



Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



Connor Downs
Academy

Year 4

Spring Term 2023

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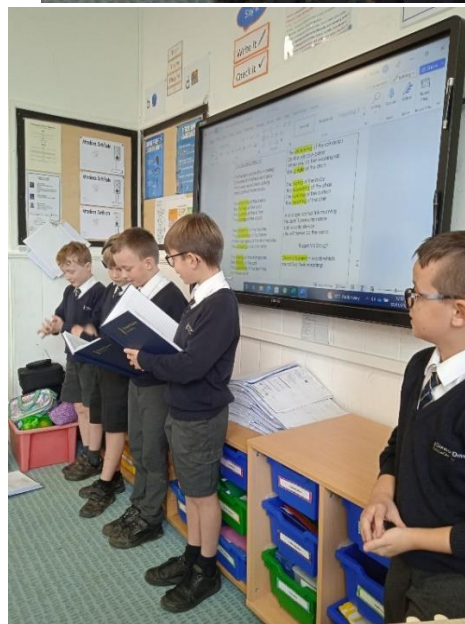
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English

We began our English writing this term by writing about and describing Christmas presents. Linking to our science sound topic, we then focused on sounds. We did this by rehearsing and performing 'The Sound Collector', a poem by Roger McGough, collecting our own onomatopoeic words and writing our own version of the poem.



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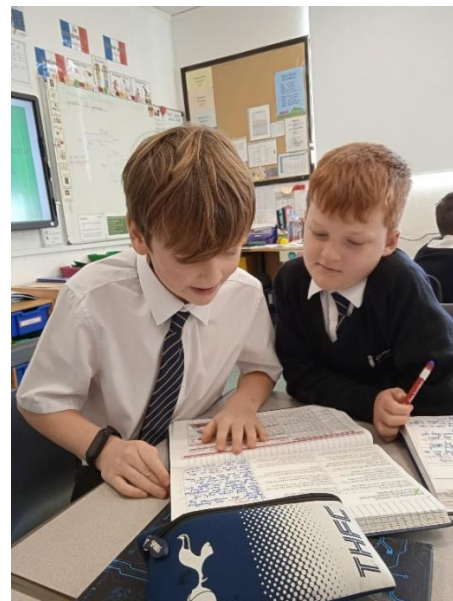
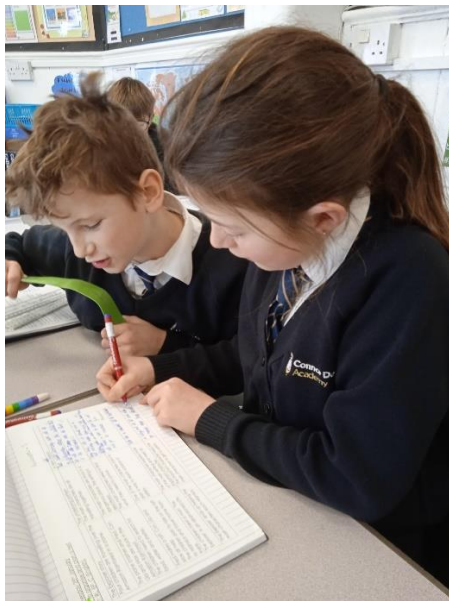
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Following on from reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell, we wrote our own story based in the Amazon Rainforest. The children enjoyed using their knowledge of the rainforest from our trip to the Eden Project to help support them in writing their stories.



