



# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



**Connor Downs**  
Academy

## Year 4

# Autumn Term 2022

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## English

The first reading book which we shared as a class this term was 'Charlotte's Web' by E. B. White. The book inspired our own stories about animals who could talk. The children worked hard on their sentence structure and using a range of conjunctions to join their sentences. The class all enjoyed listening to the story which described the friendship of Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider. They learned about good qualities of friendship and how to treat your friends and remember the good times you had together.

We spent a week focusing on poetry to incorporate National Poetry Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October. The children learned the different purposes that an author writes for: to persuade, to inform or to entertain. We learned the poem 'Whether the Weather' off by heart and recited it to other classes in the school. On National Poetry Day we read the poem 'The Word Bird' together to focus on this year's topic of the environment. The children all created their own word bird, looked for quirky and interesting words using a thesaurus and wrote their own verse in the style of 'The Word Bird'.

Our next text type was newspapers. The class all enjoyed looking at the First News newspapers that we have in class to help them to recognise the features of newspapers and understand how they are organised. During this time, we were learning about where the Anglo-Saxons came from and why they invaded Britain, so the children all wrote newspaper articles from the day that the Anglo-Saxons first invaded and began settling in Britain.

In November, we began to learn about the features of playscripts. The children used these features to help them plan and write a playscript about the Great Connor Downs Rabbit Robbery. We were also able to understand how scripts help actors when we took part in the Minack Theatre's Shakespeare festival. This involved us having a workshop led by John Brolly during which he told the children what happened in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and led the children in deciding how to present Act 4. John asked the children for their ideas and then encouraged them to act out their ideas. It was lovely to watch the children have so much ownership over the process. As part of the festival, we were very fortunate to be able to go and perform, alongside four other schools, on the world famous Minack stage. The weather was brilliant for our visit and the children all performed Act 4 with confidence and were able to use their actor voices and remember all the instructions John gave them.

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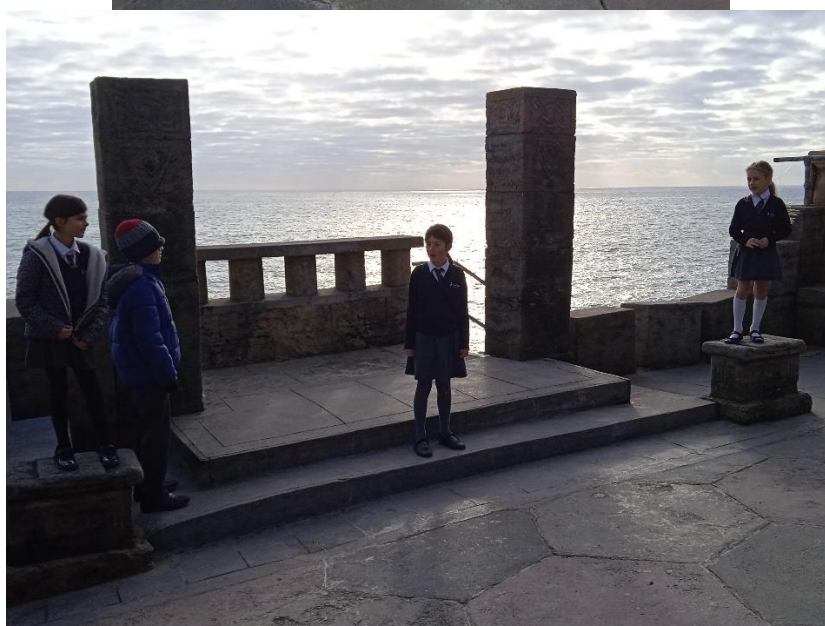
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At the end of the term, we learned about writing instructions. Firstly, the children followed a set of instructions, in their groups, to make a paper snowflake. After making the snowflakes, the children evaluated the instructions and discussed the different features of an information text. The class then all wrote their own set of instructions about how to make a seasonal stocking. This was linked to our Design and Technology lessons where they all designed, made, and decorated a Christmas stocking.



