

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. We have had a very busy and exciting final week of the first half of the autumn term. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support, patience and understanding this morning as we implemented a delayed start due to Storm Austen. The safety of our children, families and staff is always our highest priority, and we greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping us ensure everyone arrived safely at school.



We hope that you will all enjoy some rest and relaxation with your families and friends and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday 2nd November 2026**.

Wear it Pink Day 2026!



Run by the UK's largest breast cancer charity, Breast Cancer Now, Wear It Pink Day raises vital funds to support breast cancer research.

Today, our staff came to school wearing pink to show their support and admiration for our wonderful Miss Pedlar, who is currently battling secondary breast cancer. The sea of pink throughout the school was a small gesture to remind her that she is surrounded by a caring and supportive school community.

Miss Pedlar, your courage, strength and positivity continue to inspire us all. We are incredibly proud to stand alongside you.

Wear it Pink 2026

Scholastic Book Fair – Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November 2026

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair in school every day, after school from **Monday 9th November until Friday 13th November 2026**. Please do come along and have a look at the fantastic offers available. All the children will be given the opportunity with their classes, to look around the book fair during the day. **Please note, all payments will be online via a QR code.** More details will follow after half term.



T: 01736 753135

E: hello@connordowns.org.uk

W: www.connordowns.org.uk

Connor Downs Academy, Mutton Hill, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5DH

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Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

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Children in Need

Friday, 13th November 2026, is Children in Need Day. We are inviting children to come to school on this day wearing something yellow/Pudsey items for a donation of their choice which should be paid using the link below. Please note we are unable to accept cash donations. Thank you for your support.

[BBC Children In Need Donations 2026](#)



Aspens – New School Meals Menu

The new menu that will come into effect from Monday 2nd November has been emailed to all parents/carers along with this newsletter.

The menu will be set up on Arbor during the half term break and parents/carers will be able to book via Arbor before the start of the next half term. Thank you.

Special Menu – 5th November 2026

To mark Bonfire Night, Aspens are offering a special 'Sparkle Spectacular' Menu on 5th November, as detailed on the poster. The Pasta and Jacket Potato options will also be available, as usual.

Clocks Go Back – Sunday 25th October 2026

Reminder that the clocks go back an hour this weekend and summertime will end, meaning the evenings will get darker.



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The links below will help remind children, about road safety and keeping safe in the dark.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Keeping Children Safe in the Dark <https://firstaidforlife.org.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-dark/>

Dark Nights <https://www.childcare.co.uk/information/dark-nights-children-safety>



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Tempest Photos

On Wednesday, the Tempest Photographers came into school to take the children's individual and family photographs. We would like to thank all our parent/carer community for ensuring their children all arrived at school looking very smart in their full school uniforms and full of big smiles. All pictures have been sent home this week, with details of how to order online.



Harvest Assembly – Thank you!

This week in school we held our Harvest Assembly. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the families who donated food items towards our collection that will be given to the Connor Downs Food Cupboard. We are delighted that our 'Connor Downs family' has come together to support each other and the wider community and to give thanks to our farmers for bringing in the harvest.



Starting Secondary School – September 2027 – FINAL REMINDER - Application Deadline 31st October 2026



Together for Families

The deadline for applications is **31 October 2026**

Transfer to secondary school

September 2027

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

Information and guidance
Application form and information: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
Telephone: 0300 1234 101



www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

Applying for a secondary school place for September 2027

Special Educational Needs
If an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan has been issued for your child you do not need to complete an application form. Please contact the Statutory SEN Service for more information. Tel: 01872 324242 Email: statutorysen@cornwall.gov.uk

- 1 Decide on your preferred schools**
You are strongly advised to name **three** preferences on the application form. **Naming a second or third preference does not give you any less chance of getting a place at your preferred school.** When making your decision you should...
 - ...think about **how your child will get to school.** Go to www.cornwall.gov.uk/schooltransport for more information on whether your child would be entitled to home to school travel assistance.
 - ...look at the **admission arrangements** on our website that will be used to allocate places for each school.
 - ...consider naming your **nearest or designated school** as one of your preferences. You can find your nearest or designated school on our website.
 - ...look at the detailed **admissions information** on our website, also available on request.
- 2 Submit your application by 31 October 2026**
Apply online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
- 3 Wait to find out which school you have been allocated**
If you applied on time you will be notified of your allocation on **National Offer Day: 1 March 2027. Apply on time!** Late applications will only be dealt with after National Offer Day and there may not be any places left at your preferred schools.

Photo © Ashlee Webb 2020/09/09 16:39

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Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal - Reminder

We are delighted to be able to support this year's Poppy Appeal by selling poppies and related items in school.

A reminder that until Wednesday 11th November, and while stocks last, our Year 6 pupils will be visiting all classes every afternoon with the boxes of poppies and pupils can buy a poppy, or other poppy themed item for a donation of 50p.