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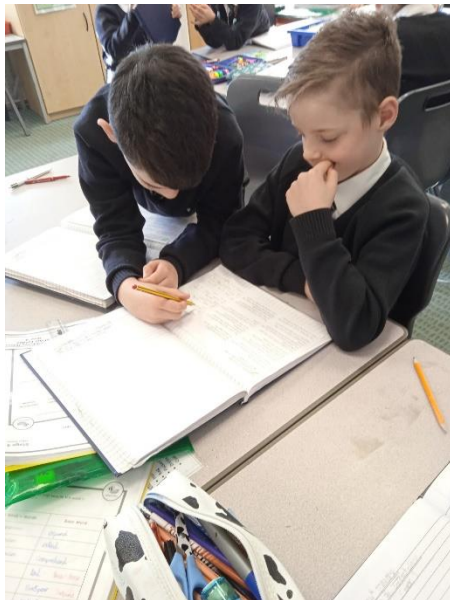
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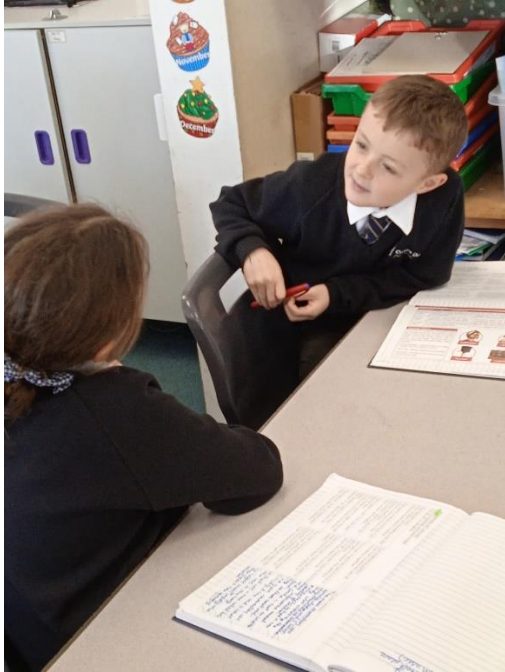
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Another link to our sound science topic was used when we wrote letters of complaint to Mrs Eddy about the amount of noise coming from Year 4. The children enjoyed pretending to be neighbours of the school and writing to complain about the continuous noise coming from Year 4; both from the brass instruments played in the Autumn term and the glockenspiels played in the Spring term.

The class all enjoyed our author visit when they got to write and then eat their own poetry.

During the second half of term, the children wrote diary entries about our recent visits and activities. The children wrote about what they did during World Book Day, including our extreme reading in a den in the classroom as well as creating our own reading rivers. They also wrote entries about our visit to Kresen Kernow and our first visit to Penzance Gym. The children described what we did and wrote about how they felt.

One of our activities that we do to help the children learn their spellings is racing to see who can find the word in the dictionary first. The children really enjoy this and it helps support their knowledge of the alphabet as well as giving them extra practice for learning their spellings.

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Our final text this term has been writing an explanation text. We began by looking at examples of explanation texts and then researching, planning and writing our own explanation text about the digestive system.



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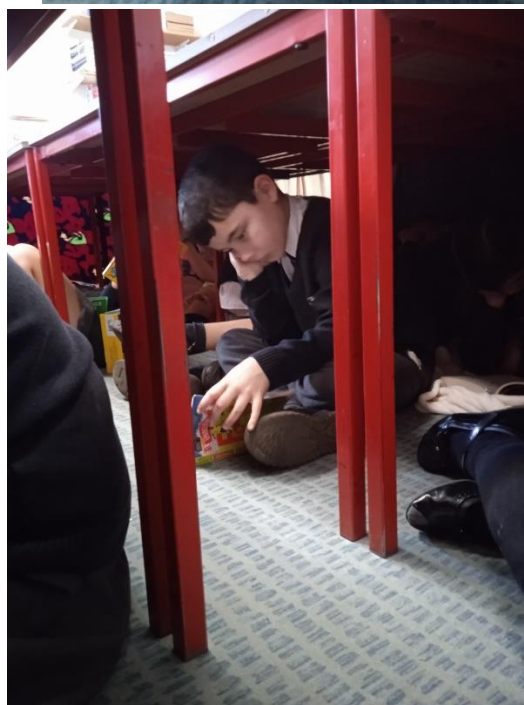




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Maths

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 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. We also utilise physical opportunities to get the children moving while recalling the knowledge they have learnt.



