

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear parents/carers,

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

Our third lockdown is almost at an end and we are looking forward to opening our gates on Monday 8th March, to welcome back our entire school community. Thank you for your continued efforts this week in supporting the home learning and for your support through the lockdown period. Your positive comments and expressions of thanks for the home learning provision have been overwhelming and we are very grateful for the many kind gifts and cards which have been shared with the staff. Equally, we have been very grateful for the many positive comments shared by parents/carers whose child/children have been accessing the in school provision. Thank you all.



Our children will no doubt be feeling a mixture of excitement and some anticipation at returning to school after an extended period of absence. Please rest assured that the staff are prepped and are ready and eager to welcome your child/children back into our school setting, whilst being sensitive to your child's/children's needs. We will offer opportunities to share experiences, look forward to the time ahead together and discuss health and wellbeing strategies in an age appropriate way using our Trauma Informed Schools approach. If you would like to inform your child's/children's class teacher of any experiences during lockdown, please send an email entitled; "What I would like the teacher to know" to hello@connordowns.org.uk. This will enable us to know what the experience of lock down has been for your family and you can share anything you wish with staff. This will be kept confidential.

DfE Devices

During the lockdown period we were allocated a number of devices from the DfE to assist with remote learning. Please could we request that all devices which were borrowed during this period be returned to the school office on Monday morning. Please can we also ask that only one parent/carer is in the school reception at any time to adhere to social distancing measures. Thank you.

T: 01736 753135

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

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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

Opening plans

On last week's newsletter we shared with you our detailed plans for our whole school reopening on Monday 8th March. Please do refer to this letter for information which should answer all of your queries.

After further review, we have made a slight change to the departure time for our Year 4 bubble, as shown below:

Updated Arrival and Departure Plan:

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Arrival Time</u>	<u>Where?</u>	<u>Departure Time</u>
Year R	8.30am	Through the playground and up the steps to the Year R door.	3.10pm
Year 1	8.50am	Through playground, up the ramp and to Year 1 outdoor provision.	3.15pm
Year 2	8.35am	Through the playground and up the ramp. Through KS1 main entrance.	3.20pm
Year 3	8.30am	Up granite steps and into Year 3.	3.15pm
Year 4	8.45am	Up granite steps and into Year 4	3.25pm
Year 5	8.40am	Through the top gate and through the main entrance.	3.25pm
Year 6	8.30am	Through the top gate and through the main entrance.	3.30pm

Staff will be ready to greet your child at the designated door and to dismiss your child at the end of the day. For parents/carers with more than one child, we recommend escorting your youngest child to the designated door first, followed by older siblings.

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Social distancing at drop off and pick up

Social distancing markings have been sprayed on paths and playgrounds and were successfully used during the autumn term. Please continue to follow these.

To minimise contact within the parent/carer group, we kindly ask that only one adult accompanies their child/ren to school.

Parents/carers will not be permitted to gather before or after school on the school site and we ask that adults enter and exit the school site promptly.

Parents/carers should avoid face to face contact with each other and staff.

When dropping off or collecting children, we ask that parents/carers wear a face covering whilst on the school site.

Should you wish for your child to wear a mask on the way to/ home from school, this is at your discretion. However, as per government guidance, we do not allow the wearing of face coverings by pupils within school. If your child is wearing a mask during their journey to and from school, can you please ensure your child has a sealable plastic bag so that their mask can be safely removed and stored during school hours. Thank you.

SumDog – The Aspire Academy Trust Contest



The Aspire Academy Trust SumDog Contest for March is here!

Between 08:00 today, 5th March and 20:00 on Thursday 11th March, your child/children can take part in the contest.

- Your child/children can play at any time.
- For their score to count, the 'The Aspire Academy Trust' activity must be showing in the green panel on the left of your child/children's screen when they click to start each game.
- Their scores are based on correct answers and a class's score will be the average of the scores from all students within that class who take part.
- To appear on the leader board, at least five children from a class need to take part.
- Every child is limited to 1000 contest questions, to allow those with limited computer access the ability to take part.



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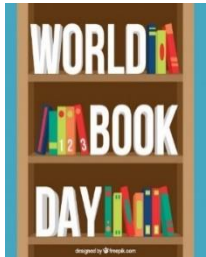
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World Book Day

This year we have celebrated World Book Day by inviting the children to enter a competition to draw their favourite character from a book which they have read. We have had some superb entries and will award the winners in the Shine Assembly next week. They will win a WHSmith gift voucher to spend on a shiny new book!



