



**Connor Downs
Academy**

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Friday 10th December 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well. This week in school has been incredibly busy with preparations for the forthcoming Christmas events.

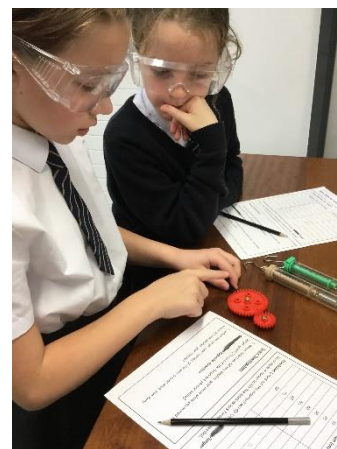
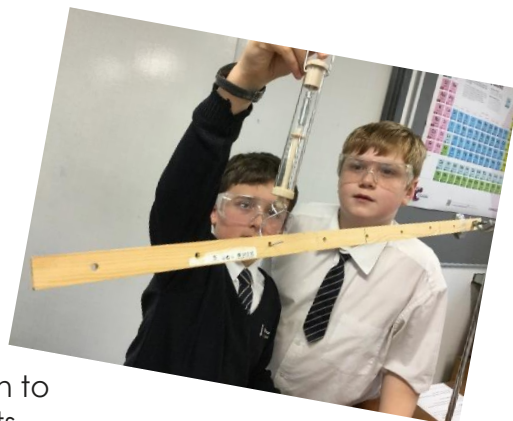


Year 5 Nexus Workshop

Last Friday, the children from Year 5 visited the Nexus site at Camborne to take part in a workshop learning more about forces. The children made predictions about levers before testing them in a real laboratory.

They then learned about gears and how they can be used to change direction and speed.

Finally, in another practical task, the children tested how pulleys can be used to make lifting easier. Everyone showed great interest and enthusiasm in the workshops and were keen to return to school to write up their experiments.



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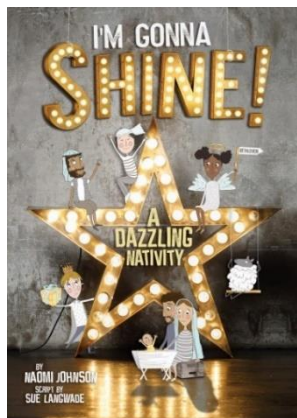




Year R – Sponsored Welly Walk - Tehidy Woods

We are delighted to announce that following the Reception class sponsored welly walk to Tehidy Woods in November, they have raised a fantastic £505.50 which will be used to purchase resources to support the EYFS children.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the children who made it such a fun occasion and to all the parents/carers, family and friends who gave so generously.



EYFS / KS1 Nativity

Lights, camera, action!

This week, our EYFS and KS1 children took to the stage to perform their Christmas Nativity, Out of the Ark's: 'I'm Gonna Shine!'

During each performance, the children's excitement and enthusiasm for this special Christmas celebration truly shone. With beaming smiles, the children performed a variety of songs and dances with confidence and skill. Each child played a vital role in making our show a huge success.



We are so proud of our youngest children for sharing their Nativity story and for truly bringing the Christmas spirit to Connor Downs Academy!



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Christmas Post Box – Final Week!



A reminder that the Christmas post box is situated in the main corridor in our KS2 building. This is available until the end of term for the children to post their Christmas cards to their friends. Please can we ask that parents/carers ensure that both the **recipient's name and their year group** are marked clearly on the envelope to aid our Year 6 when sorting into year groups for delivery. Thank you.

Christmas Events Reminders

Please can we ask all parents/carers, family and friends wishing to attend either the Carol Concert or the Christingle, take an LFD test on the day. Due to the recent change in guidance, we are also asking everyone to wear a face mask in Church. Please note, there will be no communal signing. Thank you for your support and understanding.

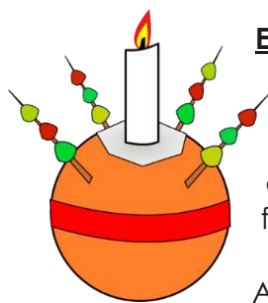
KS2 Carol Concert

Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking part in their carol concert at Phillack Church, next **Monday, 13th December** starting at 6:00pm. Please can we ask that children and parents/carers arrive no later than 5:45pm. All children to please wear full school uniform, thank you. There will be a retiring collection with all proceeds going to the Church. Please do donate as generously as you can, thank you.