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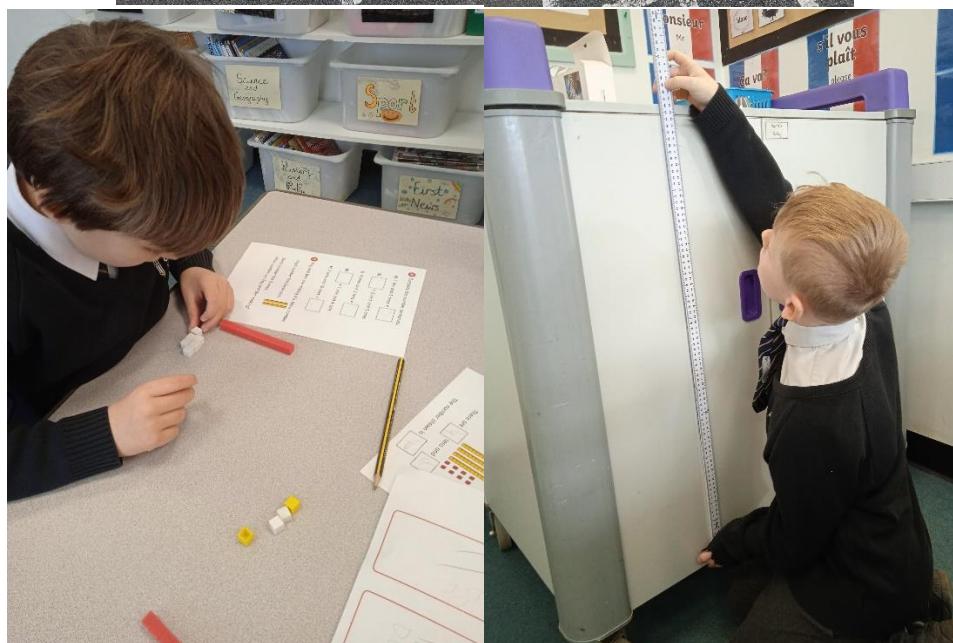




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Science

Our first topic of the term was changing sound. We looked at how sounds are produced and how sounds change as you get further from the source producing the sound. The children used this knowledge to investigate which materials were most effective at muffling sounds.



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The second topic of the term was the digestive system. We began by looking at herbivores, omnivores and carnivores and food chains. We then moved on to looking at our teeth and how they help us to eat our food. We completed the topic by learning about our digestive system and what happens to our food as it passes through our digestive system.

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PE

At the beginning of the term, the children began their swimming lessons at St Ives leisure centre. They all worked hard and listened carefully to the instructors. It was lovely to see them all progress each week.

In the second half of the term, we had the opportunity to attend Penzance gymnastics club for five gymnastics sessions. The children learnt different stretches during their warm-ups and used a wide variety of equipment at the gym. All the children developed their skills during the five weeks and enjoyed challenging themselves.

We would like to thank those parents who were able to join us during our swimming sessions and at Penzance Gymnastics Club.



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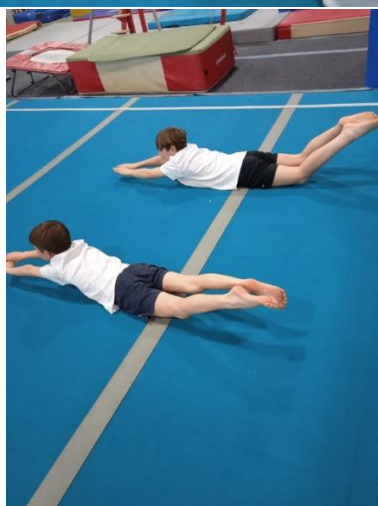




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History

This term, we studied the hugely popular crime and punishment topic. The children all enjoyed learning about how crime and punishment have changed since Roman times. They learned about how the police force was created and how harsh punishments in the past used to be. Our topic culminated in our visit to Kresen Kernow in Redruth. The children all enjoyed our tour of the archives and library as well as the opportunity to take part in a role play and become history detectives to learn about criminals in Cornwall from the year 1840.



