

6th July 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for your continued support in working alongside us, to enable our children to access their learning during these difficult times. The strong, school community spirit has enabled us to find solutions to all the difficulties which we have been presented with and together we have cared for our children during these times. As we move towards the end of the summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on our current schooling situation and also to share with you our plans for opening in September, including staffing arrangements.

Current pod arrangements.

The five pods which are currently open in school continue to run smoothly and I am pleased to confirm that this arrangement will continue until the last day of term; Tuesday 21st July, with all children currently attending, having a place confirmed. Instead of an early finish on this day, we will continue with our staggered pickups to support our social distancing measures. Please could I kindly remind parents to arrive for drop and pick up at your allocated time and to adhere to social distancing measures when on the school site. Thank you.

Department for Education (DfE) guidelines for September opening.

On Thursday 2nd July, the DfE released guidance for schools detailing plans for all pupils, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. This is welcome news and we are delighted to be able to open our doors to our entire school family for the first time since lockdown on March 20th.

The new term in the autumn begins on Thursday 3rd September. Both this day and Friday 4th September will be used as staff training days, to ensure that our adults working with the children and the school site is fully prepared to receive our children and families safely. Children will be welcomed back to school on Monday 7th September.

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

A Company Limited by Guarantee. An Exempt Charity

Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

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

This week, I will be working closely with the Trust's Health and Safety team to plan for our reopening, whilst adhering to the DfE guidance whereby children will be taught in consistent groups to reduce the risk of infection transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other. As soon as these plans have been confirmed, I will share these with you.

Reports

At this time of year we share end of year pupil reports. Due to the exceptional circumstance which we have all faced this year, the end of school reports have been adapted to reflect this. As a result, the report which you will receive for your child/ren will consist of an A4 letter format, with a general comment section. No internal data or teacher assessments along with attendance percentages will be shared, due to circumstances. This year, you will also note that there are no teacher signatures or a request for parents/carers to sign a paper return slip, due to concerns over infection transmission. If you would like to leave a comment regarding the report or discuss your child/ren's report with the class teacher, please email hello@connordowns.org.uk to arrange a telephone appointment. Reports will be sent in the post to arrive with you by Friday 10th July.

Staffing for September

Mr Masters as class teacher and Mrs Malyan and Miss Pedley as Teaching Assistants, will be looking forward to welcoming our new Year R children to Connor Downs Academy for the first time. Mr Masters will remain as the EYFS lead and this year will be taking on the role of KS1 lead. He will also continue in his capacity as an integral member of the Trust's EYFS core group.

Mrs Patterson, will remain in Year 1 as class teacher, supported by Mr Costello as Outdoor Learning Lead and Mrs Rowe as Teaching Assistant. We are aware that children moving to Year 1 will have missed a large proportion of their Year R provision so a carefully planned, developmentally appropriate transition, will take place between Year R and Year 1.

Our wonderful Mrs Kitching will remain in Year 2 as class teacher, supported by Mrs Smith and Miss Abel as Teaching Assistants.

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In Year 3, Mr Buxton Dean will be teaching the class full time, supported by Mrs Ridge as Teaching Assistant. Ms Speight as class teacher, is currently shielding a family member but hopes to return to school later in the school year. We will look forward to welcoming Ms Speight back when this time arises.

Our current Year 4 teacher Mrs Law, will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to begin an exciting new chapter of her career, moving to Rosemellin Community Primary School, starting in September. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Mrs Law all the best for her future.

I am delighted to announce that Miss Auster will be joining Year 4 in September. Miss Auster is a highly experienced teacher having taught in the UK as well as in Uganda, Belgium and France. Miss Auster is a talented musician, having studied Music at Cambridge University, and will take on the music lead and performing arts lead. Miss Auster is also an accomplished sportswoman and regularly runs marathons and takes part in triathlons. She will lead the girls PE at Connor Downs. Miss Auster will be supported in class by Miss Payne as Teaching Assistant. I am sure that you will join with me in welcoming Miss Auster to our school family.

Mr Pascoe will remain as Year 5 teacher and KS2 lead, supported by Miss Reed and Miss Scaife as Teaching Assistants. Mr Pascoe will continue to lead maths across the school whilst also supporting other academies in the Trust as an integral member of the Trust's core maths group. Mr Pascoe will lead the boys PE.

As previously shared with you, Mr Kay, as Year 6 teacher, will begin an exciting new career opportunity in September, working at Camelford Community Primary School. I am delighted to share with you that Miss Norton will be joining Year 6 in September. Miss Norton is an experienced teacher having taught across the primary age range, in a variety of settings in the UK. Miss Norton is currently a highly regarded Year 6 teacher at Probus Primary School, which is part of the Aspire Academy Trust and has a proven track record of supporting children through the end of Key Stage 2 assessments, whilst providing a rich and stimulating learning environment. Miss Norton will be supported in Year 6 by Mrs Smitherham as Teaching Assistant. I am sure that you will join with me in welcoming Miss Norton to our school family.

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As previously shared with you, Mrs Ham our wonderful Teaching Assistant is beginning her well-deserved retirement at the end of the summer term. I know that you will join with me in wishing Mrs Ham all the best for her future.

Mrs Gallagher, our School Administrator will remain at front of house as a consistent point of contact for the school community.

Miss Pellow as Inclusion Admin Support and SENDCo Admin Support will also remain as part of our team.

I am delighted to continue in my roles as Head of School, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator and also Designated Safeguarding Lead for Connor Downs Academy.

I am looking forward to our team being together again for September and we are ready and eager to be reunited with all of our children and families. I will share further information with you regarding the September opening as soon as all plans and details have been confirmed.

I hope that you and your families continue to stay safe and well.

Kind regards,



Mrs Eddy.
Head of School.