



Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



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Academy

Year 4

Summer Term 2023

T: 01736 753135

E: hello@connordowns.org.uk

W: www.connordowns.org.uk

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

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English

We began our English lessons this year by writing a narrative inspired by the book – 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. After this, the children all planned and wrote biographies, linking to our science topic on electricity. We studied a biography about one of the most famous electrical engineers, Nikola Tesla and then the children innovated the text, rewriting it with another pioneer such as Edison, Faraday or Swann. After half term, we moved on to learning about writing a non-chronological report. We linked this to our European topic and the children all wrote about various aspects of the continent



A new introduction to our English curriculum this year was the allocation and whole class performance of a poem to the other classes of KS2. Each of the four KS2 classes had their own poem to perform. The children really enjoyed this activity, putting their full effort into a fantastic performance of the poem 'From a Railway Carriage' by Robert Louis Stevenson. The poem uses its rhythm to evoke the movement of a train. The children conveyed the energy of the poem admirably.

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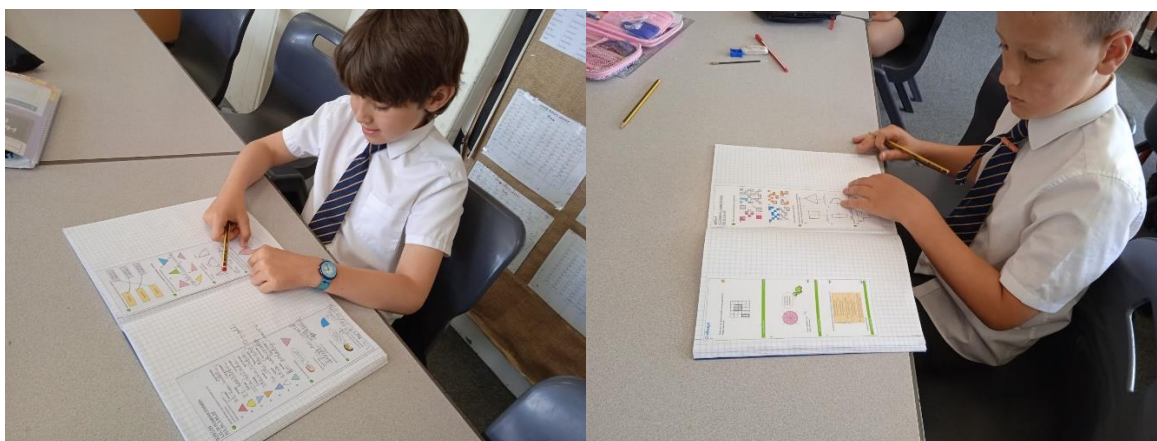
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Maths

Our main focus in Maths has been to develop the children's ability to learn and recall their times tables knowledge at speed. Knowing this enables the children to focus their attention on working out what word problems are asking them to do instead of the mechanics of calculating the division or multiplication. We test our knowledge on the same times table every day and chant the answers together. On a Friday, the children have a whole class multiplication test. Four days a week, the children keep their arithmetic skills sharp through spiral review tasks and tables practice. At Connor Downs, the children tackle fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving tasks throughout each of their maths topics to "master" each skill before being ready to progress to the next unit of work. Each unit starts with a baseline assessment to ensure that coverage is tailored to fill any gaps. We also utilise physical opportunities to get the children moving while recalling the knowledge they have learnt.



Our first topic this term was decimals. The children learned to work with tenths and hundredths as well as being able to partition decimals flexibly. They compared, ordered and rounded decimals as well as recognised halves and quarters as decimals. Money was our next topic where the children began using their decimals knowledge to write amounts of money. They also converted amounts of money, estimated, calculated and solved problems using money. We then looked at years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds in our time topic. The children were able to convert from analogue and digital and between 12-hour and 24-hour clocks. In our shape topic, we began by looking at different types of angles – acute, right, obtuse, straight line, reflex and full turn. Then, we looked at properties of different triangles, quadrilaterals and polygons and used lines of symmetry to complete symmetric figures. In the statistics topic, the children interpreted different

