and direction, the children also made their own wind vanes and used them to observe the direction of the wind. Through practical activities, they developed their geographical knowledge, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. We were very impressed with their enthusiasm and confidence as young geographers.

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History

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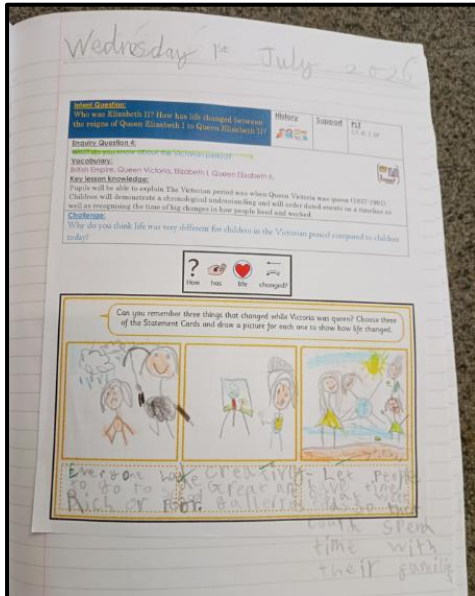
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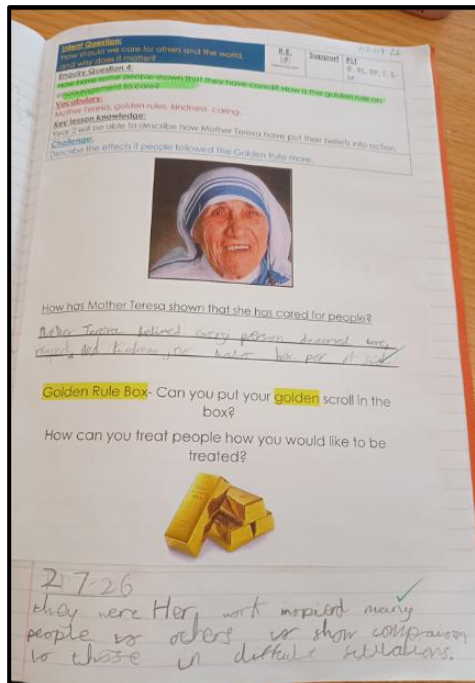
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During the summer term, Year 2 became young historians as they explored Kings and Queens from British history. Using timelines, they sequenced important events and developed their understanding of chronology. The children particularly enjoyed learning about Queen Elizabeth II, creating biographies and investigating key moments from her remarkable reign. We were delighted by their enthusiasm, historical knowledge and confidence in discussing the past.

Religious Education



In RE this Summer Term, Year 2 pupils explored the question "How and why should we care for others?". They learned about the Good Samaritan and Mother Teresa, considering how their examples of kindness and compassion can inspire us to help others. Pupils also learned about the Jewish festival of Sukkot, reflecting on gratitude and caring for the world around us. Through discussions about emotions, they explored ways to support others, and they considered how they can show care and responsibility by looking after our planet.

Sports Day

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This term, Year 2 had a fantastic time taking part in our annual Sports Day. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship as they competed in a range of exciting races and activities. From sprinting and relay races to field events, every child gave their best effort and encouraged their classmates throughout the day.

It was wonderful to see the children showing resilience, confidence, and respect, embracing our school values both on and off the field. Most importantly, they had lots of fun, celebrated each other's achievements, and showed great pride in representing their teams. We were incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and positive attitudes shown by all of Year 2. Well done, everyone!



KS1 Fun Night

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One of the highlights of the term was our exciting KS1 Fun Night Sleepover! The children had an unforgettable evening filled with fun activities, laughter, and opportunities to spend time with their friends in a different school setting. From games and challenges to sharing stories and enjoying special treats, there was plenty to keep everyone entertained.

The children showed fantastic independence, resilience, and maturity throughout the event. They embraced the adventure, supported one another, and demonstrated our school values in everything they did. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they took part in the activities and settled in for the night.

We were so proud of how well the children behaved and the enthusiasm they showed from start to finish. The sleepover created many happy memories that we are sure Year 2 will remember for a long time to come. Well done, Year 2, for making the KS1 Fun Night Sleepover such a huge success!



Outdoor learning

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This term, Year 2 have enjoyed Outdoor Learning, developing their observation, investigation, and teamwork skills through practical exploration of the natural world. They demonstrated curiosity and enthusiasm as they learned about plants, animals, and scientific enquiry.

A particular highlight was caring for our school animals. The children showed responsibility and compassion while learning how to meet the animals' needs and ensure their wellbeing. We are proud of the maturity and respect Year 2 demonstrated throughout these experiences.



Farm and Country Day

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Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed Farm and Country Day, taking part in a range of hands-on activities that celebrated rural life and farming. The children showed great enthusiasm throughout the day and gained a deeper understanding of life in the countryside through fun and engaging experiences.



Careers Day

For our Careers Day this year, we were extremely lucky to welcome several parents from our class who generously gave up their time to deliver some fantastic sessions about their careers. The children enjoyed a wide variety of experiences, starting with ProTalent, who highlighted the importance of choosing a career that makes you happy and that you enjoy. We also took part in a wonderful and engaging Spanish lesson, learned about the importance of bones and caring for our bodies from a nurse at St Michael's Hospital, and welcomed our local police officers, who allowed the children to explore their police cars and try on different uniforms.

Last but certainly not least, Scania kindly gave the children the opportunity to look inside one of their vehicles, which was a memorable experience for everyone. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our kind parents and visitors for providing the children with such amazing opportunities and insights into the world of work. We were incredibly grateful for your support and generosity.

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A Thank You to Our Year 2 Parents

As our Year 2 journey comes to an end,
We'd like to thank you, our family and friends.

For every reading book, packed lunch and smile,
For all your support along the mile.

You've helped your children learn and grow,
In more ways than you may ever know.

We've laughed and learned and had such fun,
And we're so proud of all they've done.

So, thank you for your kindness, care and time,
For helping your children shine and climb.

We wish you all a summer bright and new,
And send our heartfelt thanks to each of you.



Miss Medcalf

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