Silent Night, Holy Night

EYFS /KS1 Christingle



The children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in their Christingle, also being held at Phillack Church. This will take place next **Tuesday, 14th 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, thank you.

As with the KS2 Carol concert, there will be a retiring collection with all proceeds going to the Church. Please do donate as generously as you can, thank you.

PLEASE NOTE, ALL THE ABOVE EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE SHOULD THERE BE A CHANGE IN COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS/GUIDANCE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING.

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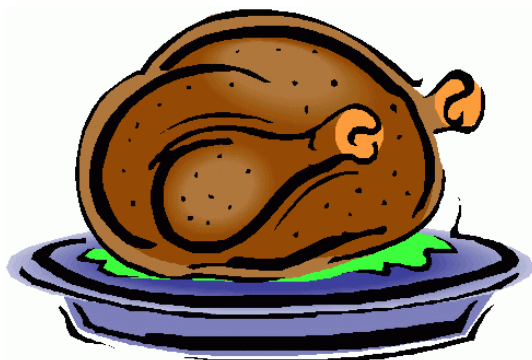


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Christmas Dinner



Christmas dinner is being held on Wednesday next week, the 15th December. Please note, if you have not already booked a Christmas lunch, please ensure you send your child/children to school with a home packed lunch. Christmas dinner is the only option available on Wednesday.

Hayle Academy – Christmas Crackers 2021

For Christmas this year, Hayle Academy have created a Musical Video for their School Christmas Concert rather than holding a “live” event.

They have invited local primary schools to be involved in their final song, 'Merry Christmas Everyone'. Each school who took part has been incorporated into their Virtual Christmas Concert.

We are delighted to say that our Year 5 class have recorded the song to be included in the Concert. The Concert has now gone live and can be accessed using the link below. Please do logon and watch the fantastic performances.

<https://vimeo.com/654460356>



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Staffing Update

Following a successful round of interviews last Friday, we are delighted to announce that Miss Pedlar will be joining us in January as our Year 1 teacher. Miss Pedlar is an experienced teacher, having taught for the past 7 years. Miss Pedlar is familiar with all the Year 1

children, having volunteered at Connor Downs Academy. I am sure you will join myself and all the staff in welcoming Miss Pedlar to our Connor Downs family.

Miss Pedlar will be working alongside Miss Bryant next week, apart from Thursday on transition activities where she will be available on the Year 1 door at the start and end of the day to meet and greet parents/carers.

Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you to all those parents/carers who have completed our parent/carers survey. We have been delighted by the responses.

1. 100% agree their child is happy at Connor Downs Academy
2. 100% agree their child feels safe at school
3. 96% agree the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
4. 100% agree the school and staff respond well to concerns
5. 98% agree the school has high expectations for their child
6. 100% agree their child does well at Connor Downs Academy
7. 93% agree the school lets them know how their child is doing in school
8. 100% agree the school supports their child's wider development
9. 98% would recommend Connor Downs Academy to another parent/carers
10. 100% believes that Connor Downs Academy responded positively to the COVID-19 pandemic

'As parents we are very pleased with this school. Teachers are caring and support our child's learning excellently'.

'My son really enjoys his time at Connor Downs and has an amazing group of friends '.

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'I couldn't wish for better school for my daughter. Connor Downs Academy is absolutely amazing in teaching and activities around it. All teachers and teaching assistants been amazing so far. My daughter is super happy at school and every morning goes with the biggest smile on her face. Thank you so much for the job you do'.

'I have been very impressed with Connor Downs. Especially when it comes to SEN. My child has been whole heartedly accepted and embraced and is allowed to be herself and is not made to feel different to any one else. I couldn't recommend the school enough'.

'Connor Downs Academy is the BEST school that I could ever wish for for my daughter! When speaking to members of staff about any concerns that I may have they are always on hand to listen, engage and support my daughter. The children in the school's behaviour is incredible - when collecting my daughter they are polite. It hasn't been the easiest time with Covid regulations but the school have managed it superbly and put it precautions as and when necessary. Thank you to all Connor downs staff for being so incredible and approachable'!

Some areas identified which parent/carers would like more support with are:

- Supporting parent/carers to transition from Tapestry as a communication platform as their children become older
- Personalised feedback on a daily basis
- Increased feedback on attainment

Please know that staff are always available to address any concerns which you may have. Please do speak directly with the class teacher and where this is not possible please do telephone or email and a member of staff will contact you to discuss your concerns.

Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 have just completed their second their intensive block of 5 swimming sessions at St Ives Leisure Centre. We are delighted to see the impressive progress that has been made by all the Year 3 children, and although swimming every day has been very tiring, they have shown great resilience and engagement. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the Year 3 parents/carers once again, for ensuring their child arrived at school every day with their swimming kit, ready to learn. Well done Year 3!



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End of Term

A reminder that the final day of term is **Friday 17th December**. Classes will hold their Christmas parties in the morning and children are invited to wear their own party clothes/Christmas jumpers.

Please note as previously advertised, we will be **finishing** school at the **earlier time of 2:00pm** on the last day.

Starting School – September 2022



CORNWALL COUNCIL Together for Families

Starting school
September 2022

Applying for a place in a reception class for children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018

Attending a nursery or pre-school
You will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. Please note that if a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Information and guidance
Website and application form: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk
Post: School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY
Telephone: 0300 3234 101

Need help with your application?
Contact the Family Information Service on 0800 587 8191

www.cornwall.gov.uk



Applying for a reception class place for September 2022

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 224242 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 you will get your child to school. Go to www.cornwall.gov.uk/schooltransport for more information on whether your child would be entitled to transport to school.
...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 15 January 2022**
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: 19 April 2022**. 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: iStock - joshua11 00121

Diary Dates – Spring Term

Tuesday 4th January 2022 to Friday 8th April 2022

Tuesday 4th January – First day of spring term

Monday 10th January – Swimming – **Year 2** – week 1

Thursday 17th February – Disco's – EYFS/KS1 – 5:00pm – 6:00pm and KS2 – 6:15pm – 7:15pm (**dependent on COVID guidance at the time**)

Inset Day – Friday 18th February 2022 (**School closed to pupils**)

Half Term – Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25th February 2022

Monday 28th February – First day after half term

Friday 8th April – Last day of spring term – **2pm FINISH**

Easter Holidays – Monday 11th April 2022 to Friday 22nd April 2022

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Free Christmas Holiday Activity Programme – Holiday Food Programme

Attendance

Attendance Our school target for attendance is 96%		
1 st Place	Year 2	98.0 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 10th December 2021



Year R – Harrison

For using his phonic knowledge to produce a fantastic piece of independent writing about Spider-Man during playful learning. Well done Harrison!

Year 1 – Zachary

For his superb performance in the EYFS/KS1 nativity. Zachary overcame his nerves and was so brave when speaking his lines beautifully. Well done Zachary!

Year 2 – Phoenix

For making amazing progress in the classroom, especially for his concentration in maths. Keep up the great work Phoenix!

Year 3 – Corey

For his fantastic progress in confidence and swimming widths of the pool. Well done Corey!

Year 4 – William

For persevering with following instructions for making paper snowflakes. William showed great leadership skills in working well in his group, on final construction of the snowflake and evaluating the instructions that they followed.



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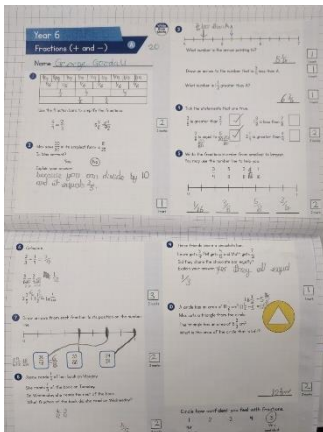
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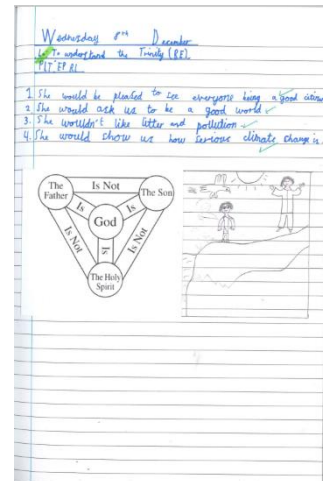
Year 5 – Alfie

For his thoughtful comments in RE and a unique representation of the Trinity. Well done Alfie!



Year 6 – George Go.

For being a brilliant mathematician this half term, especially with our topic about fractions. You have really developed your skills and shone in all your work. Well done George!



Performer of the Week

Freya in Year 4

This is awarded for recording the greatest number of steps in a week using the new Moki Fitness trackers. Freya's total was 27,180 steps. Well done Freya!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School



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