In school, the children have enjoyed talking about their favourite books and some watched the BBC live lesson about different types of stories. The children in Y6 wrote 'Reading Pledges', where they made a commitment to reading a wider range of books or to try something by an unfamiliar author. In Y3, the children had to design a front cover for a book after listening to the blurb on the back- their designs were remarkably accurate. With our new delivery of books for the library about to arrive in school, there is a real buzz about books at Connor Downs!

In conjunction with World Book Day, we have arranged to host an Author Day. This will take place on Friday 12th March 2021. Please see attached flyer for further details.

Outdoor Adventure Play Area – Update from Mr Costello



We are delighted to inform you that, this week, we have been granted funding by the Gwinear-Gwithian Sustainable Community Fund to install a new outdoor adventure play area.

We are proud that pupil voice has played an important part in the design. Many key stage 2 children sketched their ideas and these were all considered before deciding on the final design. The area will provide a safe place for children to exert

their energy and interact with their friends, whilst developing their physical, social, and emotional skills.

We are very grateful to the Gwinear-Gwithian Sustainable Community Fund for supporting this important project. A special thank you must go to Mrs James, in particular, and the Friends of Connor Downs Academy for their commitment and diligent work in helping secure this project. Their wish was to support a project that would promote the well-being of our children now, and in the future.

Work will hopefully begin at Easter and should be completed by the end of May.

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COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing Information for Parents and Adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

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>

Shine Celebrations

Please see below our Shining Stars for this week, to include both children in school and home learning.

Connor Downs Academy Shining Stars Friday 5th March 2021

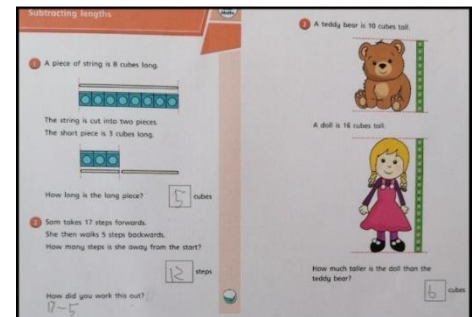
Year R – Elsie B

For creating a fantastic illustration of her favourite story character, The Gruffalo, as part of our World Book Day competition.



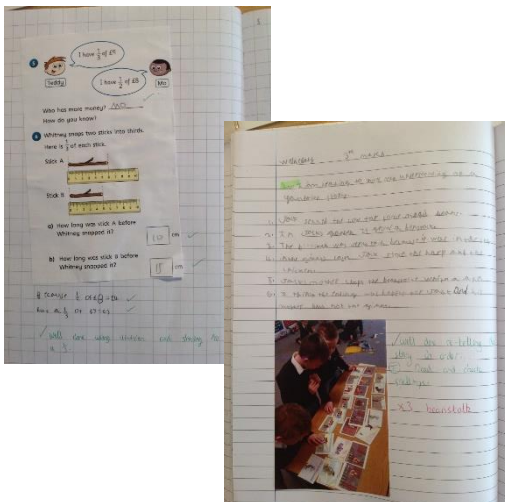
Year 1 – Ruan

For working so hard across all of his subjects, especially in maths, learning how to subtract lengths. Well done Ruan!



Year 2 – Harry

For an excellent understanding of fractions and using division and sharing to understand a third.



Year 3 – Freya

For her excellent recount using adverbs with the suffix 'ly' and her prefix work with super choice of 'auto' words. Freya also created an amazing collage using the quilling technique. Freya has shown great effort, perseverance, and creativity with all her learning subjects.



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Year 4 – Beth

For her amazing dedication to remote learning. Beth has completed every assignment, giving 110% to every piece of work, often going above and beyond. Beth has also shared some lovely photos and videos of her making the most of the outdoors.

Year 5 – Evie

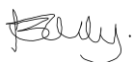
For an amazing setting description using prepositional openers as part of her home learning.

Above the clouds, the sun had risen over the dark, polluted city of London. Below the overcast sky, the cobbled streets were being trampled by horse-drawn carriages and market vendors were shouting at the top of their lungs, trying to get people to come to their stalls. Smoke was rising from factories and houses. Down a quiet narrow street, stood a dilapidated stone house, the windows were shattered and the door was very run down

Year 6 – Noah B

For taking part in our online class meetings with enthusiasm this term. Noah always has something interesting to share – Well done Noah!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Eddy
Head of School

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