

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and that you enjoyed the half term break.

This week, our second half of the spring term has begun with the exciting and welcome news from the Government that schools will be fully open to all children, from March 8<sup>th</sup>. We are delighted to reopen to our whole school community and would like to extend a warm welcome to those pupils and their families who have joined us this term during the lockdown period.



As we approach the end of our third national lockdown, I would like to extend a warm thank you on behalf of myself and all staff working in school, for your ongoing support with the home learning and the in school learning. We do not underestimate the challenges that this lockdown period has created for children and adults, but together, we have remained connected and purposeful in our learning. Remote learning will continue until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

I would like to share with you and reassure you of our detailed plans for our whole school reopening on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Social distancing**

Social distancing will be re-explained to children and there will be an expectation that it remains in place wherever possible. DfE guidance makes it clear that this is not an expectation for our youngest children in Reception.

### **The DfE guidance states:**

*Minimising contacts and mixing between people reduces transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This is important in all contexts, and schools must consider how to implement this. Schools must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.*

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

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Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

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## Implementation at Connor Downs Academy

An extensive risk assessment has been undertaken which has been agreed by the Aspire Health and Safety Team. This risk assessment gives clear guidelines for our daily operations:

- Our children will be grouped in their normal classes which will be referred to as 'bubbles.' The bubbles will work, play and eat separately.
- Social distancing markings have been sprayed on paths and playgrounds and were successfully used during the autumn term. We have included a table identifying staggered times and allocated entrances and exits. Please adhere to the times and markings when dropping off and picking up your child/ren.
- To minimise contact within the parent/carer group, we kindly ask that only **one adult** accompanies their child/ren to school. Parents/carers will not be permitted to gather before or after school on the school site and we ask that adults enter and exit the school site promptly. When waiting, parents/carers must keep a two metre distance and adhere to the social distancing markings painted on the school playgrounds and paths. Parents/carers should avoid face to face contact with each other and staff.
- When dropping off or collecting children, we ask that parents/carers wear a face covering whilst on the school site.
- Should you wish for your child to wear a mask on the way to/ home from school, this is at your discretion. However, as per government guidance, we do not allow the wearing of face covering by pupils within school. If your child is wearing a mask during their journey to and from school, can you please ensure your child has a sealable plastic bag so that their mask can be safely removed and stored during school hours
- Tape will be used on interior floors in corridors to direct children and adults to keep left and to adhere to social distancing.
- For children in EYFS and Year 1, we will be using carpet spots to direct pupils. For pupils in Year 2 to Year 6, we will be seating children side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on.
- Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered so that bubbles do not have contact with other bubbles. Packed lunches and school lunches will be eaten in the bubbles' classroom.
- There will be staggered drop off and pick-ups for each bubble. Please see the table below.

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## Arrival and Departure Plan:

Please note there are some amendments to the timings and entry/exit points from the autumn term.

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Arrival Time</u>	<u>Where?</u>	<u>Departure Time</u>
Year R	8.30am	Through the playground and up the steps to the Year R door.	3.10pm
Year 1	8.50am	Through playground, up the ramp and to Year 1 outdoor provision.	3.15pm
Year 2	8.35am	Through the playground and up the ramp. Through KS1 main entrance.	3.20pm
Year 3	8.30am	Up granite steps and into Year 3.	3.15pm
Year 4	8.45am	Up granite steps and into Year 4	3.20pm
Year 5	8.40am	Through the top gate and through the main entrance.	3.25pm
Year 6	8.30am	Through the top gate and through the main entrance.	3.30pm

Staff will be ready to greet your child at the designated door and to dismiss your child at the end of the day.

For parents with more than one child, we recommend escorting your youngest child to the designated door first, followed by older siblings.

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## Equipment

- Personal equipment for each child i.e. pencil, rubber, ruler, will be stored in named, plastic wallets and will be kept on the pupil desk. This equipment will be provided by the school. At this stage, we kindly ask that no personal pencil cases are to be brought to school.
- Classroom based resources, such as books and games, can be used and shared within the class; these will be cleaned regularly, along with all frequently touched surfaces. Resources that are shared such as sports, art and science equipment will also be cleaned frequently.
- It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books and book bags.
- Soft toys cannot be brought into school.
- A personal labelled water bottle will be needed every day.
- Children, teachers and TAs can take books and other shared resources home, although unnecessary sharing should be avoided, especially where this is not educationally beneficial. Books in plastic covers should be left untouched for 72 hours and paper books should be left untouched for 24 hours.
- Reading books and home sharer books will continue to be sent home with each child on a Monday and will stay home for the child/parent to read on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening. On Friday, the home sharer book and reading book must be brought to school to be placed in a classroom quarantine box for 72 hours. On the following Monday, teachers/TA's will check home sharer books to ensure that children have read and will change the reading book, if necessary. Children will continue to read in school every day and will be given an additional reading book at their level for classroom use.