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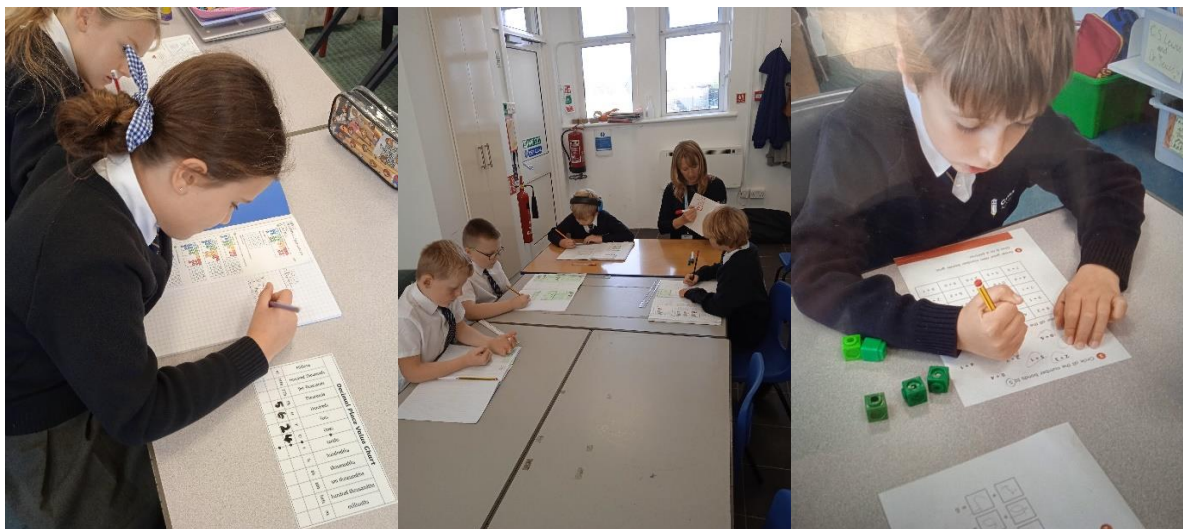


## Maths

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 Thursdays, the children are tested on the times table that is their personal focus. 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 started with a baseline assessment to ensure that coverage is tailored to fill any gaps. The children learned to manipulate and partition numbers in their place value topic before developing their formal methods for addition and subtraction.

Later in the term, we turned our attention to area. The children focused on counting squares to calculate area, made their own shapes with a particular area and compared the area of different shapes.

Finally, we ended the term with a focus on multiplication and division. The children began with multiples of 3 and times tables and division facts for the 6- and 9-times tables. We then moved on to times tables and division facts for the 7-, 11- and 12-times tables. We finished the topic by multiplying and dividing numbers by 1, 0 and itself and multiplying three numbers.



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## Science

Our first topic this term was States of Matter. The children learned about the properties of solids, liquids and gases and compares and grouped materials. We also investigated changes of state when objects were heated or cooled and changed from one state to another. The children learned about condensation and evaporation and the role they both play in the water cycle.

Our final topic of the year was Living things and their habitats. We started by investigating a range of different habitats. The children then grouped organisms according to their characteristics. Classification keys helped us to organise, identify and classify animals and plants. The topic ended by looking at human impact on habitats and environments and how we can help to protect them.

## PE

In PE this term, the children started by learning to play tennis. They began by learning how to hold a tennis racket correctly and how to control the ball. The children then moved on to learning forehand and backhand strokes. We discussed how to play safely and ensure we were in control of our tennis racket and ball. The children played small games to practise their forehand and backhand.

During the second half of the term, the children began gymnastics lessons where they focused on making bridges. They worked in pairs and small groups to put together methods of travelling and moving under bridges formed by single children, pairs or groups of children. We also took part in a cheer and dance class as a taster session.



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The children have all enjoyed wearing the school Moki watches on a number of occasions this term. They all tried hard each week we had them to clock up as many steps as they could.

We were very fortunate to attend Camborne Science and International Academy for a day of OAA (outdoor and adventurous activity) - climbing, team challenges and orienteering. For their first activity, half of the class worked with a teacher from CSIA to put on harnesses and helmets and support each other climbing on the climbing wall while the other half of the class worked with Mrs Crease who challenged them to work collaboratively as a team with different challenges. After an hour, the children swapped activities. During the afternoon, the whole class were taken outside to be taught how to follow a map to find control points and collect the information they needed. The letters found were an anagram of 'football'.