Thank you for your support.



Family Link Worker Clinic

Our Family link worker from Cornwall Council, Jana Cowan-Dickie, will be available to meet with parents/carers in school on:

- Thursday 12th November from 9am

If you would like to meet with Jana, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk to register your interest.

If you are unable to make this date but would like to speak to Jana, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk and confirm your agreement for school to pass on your contact details to Jana, who will then make contact with you directly.

Early Help - Family Support Worker

I need some support with my child's behaviour.

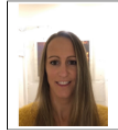
I wonder if there is any support available for dealing with my child's school experience.

Where can I find help for me so that I can be a parent more effectively?

My family really struggles with reading.

I wonder if my child is suffering from trauma because of what we have been through as a family.

I don't know what support I need. I just need some advice.



Hello my name is
Jana Cowan-Dickie
I am the Family Support Link Worker
for your school

If you need some advice or support for your family, please talk to the school to find out when the next Early Help drop in/coffee morning will be.

If you are really struggling and cannot wait, please ask the school to pass on your details and I will be happy to contact you.

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Smarter Smiles

This week, the Smarter Smiles Outreach Team visited our school to provide children with valuable information and advice about oral health, including effective toothbrushing techniques, the benefits of fluoride, and ways to maintain healthy teeth and gums.

As part of their visit, they administered the first of two fluoride varnish applications to children in Reception and Year 1 whose parents had provided consent. The team also delivered an engaging and informative classroom session for our Year 2 pupils, helping them to understand the importance of good oral hygiene from an early age.

Please take a look at the posters, which contain lots of useful information and practical tips to help support your child's oral health at home.

Smarter Smiles Newsletter- Open cups/easy flow cups

When should my baby start drinking from a cup?

Dentists recommend babies start to learn to drink water from a cup from six months old.



Choosing a cup.

Dentists recommend using an open cup or a free-flow cup or beaker.



Preventing tooth decay.

No-spill cups may damage young children's teeth.

Comfort sucking sweetened drinks from a bottle is one of the common causes of tooth decay.



Find out more.

For more dental top tips visit the Smarter Smiles Website.
<https://smartersmiles.co.uk/>



Smarter Smiles Newsletter Healthy Eating



Free Sugars

Any Sugars added to food and drinks.

Sugar in honey, syrups, unsweetened fruit and vegetable juices and smoothies all count as free sugars.



How much sugar should we have?

Children aged 2 to 3 no more than 14g.
3.5 sugar cubes.

Children aged 4 to 6 no more than 19g.
5 sugar cubes.

Children aged 7 to 10 no more than 24g.
6 sugar cubes.

Tips to cut down on sugar.

- Reducing sugar in drinks
- Reducing sugar in food
- Check nutrition labels and added sugars.
- Use the NHS food scanner app



Find out more.

For more dental top tips visit the Smarter Smiles Website.

<https://smartersmiles.co.uk/>

Did you know?

A Vanilla Chocolate Muller Corner Yogurt has 16.9g of sugar!!!



Smarter Smiles

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Advance Notification for Year 6 SATS tests in 2027 for Year 6 Parents:

A reminder to all Year 6 parents that SATs week will take place from Monday 10 May to Thursday 13 May. It is essential that children attend school every day during this week and arrive on time, as these tests are nationally timetabled and cannot be rescheduled.

- Monday 10 May 2027:
 - English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Tuesday 11 May 2027:
 - English reading test
- Wednesday 12 May 2027:
 - Mathematics Paper 1 and 2
- Thursday 13 May 2027:
 - Mathematics Paper 3

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.

Attendance

Attendance		
Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1 st Place	Year 1 / 2	98.2 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 23rd October 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 autumn term, on **Friday 6th November 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 – Willow

For her incredible attitude to learning. Willow is always ready to explore new experiences and works hard at everything she does. Well done, Willow!

Year 1 – Scarlett

For trying really hard in all her learning especially phonics. Well done, Scarlett!

Year 2 – Zennor

For working hard in English lessons and showing an understanding of subject and verb phrases. Well done, Zennor!

Year 3 – Florence M

For being a wonderful, kind and valued pupil in Year 3. Florence brightens our day with your desire to learn and positive attitude to learning. Thank you for being you. Well done, Florence!

Year 4 – Dylan

For his caring and kind attitude towards others and his brilliant contributions in class. Well done, Dylan!

Year 5 – Remy

For his carefully considered answers and increased contributions to our class discussions. Well done, Remy!

Year 6 – Sonnie

For his engagement in lessons and confidence to answer questions. Well done, Sonnie!

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Writer – Amelia (Year 6)

For writing a thoughtful and emotional diary inspired by Anne Frank. Well done, Amelia!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Louie (Year 1)

For working really hard in his phonics lessons, using his sounding out and blending skills to help him read. Well done, Louie!

