



**Connor Downs**  
Academy

# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



**Connor Downs**  
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## Year 5

# Autumn Term 2023

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## English



In Year 5, we understand that we learn from our mistakes. In fact, FAIL for our children simply means our First Attempt In Learning. This was highlighted through our work on the animation "Wing it" and the perseverance of Sherman the inventor. The children were taught several new Alan Peat sentence types to make their writing more interesting and engaging. They developed their grammar skills and learned the conventions of *speech first punctuation* which they could then demonstrate in their own versions of the story. Finally, the children learned the importance of reflection and provided warm and cold feedback to their friends using our peer critique framework.

Our expedition to the summit of Rough Tor was to launch our biography about Sir Ernest Shackleton. The experience of walking and facing a great challenge as a team was to deepen their understanding of Shackleton's achievements and provide some insight into surviving an extreme environment. Through reading comprehension, individual research and shared reading the children built up a picture of "The Boss" and were able to sequence the key events in his life. Through the analysis of other biographies we were able to magpie good ideas and create an engaging text summarizing Shackleton's life.

The class story, *The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket, has been a focus for our class discussion on how to write like an author.

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The children enjoyed their visit to the Minack theatre where they got to perform on the world famous stage and have a VIP back stage tour after writing their Titanic newspaper reports.



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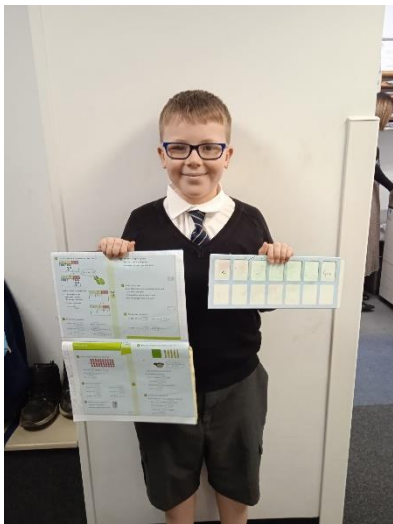
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## Maths

Year 5 started the year with a number of low challenge high ceiling tasks. Through our class discussions and linked work on the work of Professor Jo Boaler into the way we learn we reinforced the ideas that mistakes are the way we learn and that there is no such thing as a "maths person".



Daily practice of the tables is a key element to each maths lesson as we know that fluency is an essential part of mastering maths. We use a spiral review to keep our fluency skills sharp as we need our working memory to struggle with our reasoning and problem-solving questions.



Through the newest version of White Rose Maths, the children have developed their knowledge of place value and

have a greater understanding of the underlying structure of numbers which will allow them to reason more effectively.

Next, the children refined their algorithms for addition and subtraction before relating their skills to real-life problems. Throughout each topic there has been a focus on learning key maths vocabulary and using it precisely in our work. Finally, the children learned all about fractions.

