

Friday 4th March 2022

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. I hope that you and your families are all safe and well and had an enjoyable holiday. We have had another incredibly busy and exciting week in our academy.



Cornish Pirates Rugby Sessions

On Tuesday, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a visit from Sam Teasdale from the Cornish Pirates to learn how to pass and carry a rugby ball. The children learned about the core values of the Pirates including teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship. They were kept busy and active completing a range of games and activities to develop their skills and confidence with a rugby ball. All the children are looking forward to the next five sessions.



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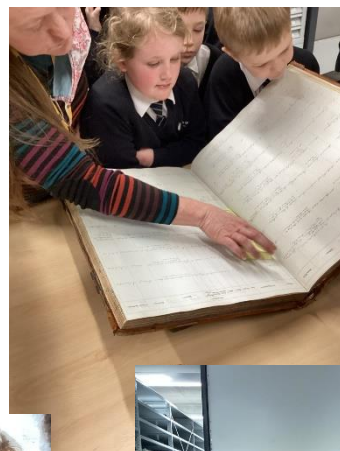
Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Year 4 Visit to Kresen Kernow

On Wednesday, Year 4 visited Kresen Kernow, the home of Cornwall's archives. They were given a tour of the strongroom, where there are 14 miles of historical documents, and saw records from Bodmin Gaol. The children discovered the history of the site (an old brewery) and investigated exhibits. They took part in a mock trial as part of their crime and punishment topic and researched two of the prisoners from Bodmin Gaol who had been sentenced to death in 1840. Everybody enjoyed the trip; it was a great way to end our topic and to relate what the children have learned to their local area.



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Aspire Spring monitoring visit

On Thursday, we hosted our Spring term monitoring visit, where we welcomed our academy's Strategic Partner. We were delighted to have the opportunity to showcase the fantastic learning taking place in all of our classes. The children were noted for their impeccable behaviour and attitude to learning and we are so proud of each and every one of them. To quote our visitor:

Mrs Osborne, Strategic Partner

'I was impressed. The school has continued to develop and enrich its quality of education since the last monitoring day. The staff team should be proud of their children and be ambitious for the future.'

Pancake Day!



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Friday 11th March

On **Friday 11th March**, we invite every Aspire academy pupil to wear blue and yellow, the colours of the Ukraine national flag. We are dressing in blue and yellow as a sign of solidarity and compassion. We are focused on children helping children affected by what is happening to their families and being able to help is a positive thing, but this means respectful dressing up please - **blue and yellow items of clothing but no face painting or fancy dress or coloured hair.**



The Trust has set up a central Aspire JustGiving page which is now live

www.justgiving.com/aspire-ukraine

Mindful of the increasingly tough economic times we all live in, there is no suggested donation amount and absolutely no obligation to contribute. The wearing of Ukraine's national colours on the day shows care and support.

Next week, your child's/children's teacher will be talking to them about Ukraine in an age appropriate and sensitive way. We already teach children about conflict and compassion - we do World War two in our history topics and discuss evacuees. We teach about conflict, compassion, and solidarity every time we wear a red poppy or raise funds for comic relief and wear a red nose or sell cakes for Children in Need. This is no different and it would be remiss of us to not give our children the opportunity to discuss and ask questions in their own age-appropriate way.

All teaching will be sensitive, appropriate and focused on 'how we can help' children who have been affected. Please see links below that may help parents/carers to talk to their children at home about conflict:

[How to talk about conflict impartially | British Red Cross](#)

[Department for Education - \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[We should not hide from children what is happening in Ukraine \(schoolsweek.co.uk\)](#)

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World Book Day

To be celebrated at Connor Downs Academy on Friday 11th March

[Veronica Lamond](#) | Land Rover Children's book author & illustrator



As previously advertised, Veronica Lamond is the author and illustrator of the well-loved and highly successful Landy and Friends books. Veronica will be visiting us on the 11th March and spending time in each class.

There are eight books in the series so far. The seventh book is a special edition about Landy visiting the Defender Factory in Solihull.

Please note, that we **will not** be inviting children to come to school on this day dressed as their favourite book character. Instead, if children would like to, they may bring in a copy of their favourite book to share with their class.

