

## EYFS

# Spring Term 2022



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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



**Connor Downs**  
Academy

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Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



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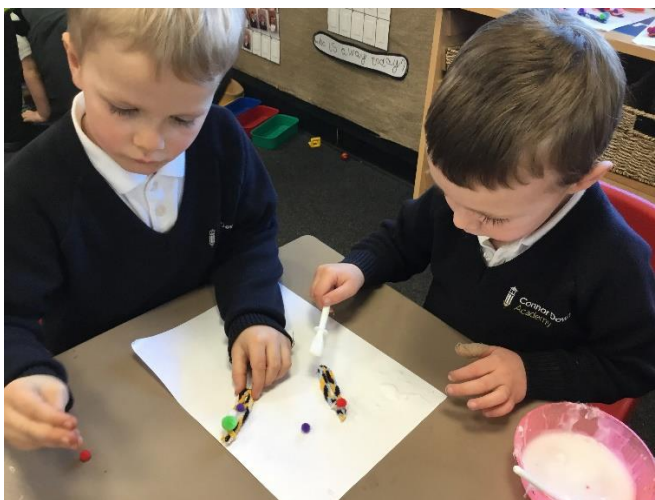




## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term the children have grown in confidence and independence. The reception children have flourished both as independent learners and as members of our wider school community. The children are confident to choose their own activities during their own 'playful learning' time and to choose the resources they will use and use their own ideas. It has been lovely to see the children's social skills develop as they work together in the home corner and outdoor construction area. The children work together, sharing, taking turns and listening to each other's ideas. When working in the sand area outside, the children work together to construct and to act out their own stories.

Mental Health Awareness week gave us an opportunity to celebrate what makes us unique, special and us! What a vast array of talents we have within Class R! Each child is able to talk about their strengths and abilities and they take great pride in doing so. The children thoroughly enjoyed making their own individual worry worms.



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## Physical Development

The reception children have continued to improve their physical skills in a wide range of activities. Through teacher-led input, the children have continued to develop their understanding of pencil control. They have learnt how to hold a pencil with an effective grip to form long ladder letters, one armed robot letters and curly caterpillar letters in handwriting. As a result, children in reception regularly produce writing which is of an outstanding quality and that is presented beautifully.

During Chinese New Year, the children also enjoyed manipulating playdoh, using skills such as kneading, squeezing and rolling, to create thematic models of the Zodiac animals.



In our P.E. lessons we have built on the gymnastics skills developed in the autumn term by travelling in different ways and stopping to balance on a range of apparatus. The children have also learnt how to jump off low apparatus and land safely. In their own learning time, the children have chosen to use guttering to explore rolling vehicles and measuring how far they travel.

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## Communication and Language

Story time is a favourite part of our day, when the children choose favourite books to read and share them together as a class. They are able to show their good listening skills by making relevant comments and answering questions about the stories and books that they have heard. We love to read familiar stories over again and join in with reading them too.

The children thoroughly enjoyed bringing in their own books from home during world book day activities. The children talked about their favourite book and enjoyed answering questions from other children about their book.

The children are now able to confidently and effectively discuss the activities that they have chosen for themselves during their 'playful learning' time. It is lovely to listen to their conversations as they work, as they ask questions, share ideas, instruct others and explain their reasoning.



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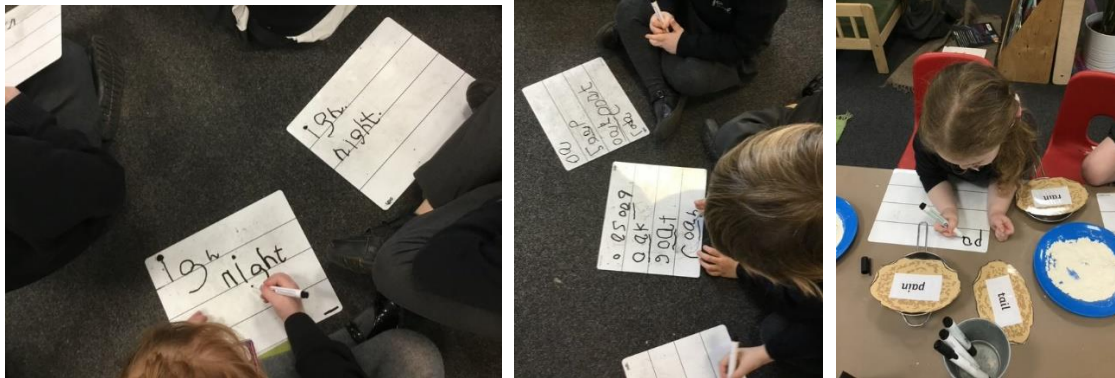
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## Literacy

The children have shown fantastic progress during daily phonics sessions and are now becoming more confident and independent. The children have learnt digraphs and trigraphs and they are able to use these when blending to read and segmenting to spell. The children are now reading and writing words independently. We enjoy playing a variety of phonics games such as Full Circle and Buried Treasure to develop their phonics skills.