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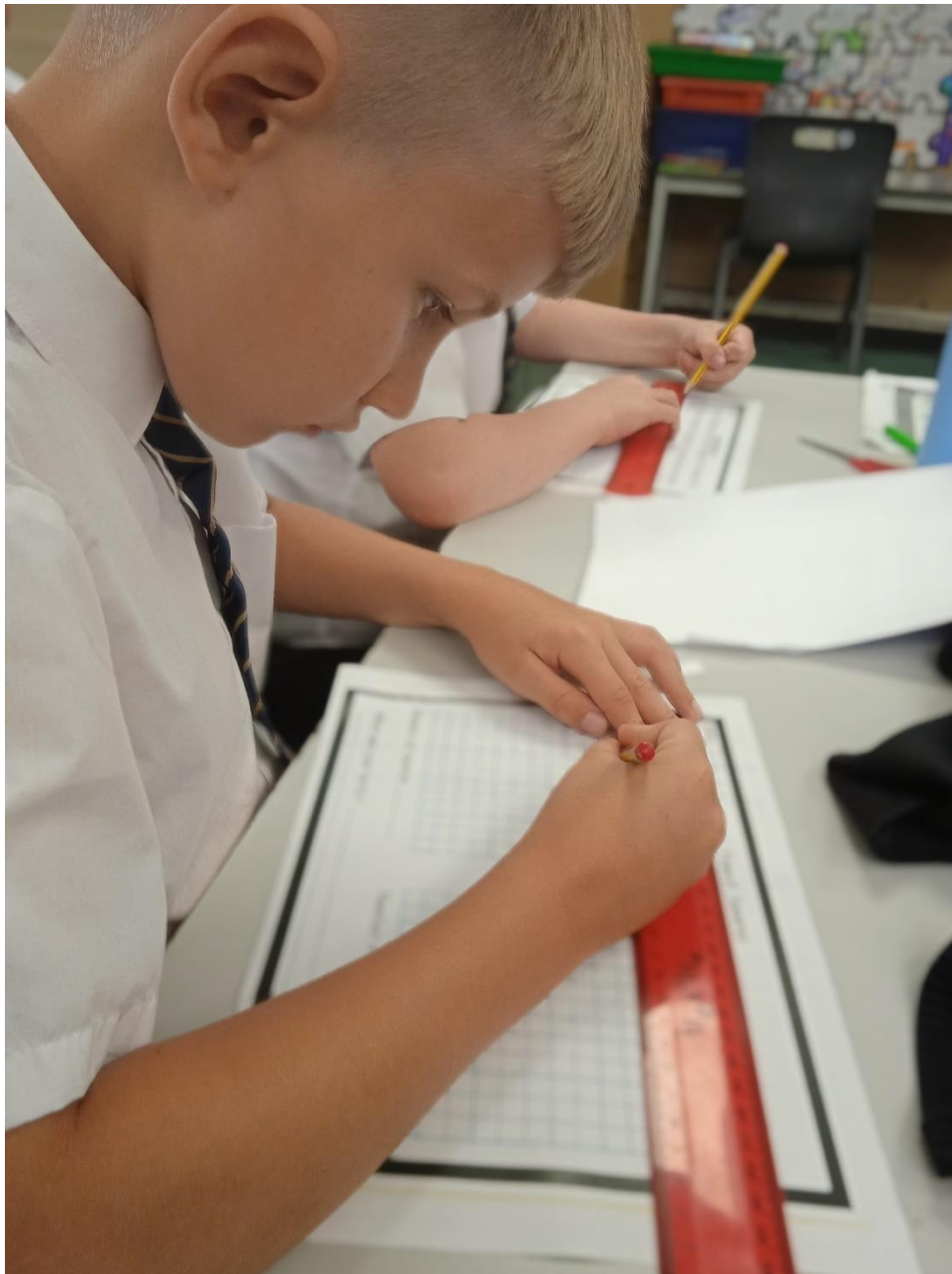




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## Science

The first topic this term was Earth and Space. The children have been immersed in space with their story writing focusing on alien inventions. The children have learned about the relative sizes of the planets in our solar system and the orbits that they follow. Through ICT the children have learned about the rotation of the earth and the phases of the moon. Some children, as part of their homework grid tasks, have even been star gazing with their parents.

Next, the children investigated forces through the intent question: Why did the apple fall from the tree? A highlight of the term has been the trip to Nexus to study gears, levers and pulleys. The children were able to make predictions using their scientific knowledge and test their predictions in the lab. In a link with PE, the children were taught to use their bike gears safely as they progressed through their *bike ability* training.