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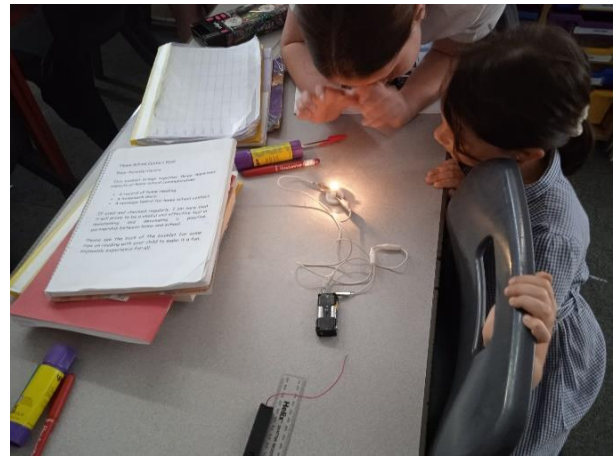
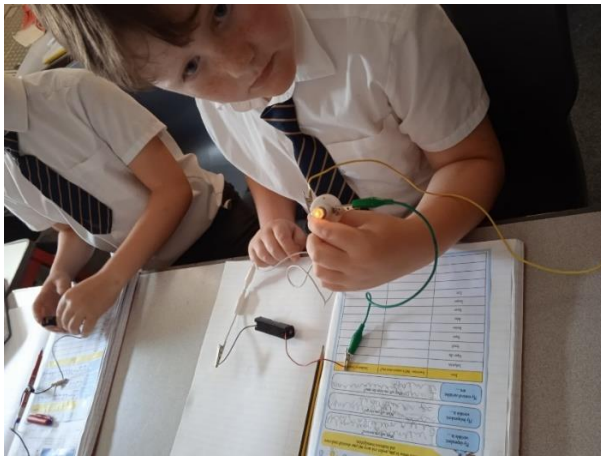


types of charts and used comparison, sum and difference. Our last topic of the term was position and direction. In this topic, we described position using coordinates, plotted coordinates, drew 2D shapes, translated shapes and described the translation.

Science

This term, we studied our final topic – Electricity. We began by thinking about which objects use electricity to work and how to keep ourselves safe while using electrical devices. We moved on to find out how to build an electrical circuit and used it to test which objects are conductors and which are insulators.

We ended the topic by creating a game which utilised a circuit. The children all created wire hoop games which incorporated the use of a circuit.



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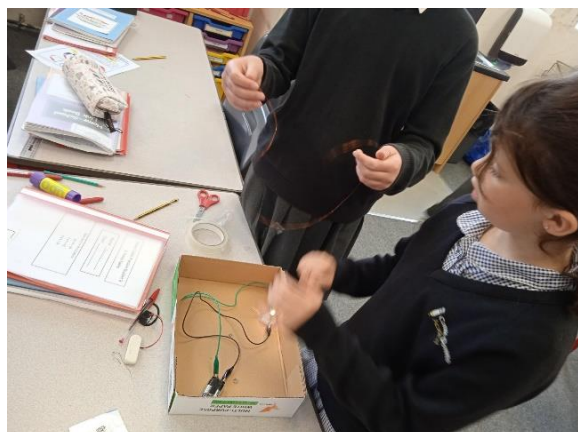
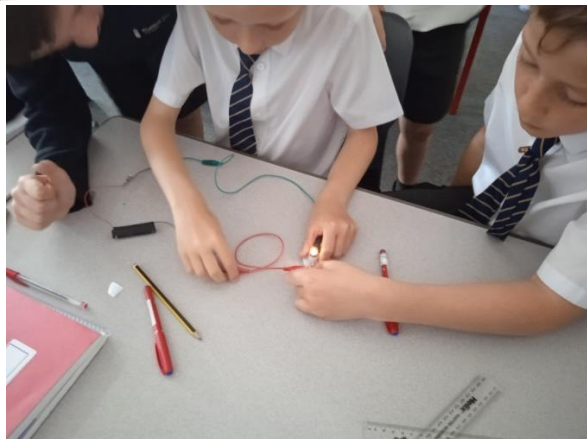
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PE

At the beginning of the term, the children completed team challenges. They worked together to move across the hall using equipment without touching the floor, 'caved' between two mats, completed card challenges and created their own assault course using the activities they had completed over the half term. In our athletics topic, we focused on running technique. We looked at what different parts of our bodies do while we are running and the different strategies used depending on whether the children are completing a sprint or running longer distances. We also learned about the hop, skip and jump technique needed for the triple jump.

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History

This term, we studied The Maya. We learned about where and when the remains of the Mayan civilization were discovered and how the Mayan civilization developed over time. We looked at how society was organised and about Mayan religion and beliefs. The children enjoyed researching about their everyday life and what archaeologists have helped us to find out about them. They also enjoyed exploring Mayan writing and calendars and finally, the decline of civilization.

Geography

In our Geography topic about our European neighbours, we began by locating Europe, and the other continents on a world map and identified and located countries on a map of Europe. The children were able to identify the correct countries according to their features and the major capital cities of Europe. The children finished the topic by comparing two European capital cities, London and Paris.



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Art and Design

At the beginning of our Recycled art topic, the children explored different ways to join materials and the texture and appearance of different junk materials. Then they completed three tasks; creating a simple animal sculpture, using recycled cardboard to make a piece of art and designing and making a piece of art to convey a message.



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Design and Technology

During the second half of the term, we moved on to our seasonal food topic. We began the topic by learning about what seasonal food is, how seasonal fruits are grown and processed and focusing on wheat. The children then used wheat to make fairy cakes. Then, we learned why vegetables form an important part of a healthy and varied diet and how seasonally produced meat can also form part of our diet. The children then worked as a group to make stuffed peppers which they were all encouraged to taste. We ended the topic by learning how fish are caught, reared and processed and then the children designed a healthy seasonal meal to show what they had learned.

