



Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



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Year 4

Autumn Term 2023

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

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English

Our first text type of the academic year was newspaper reports. 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.

We spent a week focusing on poetry to incorporate National Poetry Day on Thursday 5th October, which this year focused on the theme of refuge. 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 each other in class.

In November, we began to plan and write a playscript for Act 1 of the William Shakespeare play 'King Lear'. We were also able to understand how scripts help actors when we took part in the Minack Theatre's Shakespeare workshop. As part of the workshop, it had been planned to be able to go and perform, alongside three other schools, on the world famous Minack stage. Unfortunately, the weather was threatening to bring in a Tempest for our Lear production and so the location for the workshop was moved to Sennen Community Hall. Although the performance space was less glamorous than the cliff top of the Minack, the children all performed Act 1 with confidence and were able to use their actor voices and remember all the instructions given to them by the director John Brolly.



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At the end of the term, we learnt about the rainforest and used a text by Katherine Rundell titled 'The Explorer'. The children learnt about similes, metaphors, adverbial phrase, personification, repetition and correctly punctuated dialogue that they then used in their own writing as they wrote the next chapter to an adventure story.

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

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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.

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.

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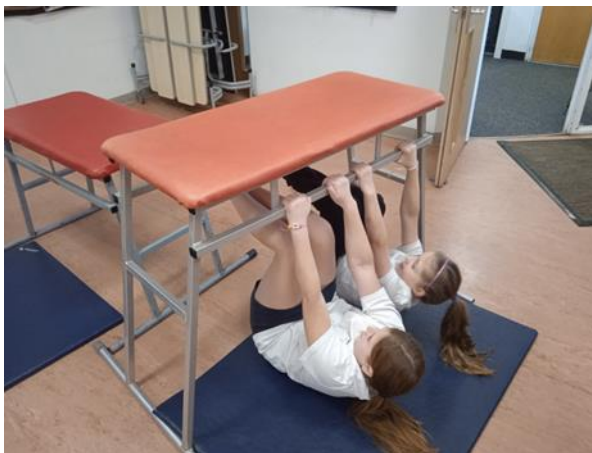




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History

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.

Geography

We focused on learning about rainforests in Geography after half 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 climate of the rainforest 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.

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Art

In our plant art topic, we began by looking at the different artists who use plants in their artwork. 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.

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, many hours of sewing, stitching, unstitching and resewing were spent in the hope of selling our decorations at the Christmas fair!

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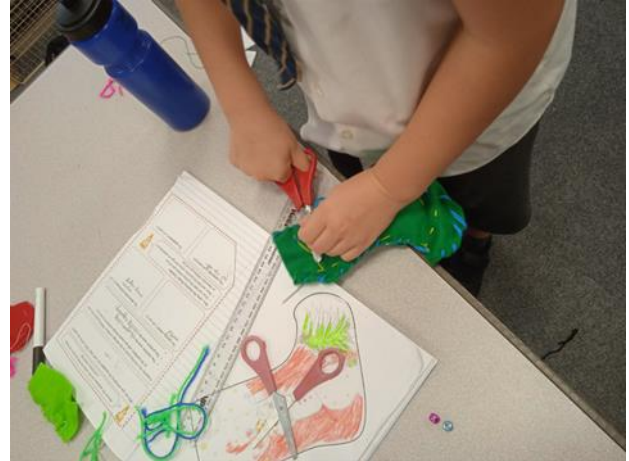
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Computing

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.

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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.

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. The second half of the Autumn Term we studied Christianity. We learned about how Christian's view God, what gospels are and how Christians use them in worship and the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

PSHE

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Economic) is delivered through our weekly SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) program, but is present in all that we do in school.

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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