

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. We have had a busy and exciting week supporting our children's learning both in school and at home. Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting the home learning and for your engagement with the staff in school.

Thank You

The staff would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who have kindly brought in some lovely cakes and biscuits, tea and coffee, as a thank you for all the support given to their children both in school and at home during this lockdown.

Home Learning Survey

During these exceptional times, we recognise that home learning is a challenging task for children and parents/carers and we appreciate your ongoing support in helping your child/children to access the provision, whilst juggling busy lives yourselves.

This week, a link to a home learning survey created by the Trust was shared with you to gauge the opinions of parents/carers across the Trust on the provision of home learning. We would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to complete this and for sharing your thoughts on the current provision from Connor Downs Academy. We have read each of your comments and have discussed these in depth. The staff have been heartened by the overwhelmingly positive comments received.

Common themes of positivity across the school centred around increased connectivity between home and school, clear and structured learning opportunities being set for children to complete and marking and feedback being used constructively to move learning forward.

Examples of anonymous feedback:

'The work set this lockdown is very well structured and clear. Well done and thank you for all the hard work.'

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'I'd like to thank the school for every effort they are putting into the home learning. My girls know exactly what they need to do, the instructions are detailed and they are able to do it with minimal guidance. In addition, the communication between the parents and the school is fantastic!! It is like a normal school morning for them, they recognise the white rose maths and the English! My daughter in year 3 needs structure and routine and what the school has provided lesson wise has really helped her during this lockdown! Thank you Connor Downs for everything you are doing for our children.'

'Would like to thank the school for all their support and hard work.'

'You are all doing a great job in a very difficult situation so thank you all.'

Two trends for development which emerged in the parent/carer survey, were the use of live lessons to deliver remote learning and increased connectivity between children with their peers to support social interaction.

We are following Trust guidance supported by the latest government research and do not teach live lessons although quality teaching resources from the White Rose and Oak National Academy are integrated into the learning program.

In terms of increasing social connectivity between peers, from next week, we will be trialling the use of 'Google Meet' for Years 2 - 6. Your child's class teacher will invite the whole class to a virtual meeting via the class stream in Google classroom. If you would like to participate in this activity, at the specified time, your child will need to click on the meet link to join the meeting. Your child's class teacher will share the date and time via an invite on Google classroom.

For Year R and Year 1 who access their remote learning via Tapestry, social interaction will be encouraged through the use of organised Teams meetings. Your child's class teacher will send more details, via Tapestry next week.

Friday 12th February INSET day (school closed to all pupils)

As previously advised, we have a staff training day on Friday 12th February and so Connor Downs Academy will be closed to all pupils, including those of critical workers and vulnerable children. During this time, class teachers will set a creative challenge, which will not require a device, which your child/children can take part in if they choose.

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Half Term

Aspire academies will be closed to ALL pupils, including critical workers/vulnerable pupils, on Friday 12th February for a planned Trust INSET staff training day. INSET days are established diary dates in any given academic year and the Trust has retained this date to ensure professional development and teaching and learning best practice continues across all our academies. Academies will then remain closed to ALL pupils from w/c 15th February for half term and will reopen to critical worker/vulnerable pupils on Monday 22nd February. Eligible Free School Meals families will receive a Wonde voucher to cover the half term period.

Full or Wider opening date

In his Downing Street briefing on Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced that he is hopeful that schools could reopen from Monday 8th March, but this is by no means a confirmed date. At this point in time, there is no detail on the proposed 'road map' for return. Planning for wider opening will begin in liaison with the Trust as soon as details begin to emerge and we will keep you informed.