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Computing

Every day in Year Four, the children access our iPads and Chromebooks. The children quiz after they have completed their reading books and they use Sumdog and Times Table Rockstars to enhance learning their times tables and to practice for the MTC (multiplication tables check).

This term, the children have been learning how to edit photographs. They used online programs to change, clone and combine images. They then used what they had learned to create an advert for a perfume bottle.

MFL - French

This term, the children have revised their French vocabulary using the exciting and engaging *Rigolo* French program. With a focus on knowing key phrases, the children have developed their conversational skills and are beginning to record their conversations in writing. The children are able to ask and answer simple questions in French. They have been revisiting previous learning and writing simple sentences in French about what time it is, what activity they are doing, turning left and right and beginning to describe the weather.

RE

In the first half of the term, we focused on how religions decide what is right and wrong and how they show this in their everyday lives. After half term, we looked at what happened to Jesus' disciples during Pentecost and how it impacted them. We began to make links between God in the Bible and what people believe about following God today.

PSHE

PSHE is delivered through our weekly SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) program, but is present in all that we do in school and in every interaction we have.

In the first half of the term we focused on 'Being my best.' We looked at how people are different and choices they make for themselves and choices others make for them. After that the children learned about the 7 R's (refuse, reduce, re-use, rot, recycle, repair and re-think) and how we can use them to live in a way which is better for the environment. In our 'Growing and changing' topic the children learned about how their feelings and their bodies will change as they become teenagers.



Music

We focused on two songs this term. Our first song was 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers. We learned to sing the song and listened to songs by Beyonce, Mary Mary and Elvis and explained whether we liked them or not and why. The children also practice finding the pulse of a piece of music by following instructions on screen.

The second song we learned to sing was 'Blackbird' by The Beatles. We learned to sing the song and play glockenspiels as well. During this time, we also listened to other songs by The Beatles – 'Yellow submarine,' 'Hey Jude!' and 'Can't buy me Love' – and explained why we did or did not like each of the songs.



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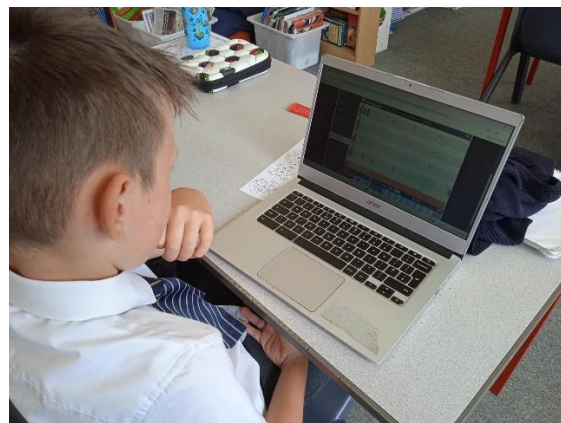
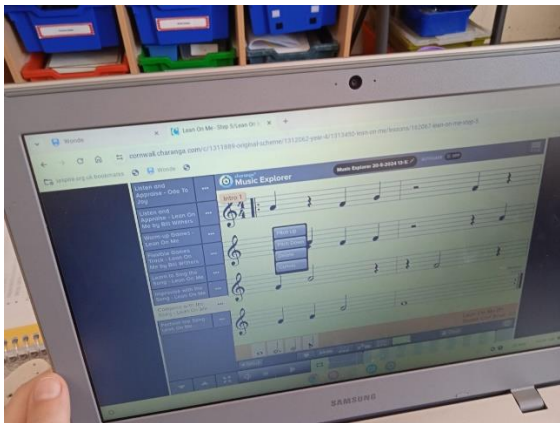
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Careers Day



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CDA Camp

On Tuesday 25th June, Year 4 took over the Connor Downs Academy camp ground on the school field. After school, we headed to the beach for a walk and a picnic. When we returned to school, the children enjoyed playing games on the school field before they got ready for bed and spent time inside their tents with their friends.

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Camp Kernow

On Thursday 8th May and Friday 9th May, some of the children from Year 4 went to Camp Kernow for a one-night residential. The children all learned about living off-grid with no connection to mains electricity or water. On Thursday, after arriving at camp and settling into their tents, the children completed tasks around the site, learned about off-grid living, enjoyed archery, climbing and going for a night walk in the woods where we met the Woodsman who told the children about different trees in the woods.

After camping for the night, the children enjoyed pancakes for breakfast, packed up their belongings and headed into the woods to build shelters. We enjoyed testing the shelters before hiking to Boscawen Park for a picnic before heading back to Connor Downs Academy. The children all did an amazing job of representing our school and showed great resilience, bravery and independence.



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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children for their hard work this term. We would also like to thank all parents and carers for their support this year. Have a fantastic Summer holiday and we wish the whole class the best for their move into Year Five.

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