Through shared and guided writing, the children have written for a range of purposes. For example, on World Book Day they wrote descriptions of their book character. When finding out about Polar regions the children pretended to be explorers writing facts about penguins and polar bears. They drew pictures of what they looked like, labelled them and wrote sentences to describe them. They have also applied their phonics skills in their own initiated activities. They have made cards and written messages, written labels for models they have made, written menus and taken orders in the mud kitchen.

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## Mathematics

In Mathematics this term, the children have consolidated their understanding of the core mathematical skills and principles they explored in the Autumn term. They are now secure in recognising that number is an abstract idea and that numerals are one of many ways in which a number can be represented. The children are now able to confidently write their numerals from 0-10. They have also begun to recognise and practise writing their numerals from 10-20, using visual aids such as number lines and number fans to independently support themselves.

When finding out about polar bears we compared the length and height using longer and shorter. We used cubes as a unit of measure as well as being introduced to using rulers and tape measures. Children have enjoyed exploring these for themselves in their child-initiated learning, measuring objects of their own choosing, recording their findings and using them to make comparisons. When building models outside using loose parts the children have been using their reasoning skills when deducing the names of the shapes they are using. They are using mathematical vocabulary to describe the properties of the shapes when doing this. They have also explored making different shapes with natural objects outside.

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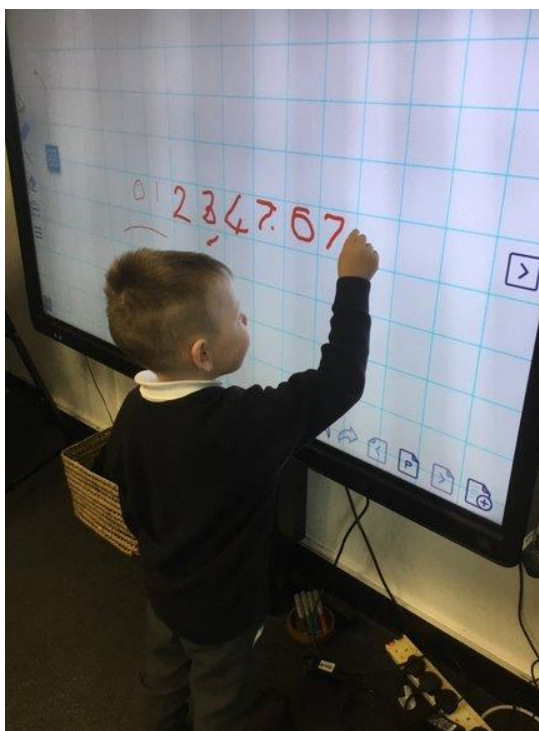




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## Understanding the World

When learning out about the polar regions the children enjoyed exploring ice. Each group was given a block of ice and they were able to decide where to place it. They then predicted what would happen to it before observing it closely over time to see if their predictions were right. The children enjoyed touching and playing with the ice and seeing the changes at first hand throughout the day. This then led the children hunting for frost and ice each morning around our school.



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Reception love to work outdoors, both in our own outdoor learning area and the cultivating futures area in the school grounds. They thoroughly enjoy observing, handling and taking care of the animals that live at our school. During Science week the children were fascinated to learn more about the newts living in our school pond. With Mr Costello the children had the opportunity to catch the newts using nets and then observe them more closely.



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## Expressive Arts and Design

During our exciting topic of the polar regions, the creative area was a hive of activity as children chose to make a variety of polar animals. The children had lots of fun getting very messy with cotton wool when making their fluffy polar bears. We also made penguins from paper plates. The children considered the colours carefully and joined the different parts of the penguin together.

During Chinese New Year the children enjoyed making lanterns. They chose paper or card, used their own ideas to decorate them with a range of media such as collage, pencils or pastels and explored different ways of joining the ends together and attaching a handle.



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The children have also enjoyed drawing and painting from observations. The children painted daffodils from observation, choosing colours and mixing them if needed. In cultivating futures with Mr Costello, the children drew and labelled pictures of the newts.



Making models has continued to be a popular choice of activity during 'playful learning' time this term. When making models using Mobilo some children have made their own instruction cards for their friends to follow. We also used recyclable materials such as boxes, cartons and paper to create models of our own choosing. This involved problem-solving skills when joining materials together.

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