# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Friday 27th November 2026

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. We have had another busy and exciting week in school with educational visits, Nativity and Carol Concert practices and preparations for the Christmas Fayre.





**Year 5 – Nexus**

This week, the children had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Nexus lab, where they explored **gears, levers and pulleys** through a range of exciting hands-on activities. Using real scientific equipment, they carried out experiments that helped them understand how forces work and how simple machines can help us in everyday life.

The children were fully engaged throughout the session, showing great curiosity as they tested ideas, made predictions and discovered how different mechanisms work. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they applied their classroom learning in a practical setting, bringing their understanding of forces to life in a memorable and enjoyable way. The experience inspired lots of thoughtful questions and helped deepen their scientific knowledge in a fun and meaningful way.







Thank you to the parents/carers who supported this visit and to the staff at Nexus for hosting this fantastic workshop.



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## Perran Moon Visit

We were thrilled to welcome **Perran Moon MP** to Connor Downs Academy today to meet one of our Year 1 pupils, who was the Key Stage 1 winner of Perran's Christmas Card Competition. As part of her prize, she received a special gift, and her winning design is now being used on Christmas cards sent from Perran's office to colleagues, the Prime Minister, constituents and people across the local community. Congratulations!





## Year 5/6 Cricket

On Tuesday 24th November, Year 5 and 6 travelled to Mounts Bay Academy to take part in an Indoor Cricket Festival. Five other schools participated: St Hilary, St Ives Junior, Alverton, Marazion and Pensans.

The children were split into two teams, Team A and Team B. Team A won one match and narrowly lost another, while Team B lost their match. All of the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the festival and were proud of what they achieved.

A huge thank you to the staff and parents who supported this fantastic opportunity and helped make the event such a success.



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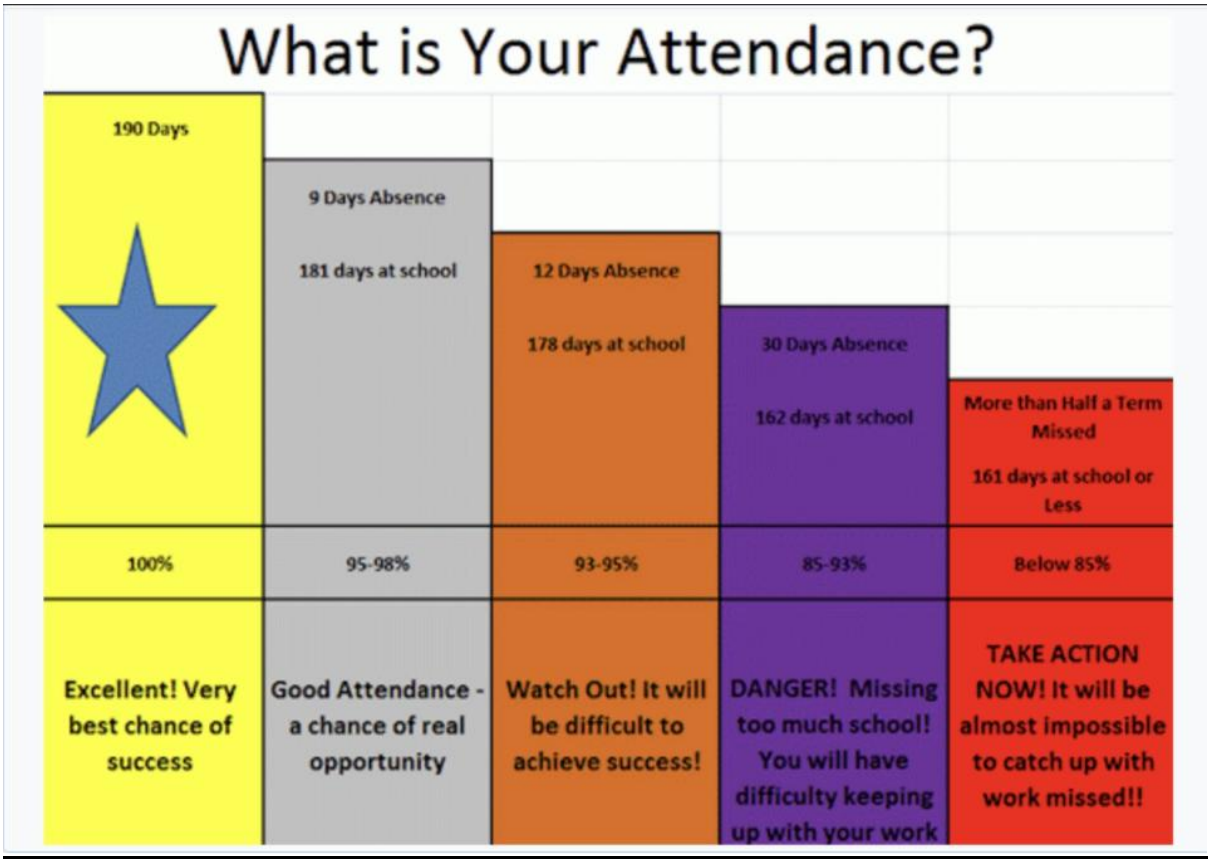