## School Uniform

Normal school uniform will be expected on return to school, **including black school shoes**. Please see the school website for uniform expectations. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's/children's first and second name.

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## PE

Reception and KS1 Classes will be able to change into PE kit at their desks. For KS2 children, due to limited changing facilities, we are offering the children the opportunity to come to school dressed in their PE kit on their allocated PE day. facilities.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 4	Year 3	Year 6	Year 5

If your child wears their PE kit to school, on their allocated PE day, please could they wear their school jumper over their t-shirt. If you would like your child/children to wear tracksuit bottoms over their shorts this is fine. If possible, please could we ask that the tracksuit bottoms are navy or black in colour.

## Attendance expectations

It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

School attendance will therefore be **mandatory** again from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age.
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

## The School Office

The School office will remain out of bounds to the pupils and parents/carers except in an emergency. Should parents/carers need to contact the school, please do so via email [hello@connordowns.org.uk](mailto:hello@connordowns.org.uk) or telephone 01736 753135. If parents/carers would like to speak with a member of staff, this will be by appointment only.

All payments must be made using parent pay as all schools must remain cashless. We will currently be unable to sell uniform items via reception.

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## Curriculum

After an initial welcome back to school, transition health and well-being activities and assessments, we will resume all regular learning. Inevitably, we will need to identify and initiate 'catch-up' interventions - these learning support opportunities will be in addition to our broad and vibrant curriculum with plenty of outdoor experience and not instead of it.

Whole school gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship will not be possible. However, children will still have times of quiet reflection within their class bubbles and our full Personal, Social and Emotional curriculum will be ongoing and delivered through SCARF framework. SCARF stands for Safety Caring Achievement Resilience and Friendship.

## Pupil wellbeing and support

Following the return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March, the staff will need to be sensitive to children's needs. We will offer opportunities to share experiences, look forward to the time ahead together and discuss health and wellbeing strategies in an age appropriate way using our Trauma Informed Schools approach. If you would like to inform your child's/ren's class teacher of any experiences during lockdown, please send an email entitled; "What I would like the teacher to know" to [hello@connordowns.org.uk](mailto:hello@connordowns.org.uk). This will enable us to know what the experience of lockdown has been for your family and you can share anything you wish with staff. This will be kept confidential.

## Behaviour Expectations

Our 'Managing and supporting positive behaviour' policy is located on our school website. This policy has been updated to take into account the Covid-19 expectations, see below. Please read through these expectations with your child/ren prior to return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Staff will support children to become familiar with and to follow these expectations, in order to safeguard the school community.

## COVID-19 Expectations

The below expectations are informed by the DfE Guidance:

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Key areas from the DfE document below:

- All children to follow the altered arrival and departure routines and to adhere to staff instructions.
- All children to follow instructions on hygiene including handwashing and sanitising throughout the school day.
- All children to understand the need to remain in their allocated bubbles during teaching and break times, to support social distancing measures.
- All pupils to stringently follow the social distancing measures around the school site as indicated by floor and playground markings and expectations within each bubble setting.
- All pupils to use a tissue when coughing, sneezing. Pupils to know and follow the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it,' rule.
- All pupils to avoid touching their mouth, nose and eyes with their hands.
- Pupils to immediately report to an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus.
- Pupils to understand that they must not share any of their equipment including drinking bottles, with any other pupil.
- Pupils to follow all instructions given at breaktimes including location, access to equipment and social distancing during play.
- Pupils to only use the allocated toilet facilities for their bubble and to wash hands thoroughly before returning to class.
- Pupils to understand that there is a zero tolerance on coughing and spitting towards another person. Should this take place, the parents/carers will be contacted and the pupil will be asked to leave the site on Health and Safety grounds.
- The Good to be Green rewards system will remain in place with golden time being conducted within the bubble setting.

## **Assessments**

The DfE have indicated that all statutory primary assessments have been cancelled for the 2020/2021 academic year.. These include:

- a phonic screening check for Y2 pupils in the second part of the Autumn Term (to fulfil the missed assessment requirement from Y1)
- the phonics screening check for Y1 in May 2021

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- KS1 tests and teacher assessment for Y2 in May 2021
- the Y4 multiplication tables check in June 2021
- KS2 tests and teacher assessment for year six in May 2021

## **COVID-19 Asymptomatic Staff Testing Programme Across Aspire Academies**

Every primary school in England now has access to rapid coronavirus testing for staff only. This testing, known as lateral flow testing, for our staff, is now taking place twice a week.