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## History

Our focus this term in history was the Anglo-Saxons, Picts and Scots. The children began the topic by looking at archaeological evidence from Sutton Hoo to find out how we know about the past and to learn more about the Anglo-Saxons. Next, they looked at who the Anglo-Saxons were and where they came from as well as learning about who the Picts and Scots were and where they lived. They learned about Anglo-Saxon life and culture by looking at languages used at the time, art, music, legends, and poetry. We ended the topic by learning about the spread of Christianity during the time of the Anglo-Saxons.



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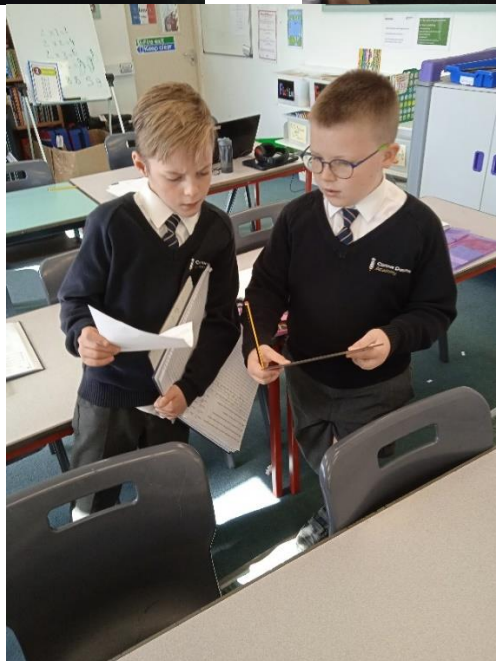
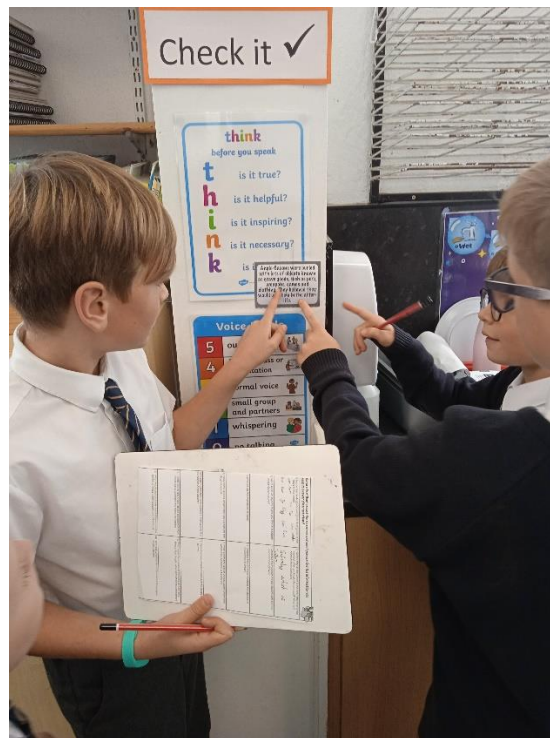




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## Geography

We focused on learning about rainforests in Geography this term. The topic began by finding out what a rainforest is and where they can be found around the world. We then moved on to explore and understand the layers of vegetation in a rainforest. The children learned about the climate of the rainforest and the tribes who call the rainforest home. They compared how they lived in the UK to how tribes lived in the rainforest. We ended our learning in the classroom by focusing on reasons the rainforest is under threat and how we can help to protect it. We were fortunate to be able to visit the Eden Project as part of this topic in order for the children to see the different vegetation layers in the rainforest, learn which plants grow in different countries and compare the climates in both the rainforest and Mediterranean biomes with our climate in the UK. The children all enjoyed seeing and feeling what it was like in the rainforest, hearing the different sounds and experiencing the cloud bridge. Mrs Crease also showed the class a plant which would curl up its leaves if you gently stroked it, this movement helps the plant to catch water.