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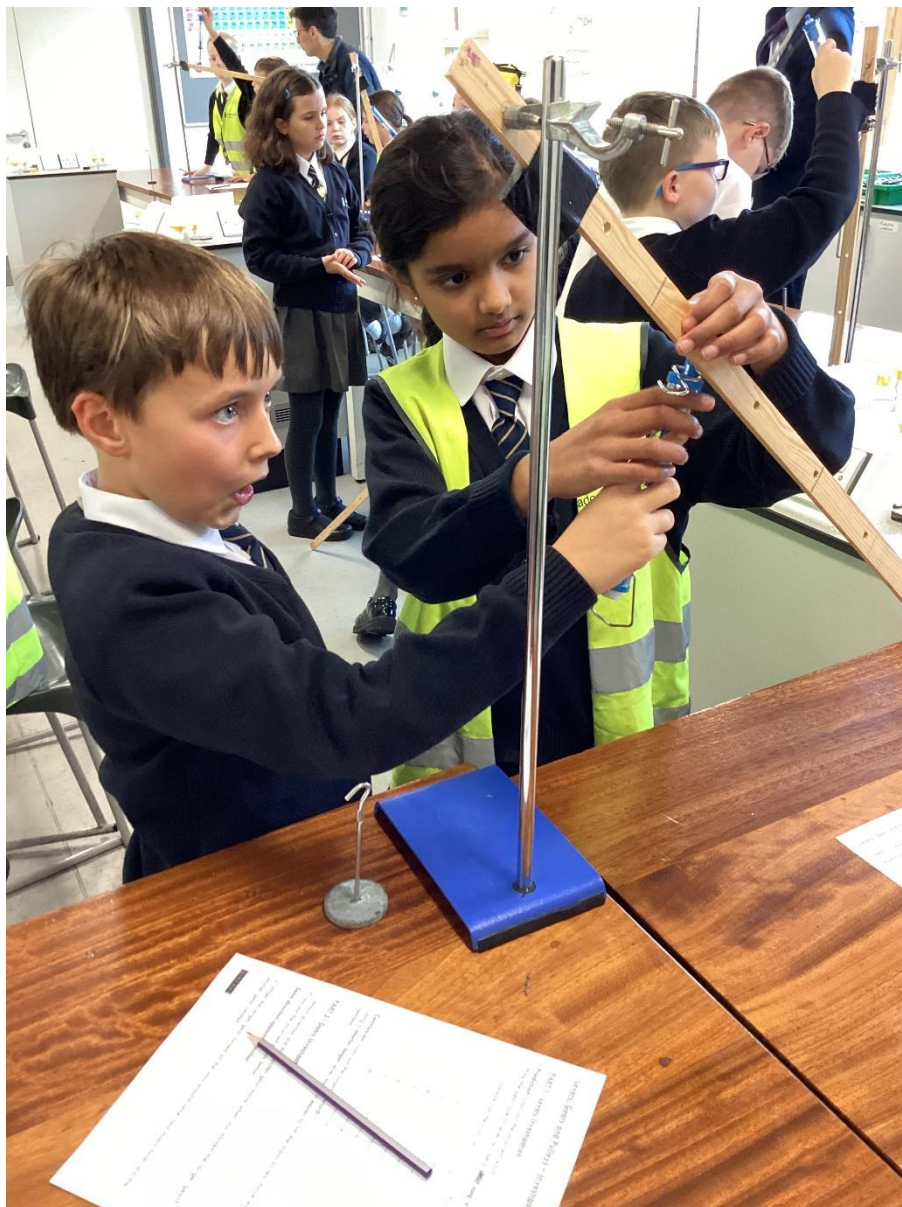




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## PE

As part of our outdoor and adventurous activities (OAA), the children climbed to the second highest peak in Cornwall and used their map skills to navigate. This topic supported their learning in English and geography and encouraged the children's resilience and teamwork.



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The children have challenged themselves to be active and track their steps using our Moki Fitness trackers. In a link with science, we have noted the effects of warming up on our bodies and how it improves performance.

We have learned about invasion games and the importance of teamwork and communication to keep the ball at football festivals for Years 5 and 6.

Swimming has been amazing as the children's confidence in the water grew exponentially and many surprised themselves with how much they had improved and the fun that they had.

In addition to the curriculum PE lessons, several children

have loved learning to safely ride their bikes on the road with the *bike ability* programme.

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## History



The children have learned about the early pioneers of space from Neil Armstrong to Mae C. Jemison.

Whilst preparing to write like a journalist the children used first-hand accounts and their own internet research about the Titanic. In a link to maths, the children calculated the number of survivors from first class to third class to discover if the maritime law of "women and children first" was upheld. On their visit to the Minack theatre, the children demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of the accident by sequencing and performing a play.

1. The children have investigated ancient Greece by investigating key questions e.g. What different types of government were

there in Ancient Greece? The children have learned about the Greek Gods and many have enhanced their knowledge by reading some of our Greek books in our class library. In a link to English, the children have researched about the legacy of the ancient Greeks and compiled a non-chronological report.