KS2 Reader – Lola (Year 6)

For talking about what she has read with such passion and enthusiasm, clearly showing a love of reading! Well done, Lola!

Mathematician – Kingsley (Year 5)

For his excellent reasoning and problems solving skills in maths. Well done.

Numbots/Rock Star – Isaac (Year 4)

For knowing all his timetables fluently with an average pace of 0.88 seconds. Very impressive. Well done, Isaac!

Performer – Sienna (Year R)

For gaining the confidence in class to share her ideas during carpet time. It is lovely to see Sienna growing in confidence. Well done, Sienna!

Character – Imogen (Year 2)

For being an excellent role model. Imogen is kind, caring, helpful and has a great attitude towards learning. Well done, Imogen!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

Dates for Diary – Autumn 2

Monday 2nd November – First day of second half of the Autumn term
Monday 2nd November – Swimming – Year 5 – Week 1
Thursday 5th November – Year R visit – Tehidy Woods
Monday 9th November – Swimming – Year 5 – Week 2
Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November – Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday 10th November – Year R and Year 6 – Heights and Weights Check
Friday 13th November – Children In Need Day – More details to follow
Monday 16th November – Swimming – Year 5 – Week 3
Monday 23rd November – Year 5 – Nexus Workshop – morning only
Monday 23rd November – Swimming – Year 5 – Week 4
Thursday 26th November – FOCDA – Autumn Term Discos
Friday 27th November – Year 5 – Minack Theatre Visit
Monday 30th November – Swimming – Year 5 – Week 5
Monday 30th November – Friday 4th November – last week of afterschool clubs
Tuesday 1st December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity (Performance 1) 2pm start
Thursday 3rd December – EYFS/KS1 Nativity (Performance 2) 5pm start
Monday 7th December – Swimming – Year 5 – Week 6
Monday 7th December – EYFS/KS1 Christingle – Phillack Church – 5pm Start
Tuesday 8th December – KS2 Carol Concert (Performance 1) – 2pm in school
Tuesday 8th December – KS2 Carol Concert (Performance 2) – Phillack Church – 5pm
Friday 11th December – FOCDA Christmas Fayre – More details to follow
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner – More details to follow
Thursday 17th December – Last Day of autumn term – **2pm FINISH**
Friday 18th December – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2026 – FRIDAY 1ST JANUARY 2027

Monday 4th January 2027 – First day of spring term

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Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Holiday Clubs

Following on from the hugely successful Summer Holiday Club, we are delighted that Miss Medcalf will be running the following clubs during the October half term, held both here at Connor Downs Academy and at Mount Hawke Academy. Please see poster below for full details and how to book. LBSD clubs are always very popular and get booked up very quickly, so we are incredibly lucky to be able to host this holiday club at Connor Downs Academy.

WHAT TO BRING:
PACKED LUNCH
PLENTY OF FLUIDS
TOWEL
SPARE CLOTHES

PRICE:
£22.50 PER DAY

WHERE/TIMES:
Tuesday 27th October 2026
Connor Downs Academy
08:45am- 15:00pm
Wednesday 28th October 2026
Mount Hawke Academy
08:45am-15:00pm

TO BOOK-CONTACT:
bubbly-lb@hotmail.com
www.facebook/TheLaura-BethSchoolofDance

WEAR SOMETHING SPOOKY!

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

LBSD HALF-TERM MULTI-SKILLS MANIA! HOLIDAY CLUB
AGES 5-14.

LBSD

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MBA
October camps

Mounts Bay Academy

Ages 5-16

19, 20 & 21 October 2026
Mounts Bay Academy, TR18 3JT

Funded for FSM children and MBA students, or **£20 a day** for ages 5-16

Early drop off and late pick up available

Activities

- Arts & crafts
- Biking
- Sports
- Indoor games
- Fitness suite

More details? →
Scan the QR code

MBFDC FOOTBALL CAMPS

OCT HALF TERM

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

All children welcome to attend 🏆
Have fun, score goals & play football!

**THURS 22ND OCT
FRI 23RD OCT
MON 26TH OCT
TUES 27TH OCT**

- ✓ UEFA/FA Qualified Staff & DBS Checked
- ✓ Skills & ball techniques
- ✓ Fun activities, matches & tournaments
- ✓ Penalty shootouts, prizes & more!

PLAYERS NEED:

- Packed lunch & drinks
- Wet weather clothing & spares!
- Football boots for the new 3G pitch
- Shin pads
- Indoor Footwear (in case of poor weather!)

MOUNTS BAY ACADEMY 3G PITCH
Boscathnoe Lane, Heamoor, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 3JT

Online Registration Link
www.mbfdc.co.uk

Scan the QR code to visit the MBFDC website for further details!

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