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>

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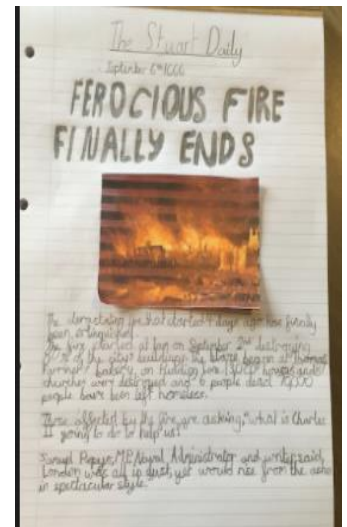
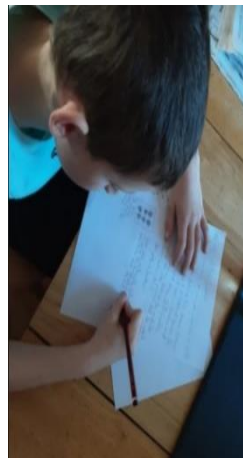
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Home Learning

Below are some more examples of some of the amazing home learning taking place. Well done Evie, George and Kitty.



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 29th January 2021



Year R - Tommy

For his consistently outstanding attitude towards his learning, across all areas of EYFS. Tommy is a true credit to Connor Downs Academy.



Year 1 – Jacob H

For such incredible participation in all his subjects, working at home. Jacob is working so hard, in particular, his understanding of our class book, Possum Magic by Mem Fox. Jacob was able to sequence the events of the story using the picture cards. Well done Jacob.



Year 2 – Isla

Isla shows outstanding commitment to her home learning with lovely communications with everyone via Google Classroom. Also this week, along with her family, Isla has taken part in a litter pick. Well Done Isla!

Year 3 – Oriana

Well done for her great effort and attitude to learning in maths. Oriana used a great system to help her solve challenges with multiplication and also converting pounds to pence. Oriana is always so helpful to her friends and the adults in class.



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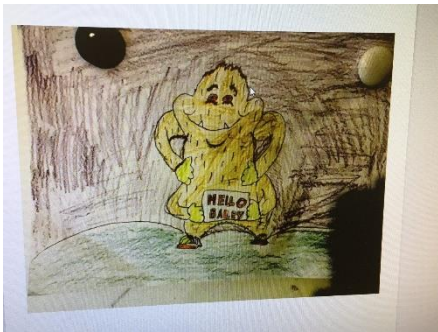
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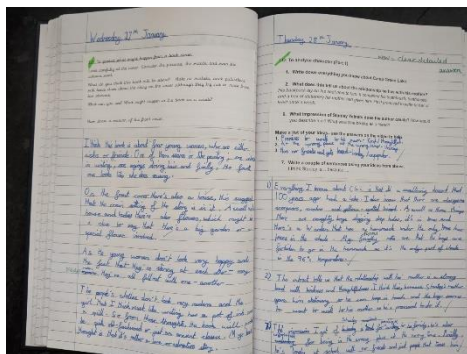


Year 4 – Bailey

Bailey has been working extra hard on his weekly spellings and completing the quiz every week. Miss Auster and Miss Brownlee are so proud of your super home learning efforts. This week we have drawn hug monsters to send to loved ones that we are unable to hug at this time. Well done Bailey and keep up the brilliant work!

Year 5 – George Go.

For his continued commitment to online learning and for caring for the environment by organising his own litter pick with his family. Well Done George!



Year 6 – Chloe

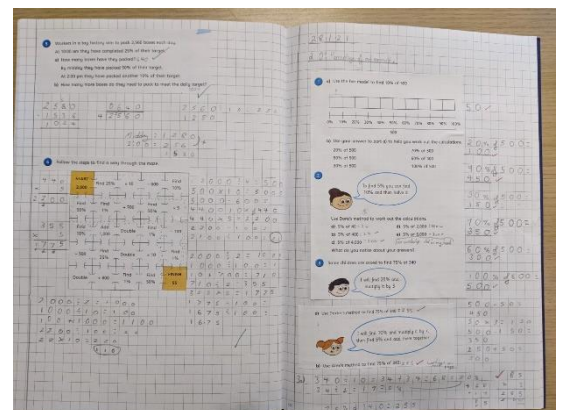
For always going above and beyond. Chloe really shows her maturity and confidence in her written work, in maths and in her drive and determination to keep learning in school and at home. Chloe is a real 'light' in the classroom and I

appreciate the fantastic attitude she has. Well Done!

Kind Regards,

Handwritten signature

Mrs Eddy
Head of School



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