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## Art

In our plant art topic, we began by looking at the different artists who use plants in their art work. The children discussed what they liked about different pieces of art. For our next lesson we learned about botanical illustrations and used the CAP process (constant observation, attention to detail and patience) to help make our observational sketches as accurate as possible. Moving on from this we learned about the artist Georgia O'Keeffe who created large scale paintings of plants. The children learned how to create tints, shades and tones of colour to create their own painting of a flower. The children used printing skills to create leaf prints and finished the topic by creating a clay sculpture. We learned about the importance of getting rid of air bubbles from clay and how to join two pieces of clay together with slip. The children used these skills to create a clay flower bowl.

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## Design and Technology

At the end of the term, the children began their seasonal stocking topic by evaluating a range of stockings and deciding whether they were mainly functional or visually appealing. We learned about different stitches that can be used to join material together – back stitch, running stitch, over stitch or zigzag stitch. They used this research to help them to design their own stocking; thinking about who it was for and which stitch and decoration they would use. At the end of the topic the children created their own stockings and evaluated them.



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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 TTRockstars at least once a week to enhance learning their times tables and to practice the MTC (multiplication tables check).

In our Computing and PSHE lessons the children have revisited their learning about Internet safety this term.

Our first Computing topic was 'The Internet'. The children learned about networks and how messages are sent between networks. We learned that network devices make up the internet, the internet allows us to view the World Wide Web and that the World Wide Web is the part of the internet that contains websites and web pages.

Our second Computing topic was 'Audio editing'. We used the voice memos app on the iPads to record our voices, trim the recordings and replace parts of our recordings.

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## 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. They have revisited how to say hello, hi, introduce themselves, answer the register saying 'Bonjour Madame Crease' and answering the question *Quel age as tu?* (how old are you?) We learned about the names of family members, the alphabet, household items, numbers up to 31 and the months of the year.

## RE

During the first half of the term, the children learned about Hinduism and what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. They learned what Hindus believe god is like, how and where Hindus worship and about celebrating Diwali.

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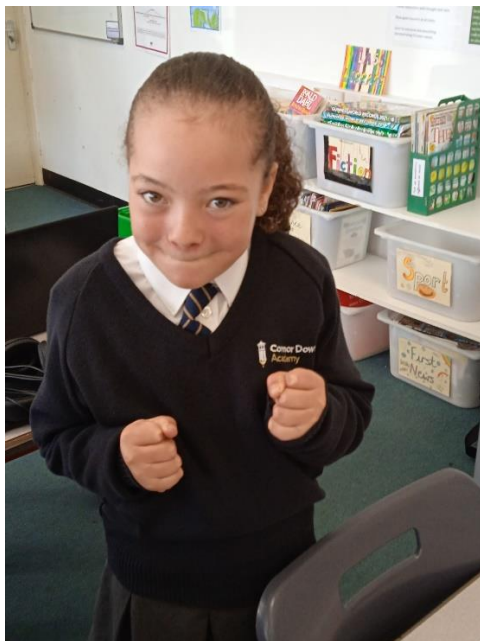
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During the second half of the Autumn Term, for our Christianity focus, we learned about the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We also revisited the Christmas story in our run up to the Christmas holidays.

## PSHE

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health 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*. One of the activities we did was how we show our emotions and how we can recognise how others might be feeling through their body language. The children enjoyed freeze framing to show different emotions. We also got a range of musical instruments and explored the different sounds we could make. We discussed how the different instruments and music produced made us feel. The class have also attended weekly Key Stage 2 assemblies focusing on a range of topics related to this term's focus in PSHE lessons and celebrations such as Remembrance Day.



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## Music

Our music lessons this term have been led by Mrs Burden as part of the First Access program. Every child has learned how to play a brass instrument. The children all enjoyed learning the different notes each week, how long different notes last for and being able to take their instruments home to practise. At the end of our ten lessons, the children performed at our Christmas Fair. They all did an amazing job and should be very pleased with themselves.

During the last few weeks of term, the class learned two carols for the KS2 carol service concert. They did a great job of learning the carols and performed brilliantly at Phillack Church.

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children for their hard work this term and to thank all parents and carers for their support. Have a fantastic Christmas holiday and we will see you in January.

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