Please be aware that in a positive test scenario, you may receive communication of a bubble closure (if your child is in school) at extremely short notice, before school, on the morning of the closure. **You will be informed by text so please check your text messages from 8am onwards on a Monday and a Thursday morning.**

## **Reporting Positive COVID-19 Test (out of hours)**

If you receive a positive COVID-19 test, in the first instance please contact the school office by phone. If the office is closed, please complete the form at the link below to report a positive test.

<http://www.aspireacademytrust.org/coronavirus>

## **Remaining Term Dates 2020/2021 Academic Year**

### **Spring Term:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

Half Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Easter Holidays: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### **Summer Term:**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Half Term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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## Remaining Inset Days for 2020/2021 Academic Year

On these days school will be **closed to all children**:

- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021



## Change to Menu – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March (St Piran's Day)

To celebrate St Piran's Day next Friday, there will be a change to the advertised menu as set on ParentPay. The options will be cocktail steak pasty, or cheese and onion pasty, chips and beans or salad. Please book the relevant meat or vegetarian option via ParentPay.

## Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week, to include both children in school and home learning.

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## Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

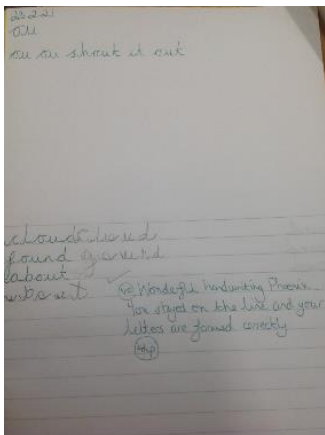
### Year R – Aubrey

For her excellent behaviour for learning and 'digging deeper' when exploring place value within 10 during playful learning.



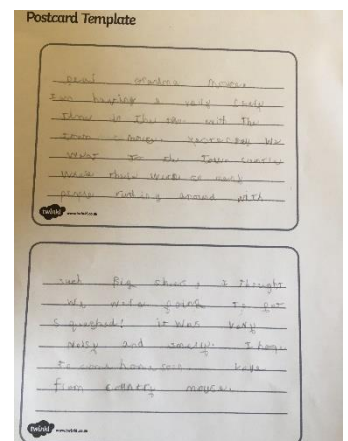
### Year 1 – Phoenix

For working hard across all his subjects, especially for his writing in his phonics work. Well done Phoenix, please keep up this brilliant work!



### Year 2 – Lowen

For writing a postcard as a character from our class book and showing his punctuation skills when writing his final draft.



### Year 3 – Amelia H

For her fantastic work with her home learning. Amelia has shown great enthusiasm, effort and creativity, producing some super work. Well done Amelia!



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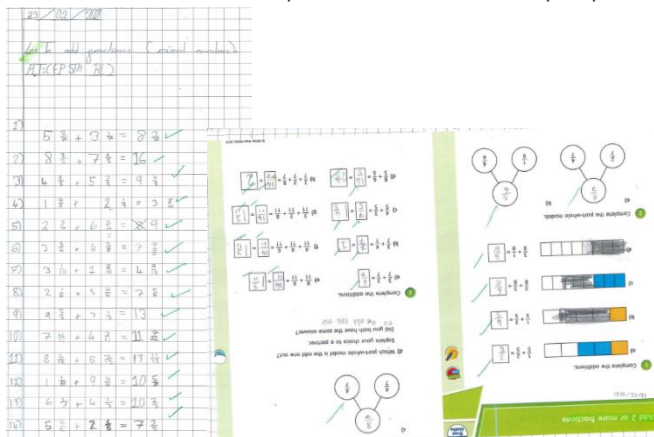
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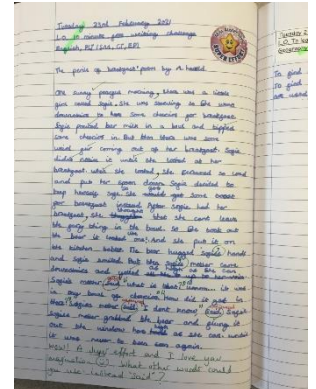
## Year 4 – Layla

For her positivity, enthusiasm and commitment to learning since returning to school. Layla gives 100% to everything she does with beautiful presentation. Keep up the super work Layla!



## Year 5 – Olivia BS

For her bravery in making contributions to our discussions about fractions which highlight her deeper level of understanding.



## Year 6 – Oscar

For his superb attitude towards taking part in PE activities in school. Oscar has inspired the other children in class to build their step count each day with our Moki fitness trackers. Oscar always gives 100% - brilliant effort!



Thank you for taking the time to read this information. Please be assured that the safety and well-being of all our children has been our highest priority in planning for the return in March.

We are really looking forward to being together again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy  
Head of School

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