

Friday 10th January 2025

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and were able to enjoy the Christmas and New Year holiday. The children have all settled back into the school routine quickly and are looking forward to another exciting term.



Mental Health Support Team – Parent/Carer Workshops – January and February

Mental Health Support Team parent/carer workshops are available online during January and February. Please see posters below on the variety of workshops available. Further details on Individual workshops and how parents/carers sign up, can be found by clicking the links below:

Behaviour Workshop - <https://forms.office.com/e/1PwGDXSQ40>

Sleep Workshop - <https://forms.office.com/e/7ac7qHLPhc>

T: 01736 753135

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



Attendance

In line with the Aspire Academy Trust attendance policy, from January 2024, those children who are identified with an attendance falling below 95%, their parents/carers will be contacted.

The Aspire Academy Trust believes that children need to be in school for all sessions so that they can make the most progress possible. However, we do understand that there are times where a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child due to exceptional circumstances

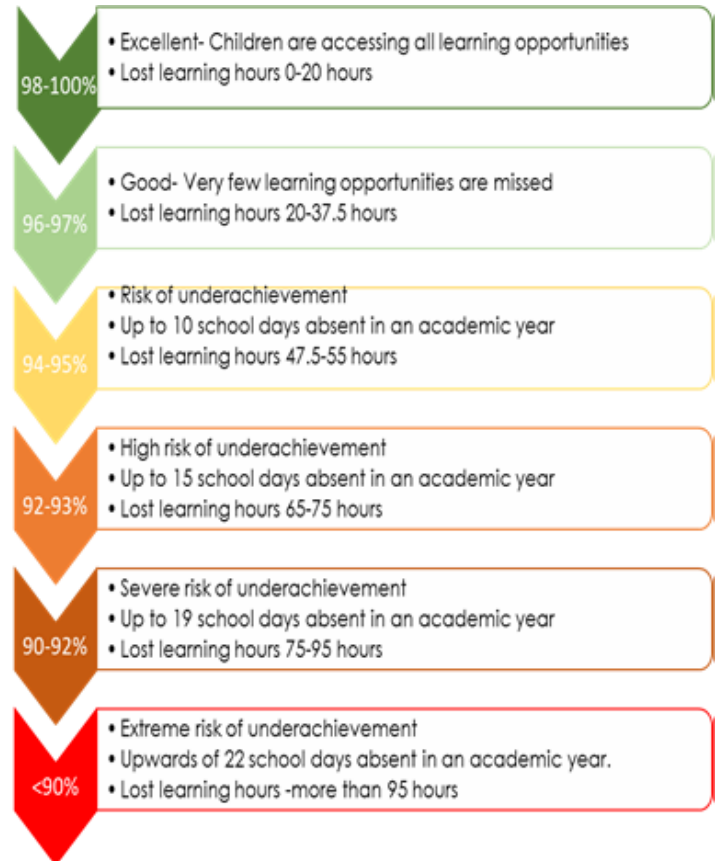
If your child is unwell, please let school know as soon as possible on the morning of their absence, giving the actual reason (sickness, tonsillitis ... more detail than just, unwell please) and every day that they are away. If we don't hear from you, you will receive a text asking why your child is absent. If you do not reply to the text, you will then receive a phone call from us. If we receive no response by 11am school staff will make a safeguarding visit to your home.

We will **not authorise** absence for:

- Holidays
- A birthday treat
- Over-sleeping due to a late night or being tired
- Looking after other children
- Letting the gas man in etc

Unauthorised absences can lead to legal action in some cases.

Please also see the Whole School attendance letter emailed to parents/carers on 5th January 2025 as a reminder of the new penalty notices that are now being issued. A copy is also attached alongside this newsletter.



Spring Term National School Census Day – Thursday 16th January 2025

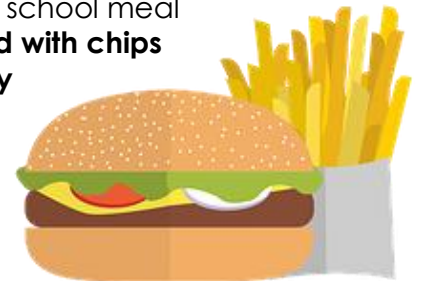
Dear Families,

Next Thursday is a National School Census Day, when the Department for Education (DfE) collects information about each school with the data being used to set future school budgets. One of the figures reportable is the number of Reception and Years 1 and 2 children who have a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on this day.

The census data is then used to determine the funding we receive for our hot meals for the year. We **do not** receive funding for the number of meals we supply throughout the year, only those taken on the census days each year.

Our solution to this problem is to ask every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try the school meal

(or part of it) on Census Day which is **Meat/Veggie Burger served with chips and beans/salad followed by apple crumble and custard or jelly and yoghurt**. Your child will then be fully funded to have hot meals during the year thus saving the school any additional costs. You are welcome to send in a packed lunch as a back-up. Please book this special menu via ParentPay - jacket potatoes and hot tomato pasta are also available.



Thank you for your support.

Pre-Loved Uniform

We believe that school uniform ensures all children are treated equally. Uniform still plays a vital role in promoting the ethos of a school, setting an appropriate tone for education and providing a sense of belonging and common identity regardless of background.

