

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

We have had a busy and exciting week in school. We hope that you enjoy reading about the events of this week and also enjoy reading about our amazing author day last week.



Arrival/Collection Time Amendments

Following a review, the amendments below have been made to our drop off and collection times for the children in years 5 and 6. We hope that this will support parents and carers.

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Arrival Time</u>	<u>Where?</u>	<u>Departure Time</u>
Year 5	8.35am	Through the top gate and through the main entrance.	3.20pm
Year 6	8.30am	Through the top gate and through the main entrance.	3.25pm

Parent Consultations

You will be aware that we usually hold parent consultations in the second half of the spring term. Due to the recent lockdown and the current restrictions still in place, we are unable to hold face to face meetings. In lieu of this, your child/children's teacher will be phoning parents/carers in the week beginning 29th March. These telephone calls will give you the opportunity to discuss how well your child/children has settled back into school and how they are progressing with their learning. Should a more in-depth meeting be required, an appointment will be made for after Easter.

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Author Day



For Author Day, in EYFS and Key Stage 1...

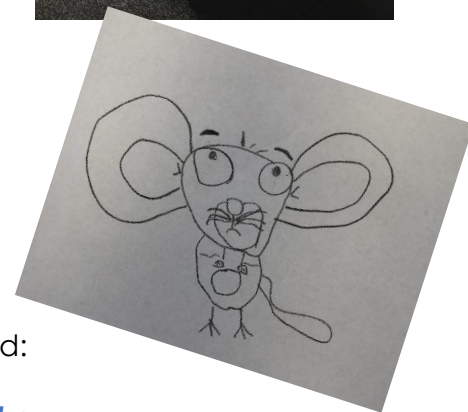
In EYFS and Key Stage 1, the children took part in an inspiring, virtual workshop with #1 bestselling author, Rachel Bright. After enjoying an exciting story time with Rachel, focusing on her books 'The Lion Inside' and 'The Koala Who Could', the children were taught, step by step, how to illustrate a character from the stories.



Afterwards, Rachel invited each class to share their ideas and use descriptive language to invent a character of their own. Rachel then brought the children's ideas to life, illustrating their characters live on screen!

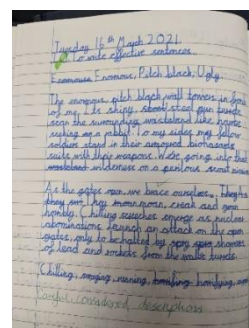
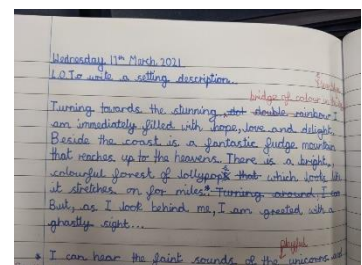
Following the day's events, Rachel commented:

It was such a pleasure to visit your school. All the classes were wonderful with so many ideas! It really was great fun.



In Key Stage 2...

In Key Stage 2, the children travelled to 'The Land of Roar' which is a superb, adventure novel written by Jenny McLachlan. After enjoying some of the story and watching a video made by the author, the children were set the challenge of creating a map of their very own Land or Roar. This included everything the children love on the 'good side' and all the things they find worrying on the 'bad side'. All manner of materials were used to create the maps- including paint, fine-liners and even collage materials from Cultivating Futures. Each child then wrote lively descriptions of their own 'Land of Roar' showing their developing skills. It was a really creative, enjoyable day which left the children wanting to find out more, about The Land of Roar!



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British Science Week

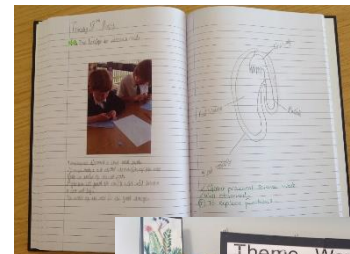
This week in school we have celebrated British Science week across all our bubbles.