## The Importance of Good Attendance

Regular school attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities for learning, developing friendships, building confidence and establishing positive routines. Even a small number of missed days can have a significant impact on a child's progress. For example, a child with 95% attendance will miss around 9 days of learning across the school year, while attendance below 90% means a child is missing the equivalent of almost four weeks of education. We understand that children will sometimes be unwell, but we encourage families to ensure that every possible school day is attended. By working together to achieve excellent attendance, we can give all children the very best chance of success both academically and socially. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child arrive at school every day, on time and ready to learn.

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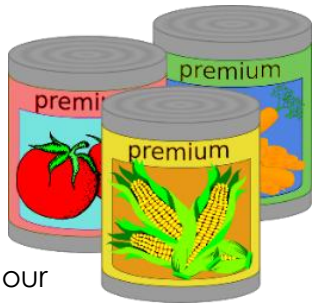
## Christmas Food Cupboard Donations




To support our local community, we are politely requesting parents/carers to send in either a tin or packet of food with their child/children that we can then donate to the Connor Downs Food Cupboard in the lead up to Christmas. The food cupboard is a vital part of the community and is available for any family in need. All donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support to our Academy and our local community.

## Christmas Fayre

**FRIENDS OF CONNOR DOWNS ACADEMY CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

**FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2026**

**3:15PM – 4:45PM**

**PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FESTIVE FUN!**

- **CLASS CHRISTMAS STALLS**
- **VARIETY OF CHRISTMAS GAMES**
- **SANTA'S GROTTO TO INCLUDE A GIFT FROM SANTA (£3.50 per child)**
- **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE (TO BE DRAWN AT 4:30PM AT THE FAYRE)**
- **CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE**
- **HOMEMADE CAKE SALE**
- **HOT CHOCOLATE, MINCEPIES AND OTHER TREATS**
- **NAME THE ELF *(WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT 4:30PM AT THE 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!***

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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.



- **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.

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## Name The Elf!



We are over the moon to announce that the Name The Elf game is back, and this year it's even more exciting because we have not just one, but THREE elves for your child/children to name!

Your child/children can choose from a fantastic list of 100 names. Each entry costs just £1, and they will need to clearly write their name and Year Group in the box beneath their chosen name from the list provided. Make sure they make their choice wisely – who knows what festive personality each Elf may have!

The grand reveal will take place during our Christmas Fayre on Friday 11th December. Good luck to everyone! We can't wait to see which names soar to the top!

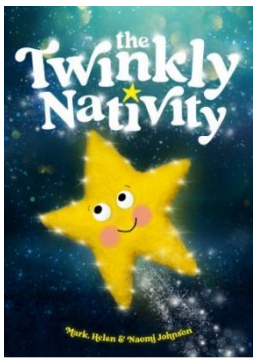
## After School Clubs

A reminder that the **final week of after-school clubs** for the autumn term is **next week**, **beginning Monday 30th November**.

Please note the following changes:

- Due to the **EYFS/KS1 Nativity**, **Girls' Football, Gymnastics, French and Geography clubs** will not run on **Thursday 3rd December**.
- The final session for **Sports4Tots** will be **Friday 4th December**. This is because the **Christmas Fayre** will be held on **Friday 11th December**.

**Details of our spring term clubs will be shared at the beginning of next term. Thank you for your continued 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 next week, at 2pm on Tuesday 1st December and 5pm on Thursday 3rd December. **Tickets have been sent home with children today.**

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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.

