Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Friday 20th November 2026

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. We have had another busy week in school, with children completing their assessments and continuing to practise for our upcoming Christmas performances. The excitement is certainly building as rehearsals for the Nativity and Carol Concert gather pace, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, effort and perseverance the children are showing as they learn songs, lines and performances. We look forward to sharing these special events with you in the coming weeks

Scholastic Book Fair



We would like to thank all the parents and carers who visited our Scholastic Book Fair last week. We are delighted to share that with the funds raised, we have been able to purchase new books for our library. Thank you for your kind support and for encouraging a love of reading.

Year 5 – Science and Maths



Year 5 have enjoyed some exciting learning across the curriculum. In Science, the children investigated friction, exploring how different surfaces affect movement and resistance. In Maths, they learned about cube numbers, using practical activities and reasoning skills to deepen their understanding of this new concept. The children showed great enthusiasm and curiosity in both subjects, and we were impressed by their engagement and perseverance.









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Girls Football

On Thursday, our Girls' Football Team travelled to Mount Hawke Academy for a friendly match, with every player showing great determination and teamwork while representing our school. Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support the girls in their first match of the year. We are very proud of their efforts and enthusiasm.







Children's Hospice South West Santa's on the Run



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Friends of Connor Downs Academy Autumn Disco - Reminder



The Friends of Connor Downs Academy are delighted to confirm that their Autumn Term Discos will take place **next Thursday, 26th November 2026**.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: 4:45pm to 5:45pm

The entrance fee is **£2.00 per child**, payable on the door. Sweets, crisps and other refreshments will be available to purchase from the canteen.

Please note that **drinks will not be available to purchase**, so children should bring a **named water bottle** with them. Please do not send fizzy drinks.

To help keep money safe and organised, we kindly ask that children bring a **named wallet or purse** containing their entrance fee and any additional spending money.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Children should bring their disco clothes to school on the morning of the disco in a **named bag** and hand them to their class teacher. At the end of the school day, children will change into their disco clothes and will be encouraged to place their school uniform back into the same bag. These bags will be returned to parents and carers when children are collected after the disco.

Years 3 to 6

KS2 children should be dropped off at the **back door of the school** and signed in by a member of staff or the Friends committee.

Please note that, regardless of existing walk-home permissions, **all children must be collected by an adult at the end of the disco** and will not be permitted to leave the school site unaccompanied.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a fantastic evening of music, dancing and fun! 🎵✨

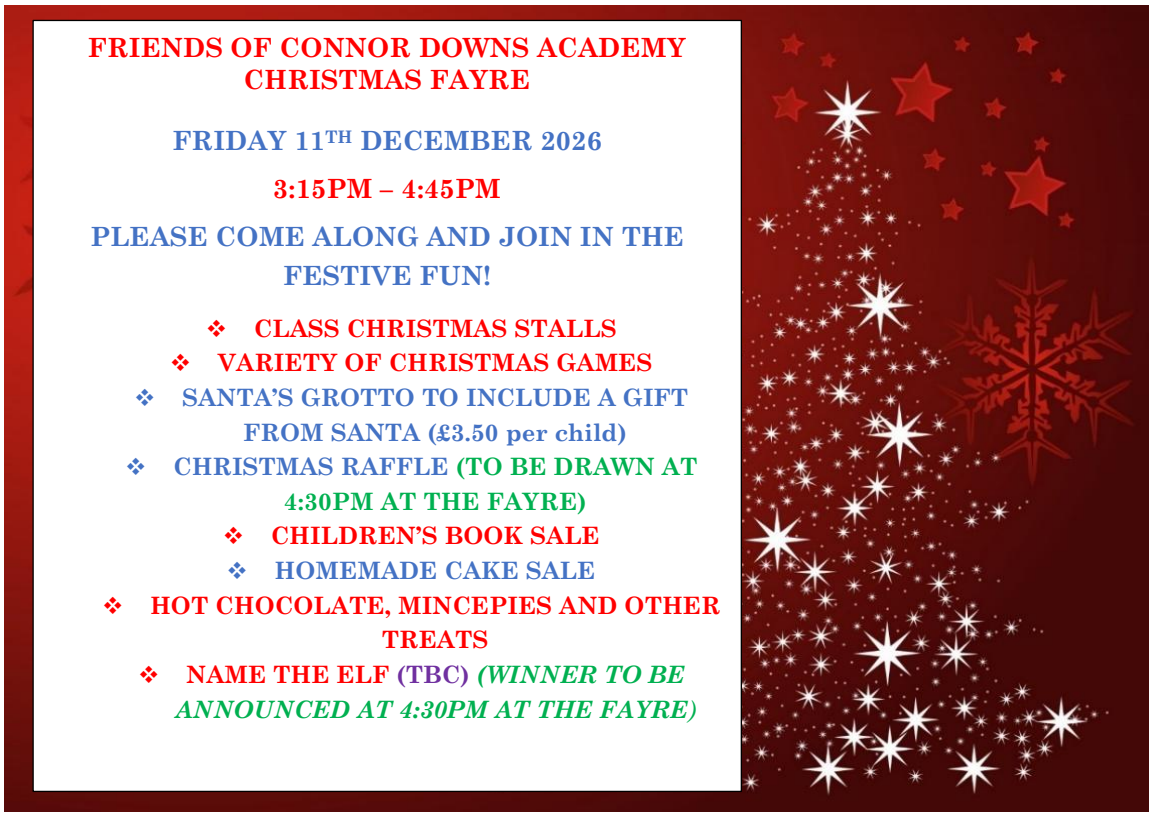
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Christmas Fayre



