



## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE

Welcome back after the Christmas holiday; we hope that you enjoyed a good holiday with your family. The children have returned to school looking smart in their school uniforms. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in providing the correct school uniform, including black school shoes.

On Friday 13th December, we held our Christmas Fayre, which once again was a very enjoyable event. We would like to thank the Friends of Connor Downs Academy for all their hard work and efforts in organising another very successful fayre. We are delighted to announce that the profits from this event were in excess of £1,000 and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents/carers, family and friends and the wider community who attended this event and made it such a success.

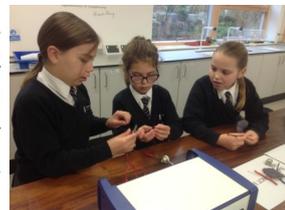


Also, before Christmas, Summer in year 4 was highly commended by MP George Eustice and his team in a Christmas card competition for our local area. Summer was selected ahead of lots of other entrants, winning an art set for her fantastic efforts. Congratulations!

Again in year 4, Henry received a personalised reply from none other than Sir David Attenborough, answering his questions and enclosing a signed photo. We reckon this might be one of the coolest replies we have had - well done Henry for writing such an inspiring letter!



As part of their learning about electricity, our Year 4 children travelled to NEXUS on Wednesday to take part in a workshop. With access to some fantastic electrical equipment, they built some circuits containing bulbs and buzzers. They also learnt about conductors and insulators as well as how switches work. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and have definitely benefited from this great, practical experience.



## Social Media/Online Gaming

As an academy, we recognise that social media is playing an ever-expanding role in our day to day lives. It is important that children start to experience this in a suitably supervised and age appropriate way. As a reminder, **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **Instagram** and **YouTube** all have a **minimum age** for users of **13 years old**. **Whatsapp**, has a **minimum age** for users of **16 years old**. We would also like to remind you that whilst the platform **Roblox** has an internet safety age of **7+**, if used inappropriately can lead to children feeling ostracised and we would kindly ask all parents/carers of children who access Roblox to monitor this usage very carefully. We strongly recommend accessing the advice for parents at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers> and <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/>

## Attendance

A reminder that our gates open at 8.30am for children to enter school and close at 8.45am. Please can we kindly remind you to ensure your child/children arrive at school on time. Late arrivals must be signed in by an adult at the school office. Also a reminder that attendance is vital to academic success and lost education poses a potential risk to under achievement.

**Mrs Eddy**

## HOMWORK GRIDS



Do you want to support your child's learning by working with them to complete fun topic-based activities at home?

We hope you will enjoy discussing the new **homework grid** sent home today. **These grids are full of fun ideas for children and their parents or other family members to try at home.**



The activities are entirely optional although we hope lots of children and families will take part!

On the grids one or two boxes will have the title: **WILD CARD FREE CHOICE!** We hope this will encourage children to think up their own ideas.



Children can choose how many activities they try – they can try one or many. For children who like to respond to a challenge, they can work towards achieving a bronze, silver or gold award.

Each time your child completes an activity at home they can bring it in to show their teacher. If they wish they can have the opportunity to share their task with others in their class.



Items will be displayed so the children's achievements can also be shared with and celebrated by others at school and with parents and carers.

The closing date for all completed activities to be brought in is **Monday 23rd March 2020.**

We warmly invite **parents and carers** to join us in celebrating the fantastic tasks children and their families have enjoyed creating on **Thursday 26th March 2020 from 3.15 – 4.00pm.**

**We hope parents, family members and children enjoy completing the tasks!**

### Request for Cardboard Boxes

If you have any unwanted cardboard boxes, please drop them to the school office. Year 5, as part of their next topic, will be making models of Pudding Lane, to replicate where the Great Fire of London took place.

### School Census Day Thursday 16th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Next Thursday, 16th January 2020, is a National School Census Day. This is when the Department for Education (DfE) collects information about each school to help them plan for the future and, most importantly, the data is used to set future school budgets. One of the figures we have to report is the number of Reception and Years 1 & 2 children who are having a Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) on this day.

The census data is then used to decide how much funding for the year we get for our hot meals. This means that if your child does not have a meal on Thursday, we will not receive any further funding for the rest of the year. If your child chooses to have a meal on another day, we will have to fund this from our school budget.

We do not receive funding for the amount of hot meals we supply, only the number of meals eaten on the two census days in October and January each year.

Our solution to this problem is to ask every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to try the hot meal on Census Day. Then your child will be fully funded to have hot meals during the year thus saving the school any additional costs.

Thank you for your support

## ATTENDANCE

Our school target for attendance is 96%.

1st Place	Year 2	99.6%
2nd Place	Year R	98.7%
3rd Place	Year 6	97.5%

# SHINE AWARDS



Our next Shine Assembly is on **Friday 17th January**, at 2.40pm.  
Parents of the children below are warmly invited to attend.



Please come along to main reception no earlier than 2.35pm. A special well done to:

Reception	Billy	For demonstrating an outstanding understanding of animals, their habitats and preferred eating habits when exploring our new topic, 'Animal Kingdom'.
Year 1	Jacob	For always putting 100% effort into every subject, especially writing a recount of his Christmas day.
Year 2	Alice	For a positive attitude to all aspects of school life and consideration of other work and mathematical achievement.
Year 3	Riley	For working hard on English comprehension, using a dictionary to edit his spellings.
Year 4	Henry J.	For demonstrating excellent behaviour for learning and a positive attitude at all times.
Year 5	Charlie	For his positive attitude across the curriculum which is an example to all.
Year 6	Alara	For excellent working on addition and subtraction, challenging herself with increasingly tricky problems.
Writer of the week	Emy Year 5	For making that little bit extra effort with her writing tasks—it is making a real difference.
YR & KS1 Reader of the week	Kian Year 2	For outstanding progress in reading and phonics. You are growing in confidence and this shows in your fluency of reading, comprehension of text as well as some fantastic vocabulary choices.
KS2 Reader of the week	Mason Year 3	For consistently reading every night and being a great reading role model in class.
Mathematician of the week	Kian Year 6	For great enthusiasm and effort when answering challenging maths questions including inverse and brackets.
Performer of the week	Katrice Year R	For always brightening up Mr Masters and Mrs Malyan's day with her beautiful singing, particularly when learning new songs during phonics.
Citizen of the week	Malyka Year 1	For always being so kind and polite to everyone she meets, helping around the classroom whenever she can.