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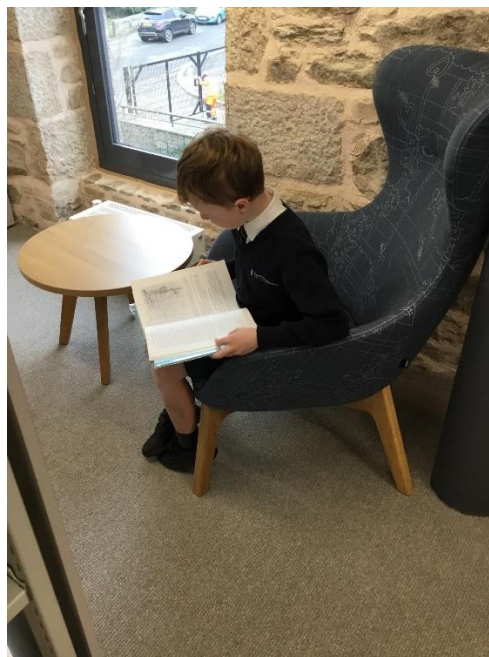
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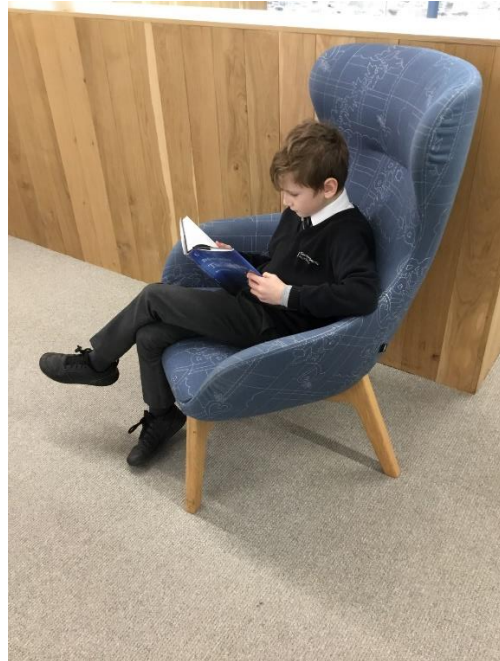
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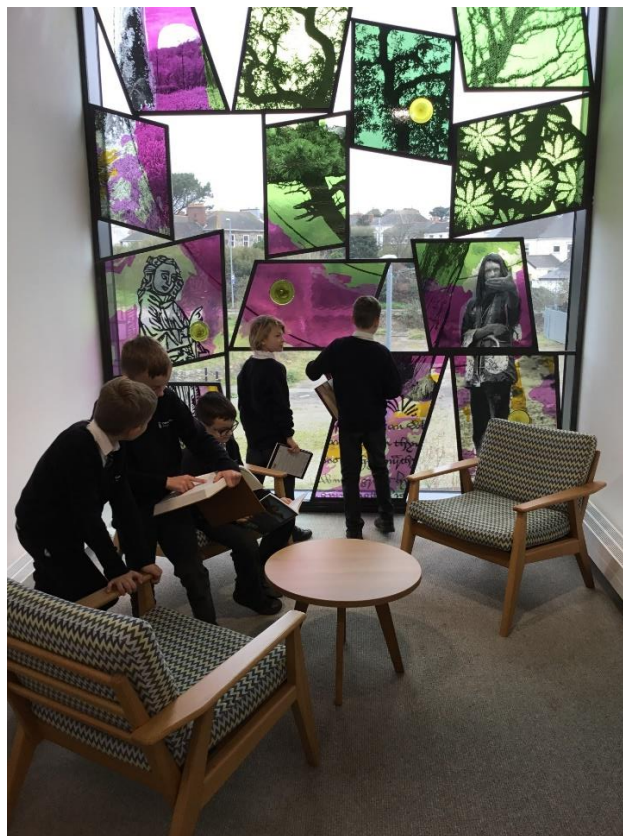
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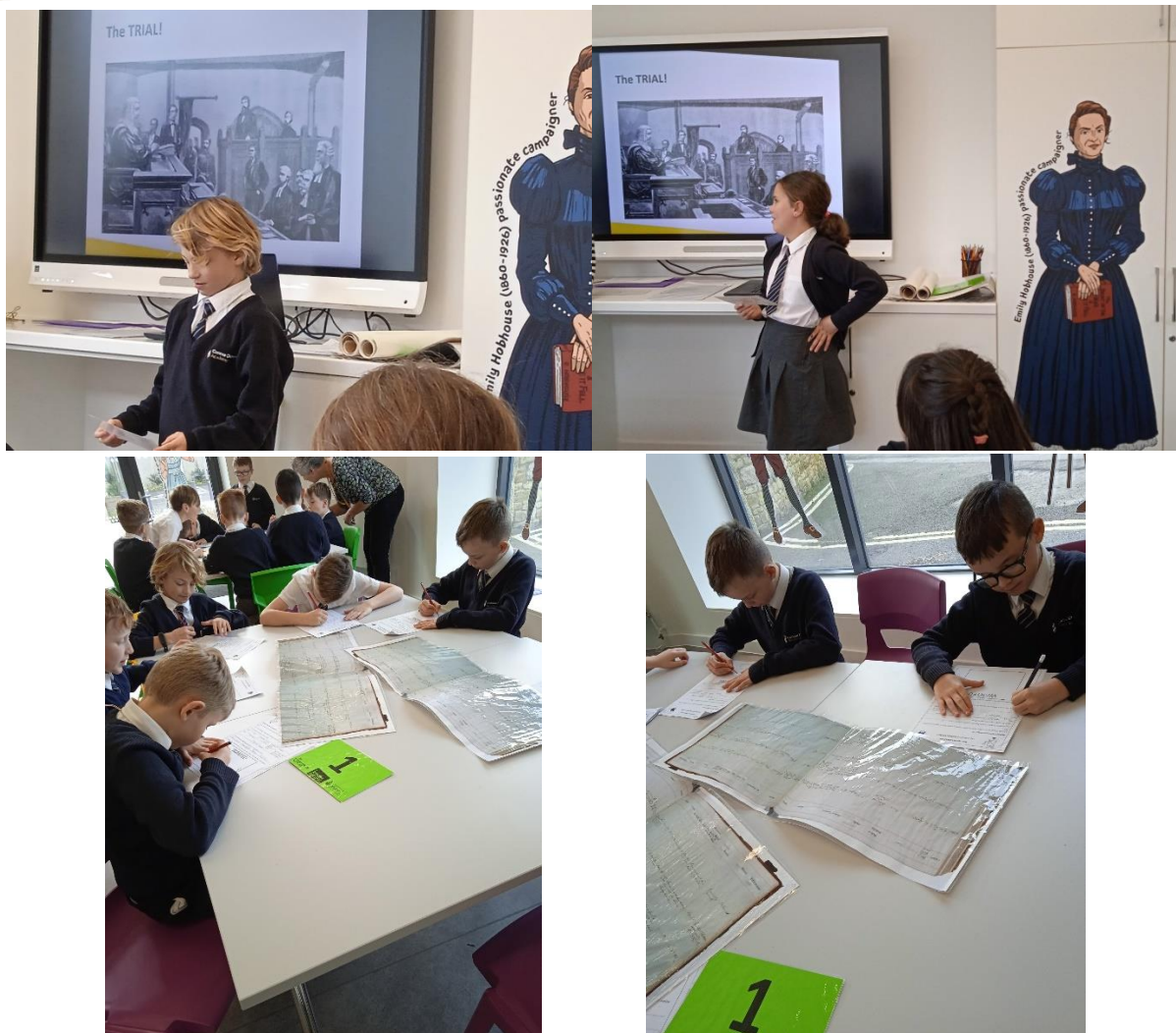