Attached to this Newsletter is an order form. If anyone would like to purchase any of the books at the special price as indicated on the order form, please completed the order form and return to your child's class teacher along with payment in a named envelope.

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Bags To School

A reminder, that In an effort to raise funds, the Friends of Connor Downs Academy have arranged another Bags2School collection for later this term. To be COVID secure, please could we ask for any clothes to be put into black bin liners – we will not be handing out bags as on previous occasions. Please **do not** bring your bags to school **until Monday 14th or Tuesday 15th March July 2022** as we will not be able to accept them. A member of the Friends committee will be on site on these mornings to accept the bags in the playground at morning drop off. The bags will then be quarantined to be collected on Thursday 17th March 2022. We are unable to accept any bags after Tuesday 15th March.



Attendance

<u>Attendance</u>		
Our school target for attendance is 96%		
1 st Place	Year 6	100.0 %
2 nd Place	Year 5	99.6 %
3 rd Place	Year 2	98.8 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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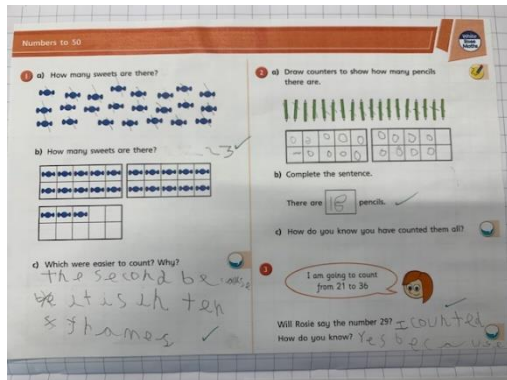
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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 4th March 2022

Year R – Harrison

For showing great understanding in Maths this week. Harrison could show snakes of different lengths. Harrison is a great role model in Reception, always showing fantastic behaviour for learning. Well done Harrison!



Year 1 – James

For his consistently excellent effort in every subject. James' presentation has greatly improved in all areas of learning and his enthusiasm for learning is infectious. Well done James!

Year 2 – Evelyn

For excellent spelling and use of suffixes to create new words in phonics. Well done Evelyn!

Year 3 – Finley

For excellent skills in making a St Piran's flag, teaching his friend how to measure and make the flag. Well done Finley!

Year 4 – Maci For taking such a keen interest on our visit to Kresen Kernow this week. Maci worked so hard during the research tasks and demonstrated fantastic behaviour for learning. Well done Maci!



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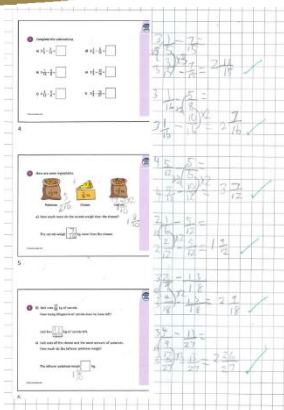
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Year 5 – Oscar

For his enthusiasm in all subjects and seamlessly returning from Nexus and completing his work on fractions. Well done Oscar!

Year 6 – Leon

For making an excellent first impression with the rugby coach on Tuesday and trying your best. Well done Leon!

Writer – Malyka (Year 3)

For super work when learning about the volcanic eruption in Pompeii in our History lesson.

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Dylan M (Year R)

For using his phonics knowledge to read sentences independently.

KS2 Reader – Caycie (Year 4)

For amazing progress in guided reading sessions and for moving up three levels in her AR reading.

Mathematician – Elodie (Year 6)

For her problem solving skills working out the area and perimeter of shapes. Elodie gave lots of examples and should be very proud of the work in her book.

Performer – Toby (Year 1)

For his excellent effort, enthusiasm and 'give it a go' attitude at our first swimming lesson. Well done Toby!





Moki Fitness Tracker – Jenson (Year 3)

For recording the greatest number of steps in a week using the Moki Fitness Trackers.
Jenson's total was 39,463 steps. Well done Jenson!

Citizen – Rhys (Year 5)

For greeting Mrs Ridge every day with a smile, helping to carry her bags to the door and his polite and helpful manner.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School