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## Geography



In Geography, the children have learned about the United Kingdom. They have used an atlas to locate and label the countries and counties in the UK and learned some key features of a chosen town or city. Through games and quizzes the children have tested their newly acquired knowledge and reflected on what they need to learn next before researching the answers. In a link with maths, the children have researched and then plotted the heights of the highest peaks in the UK and proven their understanding of the data by answering questions about their graphs. Finally the children have researched the longest rivers in the UK and found out many interesting facts about them.

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## Art and Design

The children have enjoyed learning about the life Frida Kahlo. This linked with our weekly "Doodle Friday" activities and our theme of resilience. The children compared a variety of her paintings to understand how she told her story through the things that she loved the most. The children were able to analyse some of her portraits and discuss the images and their meaning. Next, the children learned how to draw a portrait and sketched and improved their own work to produce a final piece to represent their world.







## Music



In the first half of the autumn term, year 5 used the song 'Livin' on a Prayer' by Bon Jovi to think about how aspects of music are applied in composition and performance. They discussed the nine interrelated dimensions of music and how much each aspect affected the song. They compared and contrasted other songs of the same musical genre, listening and appraising the songs. They used the glockenspiel to perform sections of 'Livin' on a Prayer, looking at notation and learning about the symbols that inform musicians. In the second half of term, year 5 used various instruments to perform together, thinking about how they relate to others and build texture. They used a simple bossa nova tune to perform, again using the glockenspiels and considered improvisation. They used this boss nova tune to look at building texture, study the result of different tempos and how

dynamics plays a part in the feel of a piece of music.

In a link with history, the Year 5 children attended the Women in Cornwall Project at Kresen Kernow. Following several sessions in school, working with Christine Judge from Cornwall Music Service Trust, the children performed their song to an audience. They then evaluated their performance and the project. Following this they were treated to a performance by Angeline, a professional musician, who played a variety of instruments and talked about the inspiration for her song writing.

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This year, the children have revised their French vocabulary using the exciting and engaging *Rigolo* French programme. With a focus on knowing key phrases, the children have developed their conversational skills and are beginning to record their conversations in writing about celebrations in France.

## Design Technology



In design technology, the children have applied their knowledge of forces from our science topic in a practical context. They have studied a range of different bridge designs to understand how they work. The children were challenged with making the strongest bridge using only paper, card and tape. To complete the task, they investigated how shape affects the strength of a span and carried out fair tests on their working models.

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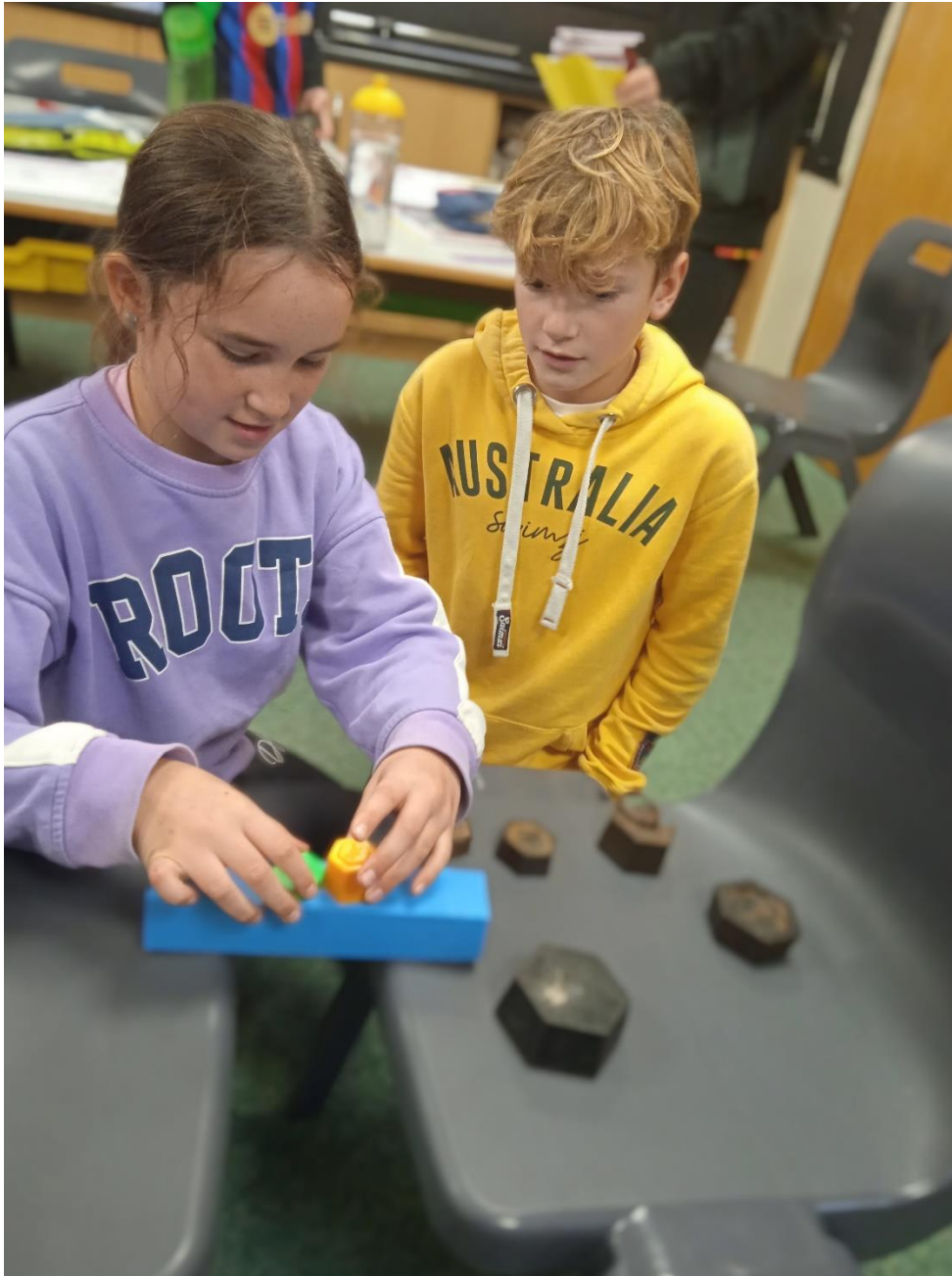
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## Computing