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Geography

In our Geography topic about settlements, the children began by learning about different types of settlement and what encourages people to settle in particular places. We looked at a range of maps and identified the types of settlement shown. The children also used 4-figure and 6-figure grid references and OS map symbols to identify the location of a range of amenities. The children ended our topic by using what they had learned to design their own settlements.

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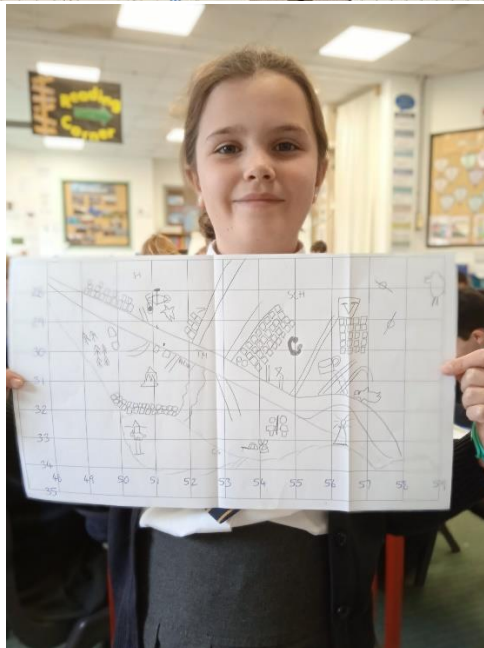
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Art and Design

At the beginning of the spring term, we began learning about Sonia Delaunay in our art lessons. The children learned how Sonia, and her husband Robert, developed the painting style Orphism. Sonia used bright colours and shapes in her painting and fabric designs. The children designed Delaunay-style outfits and wrote a fact file about Sonia Delaunay.



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Design and Technology

During the second half of term, the children learned about greenhouses and how they work. The children then investigated how to make strong, secure structures. They then used this information to design and make their own mini greenhouses.