Card Payments

PLEASE NOTE, WE CAN TAKE CARD PAYMENTS AT THE FAYRE. YOU WILL BE GIVEN TOKENS TO SPEND AT THE VARIOUS STALLS TO THE MONETRAY VALUE OF YOUR CARD PAYMENT. THANK YOU!

A member of the Friends committee will be available in the Year 5 classroom to take your card payments and issue you with tokens. This facility will be situated next to the Raffle and Name the Elf! Tokens are valued at 50p each and every stall will take these tokens.

Requests for donations for the Christmas Fayre

We are looking for any donations to help with this year's Christmas Fayre.

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- **Cake Sale**: Are you a home baker who would be willing to provide us with some homemade cakes/buns/traybakes/cookies to sell at the Fayre? To be allergy aware, **an ingredients sheet must be completed** to go alongside your baking. Please note, **NO NUTS**.
- **Teddy Tombola**: Do you have any good quality teddies that your children no longer want and are happy to donate?
- **General Tombola**: Any items suitable for a general tombola.



- **Chocolate Tombola:** Anything suitable for a chocolate tombola, including chocolate suitable for Dairy Free/Gluten Free/Vegan/Vegetarian.

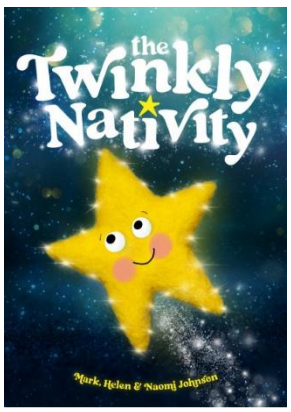


- **Raffle Prizes**: We are politely requesting that if you or anyone you know owns a local business and would be willing to donate a raffle prize, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk or pass donations to Mrs. Gallagher in the school office.

All donations, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Please can any donations be brought to the school office and given to Mrs Gallagher, anytime between now and the morning of the Christmas Fayre.
For any cake donations, please can these be brought to the school office and given to Mrs Gallagher on the morning of the Christmas Fayre **ONLY**.

Thank you in advance to our parent/carer community for all their generosity and support.



Christmas Events

EYFS/KS1 Nativity – The Twinkly Nativity!

The children in EYFS and Years 1 and 2 will give two performances of their Nativity, 'The Twinkly Nativity!' The performances will take place at 2pm on Tuesday 1st December and 5pm on Thursday 3rd December. **Letters with details of how to book tickets have been sent home with children this week.**

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EYFS /KS1 Christingle



The children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in their Christingle, being held at Phillack Church. This will take place on **Monday, 7th December** starting at 5:00pm. Please can we ask that children and parents/carers **arrive no later than 4:45pm**. All children to please wear full school uniform and to have long hair tied back, thank you. **Letters have been sent home to parents/carers this week with full details.**

KS2 Christmas Carol Concert – Glad Tidings!



Children from KS2 will be taking part in their carol concert on **Tuesday, 8th December.** We are offering two performances, one starting at **2:00pm** at school. A single ticket, costing £1 will available per child. **No additional tickets will be available**. **Letters have been sent home to parents/carers this week with full details.**

The second will take place at Phillack Church on the same day, at **5:00pm**. Please can we ask that children and parents/carers **arrive no later than 4:45pm**. All children to please wear full school uniform, thank you. The service at Phillack Church is a wonderful event that makes very special memories for all the children and their parents/carers/grandparents.