## 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**. **Tickets will be sent home with children next Friday, 4th December.**

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 next 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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## Friends of Connor Downs Academy

Please find the link below to the Friends of Connor Downs Academy Facebook page, where all upcoming events are advertised. We encourage you to take a look and follow the page to stay up to date with the latest news, events and fundraising activities.

[Friends of Connor Downs Academy Facebook Page]

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026

We are delighted to share that, following our recent poppy sales in support of the Royal British Legion, Connor Downs Academy raised a fantastic **£174.99**.

Thank you to everyone who donated and purchased a poppy. Your generosity has helped support the invaluable work of the Royal British Legion, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.

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

## Attendance

| **Attendance**<br>Our school target for attendance is 97% | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1st Place | Year 4 | 98.4 % |
| 2nd Place | Year 1/2 | 97.6 % |
| 3rd Place | Year 6 | 97.0 % |

## Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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## Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars
## Friday 27th 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 4th December 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 – Maeva**
For growing in confidence so much since starting school. Maeva is keen to share her ideas in class and is building wonderful friendships. Well done, Maeva!

**Year 1– Lola**
For her excellent effort and determination during the assessments which has been fantastic to see. Lola should be very proud of herself and all that she has achieved. Well done, Lola!

**Year 2 – Charlotte**
For her effort in class and being settled ready to learn in every lesson. Charlotte is a great role model for behaviour for learning. Well done, Charlotte!

**Year 3 – Missy**
For her outstanding focus and behaviour. We are so proud of the independent choices Missy makes every day. Keep up the great work! Well done, Missy!

**Year 4 – Zander**
For his excellent focus and determination in learning. Zander consistently challenges himself, achieving outstanding results in his NTS assessments. Well done, Zander!

**Year 5 – Harry**
For the excellent effort and concentration shown when building a bridge and creating a vector drawing. Harry's hard work and attention to detail were outstanding. Well done, Harry!

**Year 6 – Miriam**
For her resilience and determination in maths. Thank you for always asking questions, working hard, and never giving up. Well done, Miriam!

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**Writer – Millie (Year R)**
For the fantastic effort you put into improving your handwriting and letter formation in phonics. Your determination and positive attitude to learning are a pleasure to see. Well done!

**EYFS/KS1 Reader – Imogen (Year 2)**
For the excellent progress she is making in reading. Imogen's commitment to reading at home and her enjoyment of discussing stories with adults are helping her achieve great success. Well done, Imogen!

**KS2 Reader – Florence S (Year 3)**
For her outstanding reading achievement! Having read over 140,000 words, her love of reading shines through in her strong comprehension and excellent writing. Well done, Florence!

**Mathematician – Lowenna (Year 3)**
For showing great confidence and determination in maths. Lowenna is answering reasoning and problem-solving questions in depth, working systematically, and using a range of methods successfully. Well done, Lowenna!

**Numbots/Rock Star – Charlie (Year 4)**
For his excellent commitment to times tables practice, becoming fluent across all tables and achieving a brilliant average speed of 1.47 seconds. Well done, Charlie!

**Performer – Colby (Year 6)**
For performing an outstanding gymnastics routine in PE with confidence, skill, and precision. A fantastic achievement. Well done, Colby!

**Character – Ethan (Year 5)**
For being an excellent role model and always giving 100% in every sporting activity. Ethan's effort, enthusiasm, and determination are a credit to him. Well done, Ethan!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Eddy
Head of School

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## Dates for Diary – Autumn 2

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

## Flu Vaccination – Walk In Clinics




If you would like your child to receive the Flu vaccination and they were absent when the team came into school on 9th October, there are 2 walk in clinics that have been set up by the School Immunisation team. Please see posters for more details on how to book.




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**Bookings now LIVE for Christmas!**

Christmas activities are now live for bookings! We are proud to be offering a wide range of activities and family experiences across the county for young people in Cornwall. To find out more, head to our website linked below.







Due to the recent change in eligibility, regardless of if your eligibility has not changed, **your code required to book activities will have changed**. You will need to re-access your code via the Cornwall Council website, linked below.

Please be reminded that children eligible for **targeted benefits related Free School Meals can access the activities free of charge.**

Simply search for your unique code by clicking the link below and enter it on the Playwaze website when booking.

[Click Here to find Activities near you]

[Click here to access your NEW code]

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