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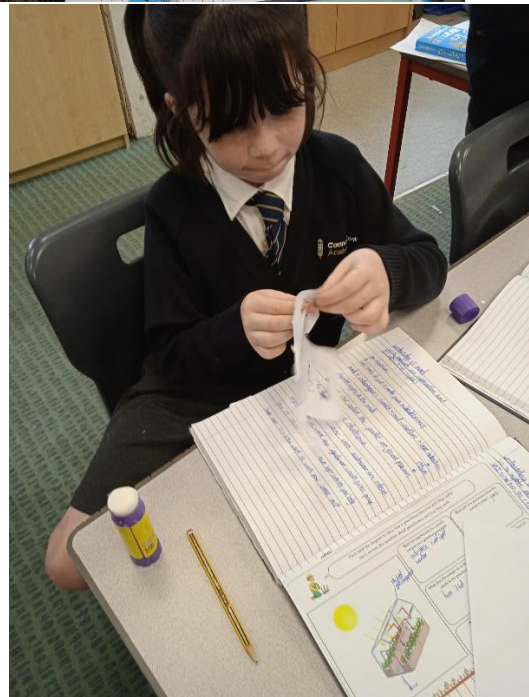
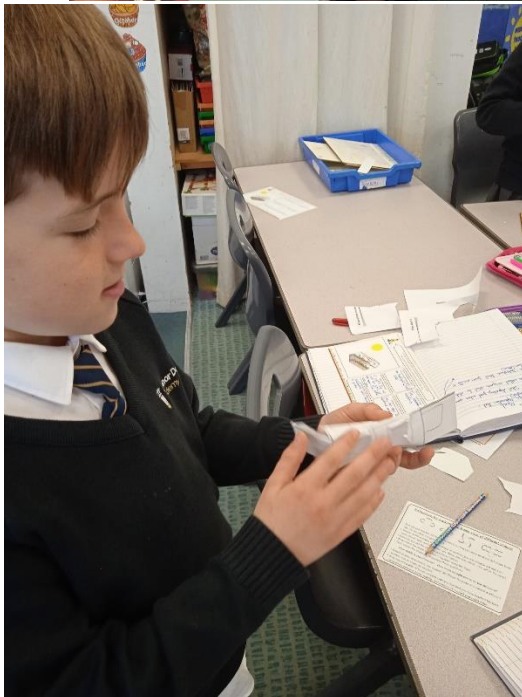
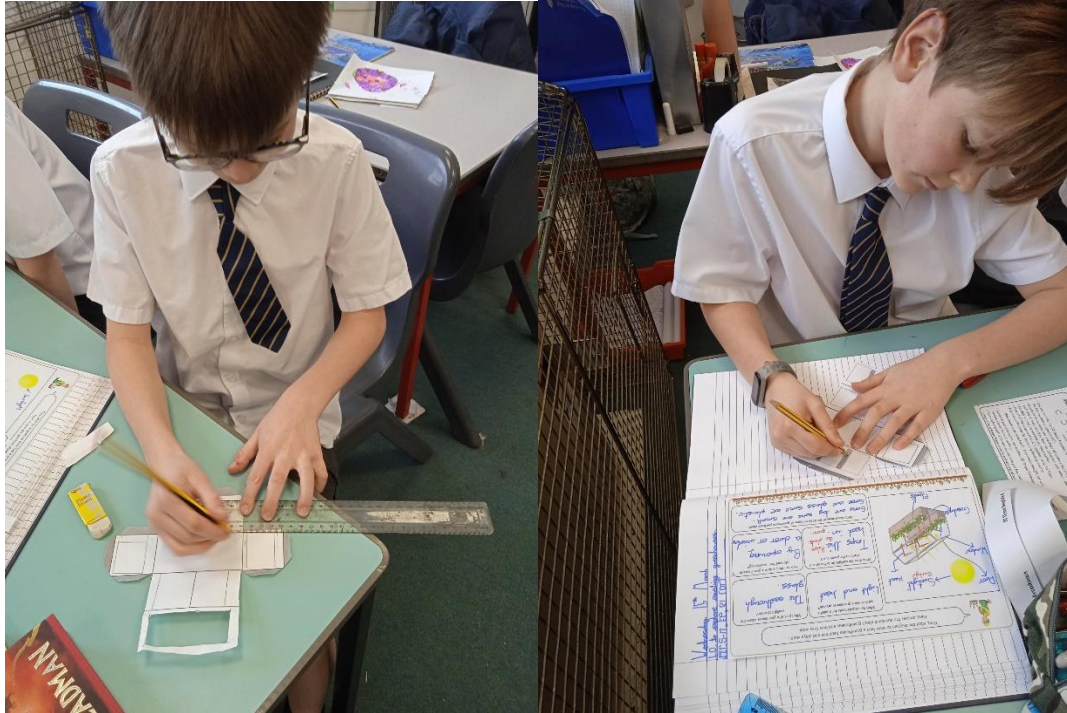
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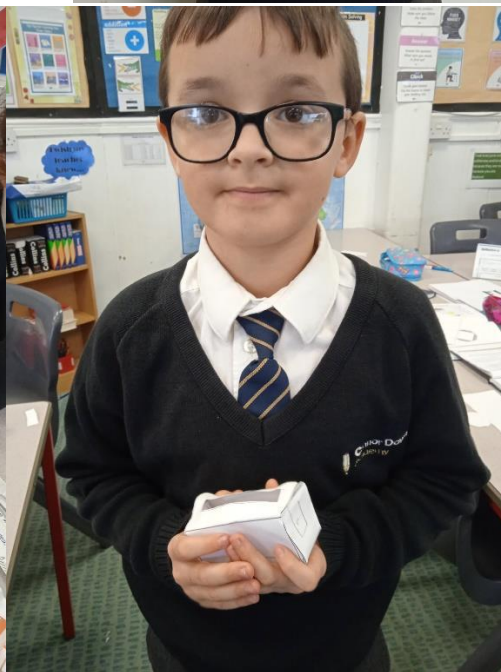
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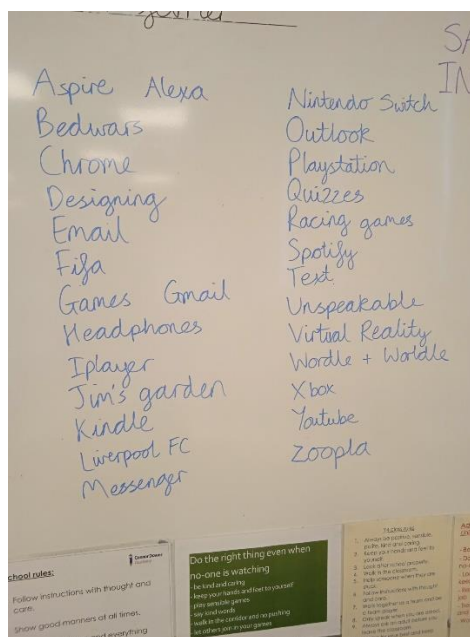
Computing