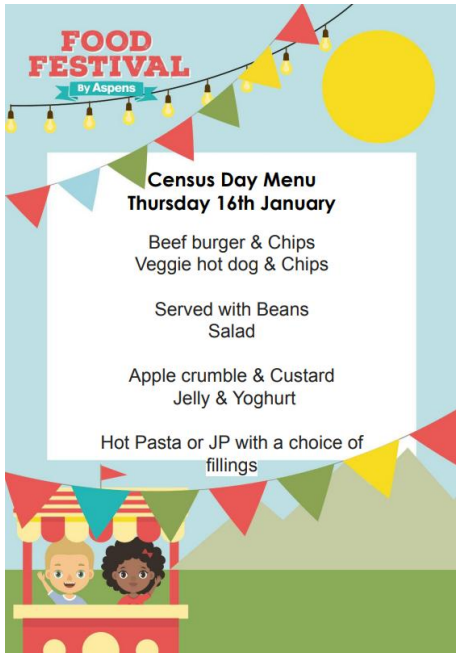
With this in mind, we run a pre-loved uniform shop through the Friends of Connor Downs Academy. The Friends will run pop up sales at various times throughout the year, but you can also contact them via their Facebook Page at any other time or you can come into the school office or email hello@connordowns.org.uk with your requirements. Thank you.

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Diary Dates - Spring Term 2025

- Monday 13th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 1
Wednesday 15th January – Pirates Rugby Session – Week 2 – Years 5 and 6 only
Thursday 16th January - Spring Term Census Day – special menu as advertised above
Monday 20th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 2
Tuesday 21st January – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 22nd January – Pirates Rugby Session – Week 3 – Years 5 and 6 only
Monday 27th January – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 3
Tuesday 28th January – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Tuesday 28th January – Cross Country – Years 5 and 6 only
Wednesday 29th January – Pirates Rugby Session – Week 4 – Years 5 and 6 only
Monday 3rd February – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 4
Tuesday 2nd February – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 5th February - Pirates Rugby Session – Week 5 – Years 5 and 6 only
Monday 10th February – Swimming – Year 4 – Week 5 (Final session)
Tuesday 11th February – Year 4 – Kresen Kernow visit
Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11th February – Maths Booster Session – Year 6 only – 3:15pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 12th February – Pirates Rugby Session – Week 6 (Final session)– Years 5 and 6 only
Thursday 13th February – Friends of Connor Downs Academy Disco – more details to follow
Thursday 13th February – Last Day of 1st half of spring term – **Finish at 3:15pm**
Friday 14th February – INSET DAY – **School closed to pupils**
Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February – Half Term Holiday
Monday 24th February – First day of 2nd half of spring term

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Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD

Starting School – September 2025 – Final reminder – Deadline next Wednesday – 15th January 2025



Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021?**

If so, you will need to apply for a place in a reception class in September 2025 for your child by the deadline of **15 January 2025**.



The deadline for applications is **15 January 2025**



Please note you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. 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.

Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions for more information and to access the online application system.



scan me

www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions



Starting school September 2025

Applying for a place in a reception class for children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021



The deadline for applications is **15 January 2025**

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 1234 101



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Applying for a reception class place for September 2025

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 324242. 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 home to school travel assistance.

...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 2025

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: 16 April 2025**. 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 © AdobeStock j81514 05/21

Attendance

Attendance			
Our school target for attendance is 97%			
1 st Place	Year R		98.8 %
2 nd Place	Year 3		98.0 %
3 rd Place	Year 2		97.0 %

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week.

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Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 10th January 2025

We are delighted to be able to invite the parents/carers of the winners below to join us at our first Shine assembly of the spring term, on **Friday 17th January 2025** to see their child receive their certificate.

Please come along to the main reception **no earlier than 2:35pm**. A special well done to:

Year R – Bailey

For his progress and enthusiasm during his daily phonics sessions. Bailey is blending and reading phase 2 and 3 words. Well done, Bailey!

Year 1 – Lilly-Rose

For showing great resilience, determination and giving 100% effort in all her learning. Well done, Lilly-Rose!

Year 2 – Eden

For excellent writing based on our class reading book, Vlad and the Great Fire of London. Well done, Eden!

Year 3 – Bruce

For showing great perseverance to solve a maths challenge, using amazing calculating to prove it. Well done Bruce!

Year 4 – Jack

For his excellent attitude to learning and determination to consistently complete tasks to the best of his ability. Well done, Jack!

Year 5 – Eve

For her effort and determination to succeed with her multiplication work. Well done, Eve!

Year 6 – Alfie

For his contribution to the school community by undertaking a new prefect role completing his tasks with enthusiasm. Well done, Alfie!

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Writer – Isaac (Year 5)

For the use of some amazing descriptive vocabulary in his version of 'The Piano'. Well done, Isaac!

EYFS/KS1 Reader – Freddie (Year 1)

For giving 100% in his phonics lessons. Freddie is gaining the confidence to share his reading in small groups. Well done. Freddie!

KS2 Reader – Arthur (Year 3)

For taking risks to read a new author in order to challenge his fluency and vocabulary skills. Well done, Arthur!

Mathematician – Lola (Year 6)

For some excellent work with ratio this week. Lola takes a great pride in presenting her work and always uses learning from previous lessons to help her. Well done, Lola!

Numbots/Rock Star – Tommy (Year 4)

For gaining more than 91,000 correct answers on TTRS. What an incredible achievement! Well done, Tommy!

Performer – Leo (Year R)

For his creative and imaginative ideas when making buildings, castles, woodlands and other fantasy worlds. Well done, Leo!

Character – James (Year 2)

For showing such great resilience and growth mindset after returning to school with a broken arm. Well done, James!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Eddy
Head of School