Reception have enjoyed exploring plant life cycles, focusing on the process of germination. After reading 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen, the children planted their own bean plants to take home. They then wrote lists to show their understanding of what a plant needs to grow.



In year 1, the children had a fantastic afternoon creating 3D art using sticks, flowers, mud, stones and grass.



Year 2 dissected and named parts of a seed. The children then labelled the parts of a flower and created some flower watercolour paintings.



Staffing Update

After six years working with Connor Downs Academy and for the last three years, working with the Inclusion Team within the Trust, Miss Pellow will be leaving us on 16th April 2021. Miss Pellow has accepted a new role working with young people in residential care. We will all miss Miss Pellow massively at Connor Downs, but we are sure you will join with us in wishing Miss Pellow all the very best for her future.

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Easter Holidays

A reminder that our last day of the spring term is Thursday 1st April 2021. The children will come out at their usual finish times. School will re-open on Monday 19th April after the Easter holidays.

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>

<u>Attendance</u>		
Our school target for attendance is 96%		
1 st Place	Year R	98.5 %
2 nd Place	Year 5	96.8 %
3 rd Place	Year 1	96.1 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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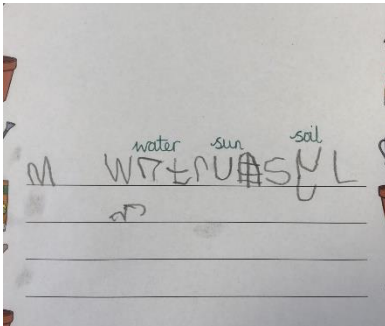
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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 19th March 2021

Year R – Zachary

For learning how to plant his own bean plant and then using his phonic knowledge to independently write a list of what the plant would need to grow.



Year 1 – Billy

For super reading from a book linked to our new topic, 'To the Rescue'. Billy also drew some fantastic emergency response vehicles. Well done Billy!



Year 2 – Lola-Grace

For excellent science work dissecting a seed and naming the parts and for a well observed flower painting.



Year 3 – Hugo

For independently helping his friends with maths and TT Rock Stars. Hugo is working hard to be a great role model, always keen to answer questions, particularly in Spiral maths.

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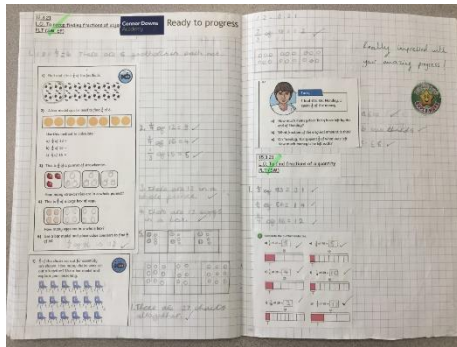
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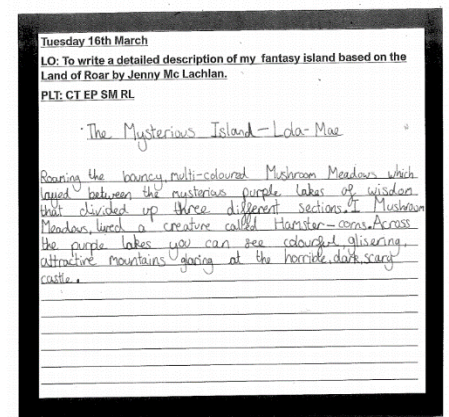


Year 4 – Flora da Silva

For her super efforts with her spelling and maths, in particular her fractions work. Flora has been working very hard at home during the lockdown period and has come back to school ready to progress. Well done Flora!

Year 5 – Lola-Mae

For her fabulous description of her mysterious island and its wonderful creatures – hamster-corns!



Year 6 – Chelsey

Chelsey listened carefully to direction and put lots of effort into writing interesting sentences in her writing about 'The Land of Roar'. Well done Chelsey!

Kind Regards,

J Eddy

Mrs Eddy
Head of School

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