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 Times Table Rockstars at least twice a week to enhance learning their times tables and to practice the MTC (multiplication tables check).

The children learned how to capture different sets of data using data loggers. They used a data logger to record levels of light, sound and temperature. We used a data logger to investigate which areas were the lightest, the noisiest and the hottest.

For this year's Safer Internet Day, with the theme 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online', we spent time talking about what we enjoy doing online and the importance of talking to others about the positive and negative sides of being online.

In the second half of term, the children began using programming language to program a screen turtle. The children can program a screen turtle to draw letters and have learned how to use the repeat command in loops to reduce the amount of code they need to type when drawing a range of regular 2D shapes.



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Academy

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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. The children are able to ask and answer simple questions in French. They are beginning to talk about what they like and are able to describe themselves and others.

RE

In the first half of the term, the children looked at 'Why do some people think that life is a journey?' We talked about what they thought was meant by a journey and then looked at different rituals people celebrate throughout their lives and how different religions mark those special occasions.

In the second half of term, the children investigated 'Why do Christians call Good Friday 'good'?' We recapped the events of Holy Week and discussed why Christians thought the events of Good Friday were a 'good' thing.

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.

Our first topic was keeping safe. We learned about identifying the difference between a hazard and a risk and discussed how to keep ourselves safe in a variety of situations. The children also learned about medicines and the information found on a label. In our rights and respect topic, the children began by thinking about who keeps them healthy and safe. The children investigated the rights of children identified by the United Nations and thought about how they could make a difference in the world they live in.

The children also took part in group activities. One of the activities involved the children dancing around and then curling up like a hedgehog on the floor. While they were curled up on the floor, Mrs Crease covered one child with a scarf and the class had to identify who it was.



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Music

Our first topic was learning to play glockenspiels. The children learned a range of songs using the notes C, D, E and F. We revisited our knowledge about the length of different notes and how long to 'rest' during a piece of music.

'Stop Bullying!' was the song we learned in the second half of the term. We learned to sing and rap the chorus and verses before writing our own verse.



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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 Easter holiday and we will see you on the 17th April.

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