In year 5, the use of ICT is woven throughout our topics. Safety on the internet is vital and is revised every year and was revisited on our Junior Life Skills visit at Penzance Fire Station. The children have learned how to research key questions on the internet and show good judgement when reading web content. When editing and redrafting their newspaper reports in Google Classroom, the children understood how to insert and resize images and spell check their work. In a link to maths, the children have faced numerous Sum Dog challenges linked to their learning and they have used TT Rockstars to sharpen their tables knowledge and understanding.

Furthermore, the children have learned to understand systems and searching. They have considered how larger computer systems work and seen how devices and processes

are connected. The children have gained an understanding of why search engines are necessary to help them find things on the World Wide Web. They have investigated how their search results are ranked and considered why some searches return more results than others.

Finally, the children learned about visual media and video editing. They employed the filming techniques they learned about to create and edit a short video with their peers.

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## Religious Education



As part of our topic on Christianity we studied: "What does it mean if God is Loving and Holy?" We discussed the key features of a God, and the children were asked to design their own God and reflect on what features they would value. As a class we, discussed how we know people, and this led on to discussion about how Christians get to know God. Through studying the Gospels, we learned what God hates and why forgiveness is important to Christians. As a class, we examined how the structure of Christian buildings reflect their religion and how music celebrates the Christian faith.

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## PSHE

PSHE (Personal, Social Health and Economic Education) is delivered through our weekly SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) program, but is present in all that we do in school. This term the focus has been on *Me and my Relationships* and *Valuing Differences*. The marshmallow tower competition challenged the children to work together with a set of criteria. There was a strong focus on communication and decision-making skills as the towers rose high above the table. In our SCARF lessons, we have role played and discussed a variety of scenarios and the consequences of our actions. We understand that talking and listening are two key skills for a good friendship and know that a compromise is needed for an agreeable resolution to a problem.

We launched the term with a marshmallow tower building challenge which emphasized the need for teamwork, communication, and resilience.

Year 5 travelled to Penzance Fire Station to take part in a Junior Life Skills workshop linked to our PSHE curriculum.

The children learned about:

- Internet Safety
- Basic CPR
- Electrical Safety and Fire Alarms
- Dangers around water
- Road safety
- GWR – safe behaviour in and around stations.

The children have been tasked to test their fire alarms at home by the fire service this week and every month thereafter.





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