There will be a retiring collection at both Church events with all proceeds going to the Church. Please do donate as generously as you can, Thank you!

All in school performance tickets will be charged at £1 per ticket. All proceeds go to additional resources for the children in school. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Post Box



Our Christmas post box will be available in the main corridor of the KS2 building **from Monday 30th November** until the end of term for children to post Christmas cards to their friends.

The **last day** for posting cards will be **Wednesday 16th December**.

To help our Year 6 prefects sort and deliver the cards, please ensure that both the recipient's name and year group are clearly written on the envelope.

Thank you for your support.

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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.

Parent/Carer Forums

Free online Parent/Carer Forums are available to Aspire families only during the second half of the Autumn term. These sessions are delivered in partnership with the Autism in Schools Team and offer parents and carers practical advice, information and support on a range of topics to help them support their child or young person. The forums are open to all Aspire families and an autism diagnosis is not required to attend.
Please find below the forum information and Microsoft Teams joining links.

Autism in Schools Team ~ Free Online Parent / Carer Forums 2026-27

TOPIC	DATE/TIME	TEAMS LINK
Autumn Term 2 Sensory Processing & Regulation	Wednesday 2nd December 2026 1 – 2.30pm	**Microsoft Teams meeting** **Join:** https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/387018250968 63?p=JYXBvnB8z48QPEuUoX Meeting ID: 387 018 250 968 63 Passcode: H9CZ3XK9
	Tuesday 8th December 2026 9.30- 11am	**Microsoft Teams meeting** **Join:** https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/382858306542792?p=YgMCi1UetqHumfRqO3 Meeting ID: 382 858 306 542 792 Passcode: iW2Yq2hT

Parking Reminder

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that, to help keep everyone safe, especially during busy drop-off and collection times, please be mindful of your speed and ensure that you park safely and considerately.
We kindly ask all road users to show courtesy and respect to our neighbours and fellow members of the school community. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe.

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After School Clubs – Cancellations

The final week of after-school clubs will be the week beginning 30th November. However, due to the School Discos on Thursday 27th November and the EYFS/KS1 Nativity on Thursday 3rd December, the following clubs have now finished for the Autumn Term:

- Girls' Football
- Gymnastics
- French
- Geography

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Attendance

Attendance Our school target for attendance is 97%		
1st Place	Year 6	100.0 %
2nd Place	Year R	98.3 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars
Friday 13th November 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 27th 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 – Freddie
For being a good friend and a hard worker. Freddie has made great progress this week. Well done, Freddie!

Year 1– Willow
For working hard in every lesson and following instructions carefully. Well done, Willow!

Year 2 – Jesse
For his excellent effort during Assessment Week and the positive attitude he showed throughout. Well done, Jesse!

Year 3 – Ben
For consistently demonstrating outstanding maturity, a positive attitude to learning, excellent self-control, and being a fantastic role model. Well done, Ben!

Year 4 – Maeson
For giving his best effort in his NTS quizzes and achieving fantastic maths scores. Well done, Maeson!

Year 5 – Sully
For his amazing contributions and excellent scientific thinking during discussions about water resistance. Well done, Sully!

Year 6 – Zac
For listening carefully to instructions and creating an accurate landscape collage in art. Well done, Zac!

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Writer – James (Year 4)
For producing an excellent setting description, using key features effectively and creating vivid imagery that brought the scene to life. Well done, James!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Archie (Year R)
For his love of reading which is really showing in our phonics lessons. Archie knows all of his sounds and is blending really well. Well done, Archie!

KS2 Reader – Emily (Year 5)
For securely improving her STAR Reading score through regular reading. Amazing progress, well done, Emily!

Mathematician – Mackenzie (Year 6)
For making fantastic progress in maths this term. Mackenzie's careful reading and accurate working have really paid off. Keep believing in yourself, you can achieve great things! Well done, Mackenzie!

Numbots/Rock Star – Ava R (Year 3)
For excellent recall of the 6 and 8 times tables and superb perseverance. Well done, Ava, on your fantastic progress!

Performer – Florence (Year 1)
For working really hard and showing great perseverance during Assessment Week. Well done, Florence!

Character – Thomas (Year 2)
For being an excellent role model within our school community. Thomas has impeccable manners and always greets everyone with a cheerful "Good morning" and a polite "Goodbye" at the end of the day. Well done, Thomas!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Eddy
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Dates for Diary – Autumn 2

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
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner
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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