



Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



Connor Downs
Academy

Year 6

Autumn Term 2022

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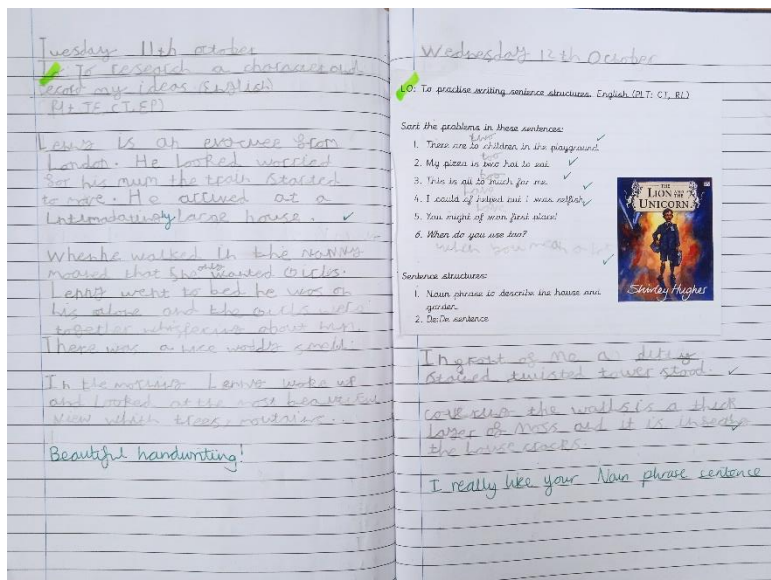
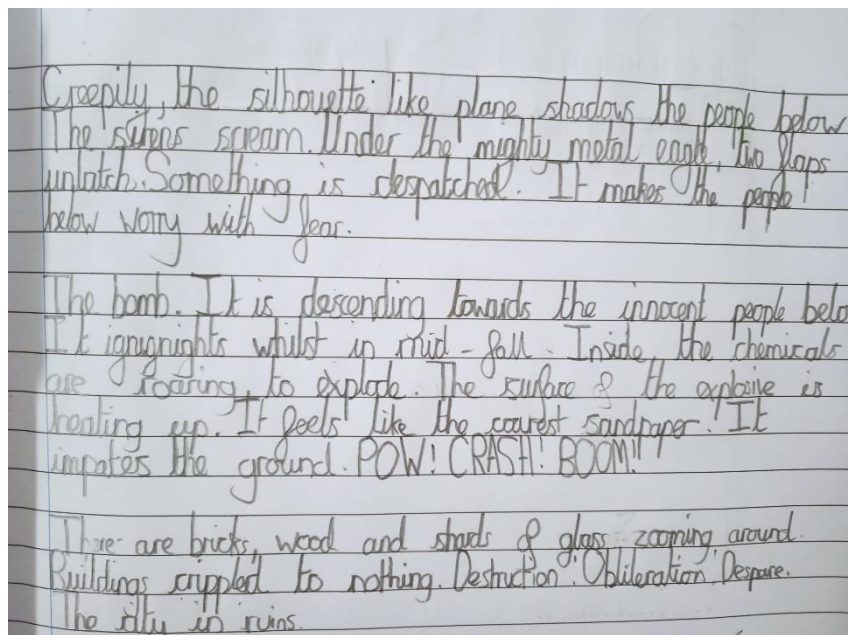
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English

Some of the children's English work this term has been inspired by our History topic, 'A Child's War'. They have written descriptive pieces about the Blitz which made good use of figurative language including similes and metaphors. The children watched footage of WW2

bombing raids to imagine a bomb falling through the air before exploding to inspire their writing.



After this, we shared a book called 'The Lion and the Unicorn' by Shirley Hughes. The main character in the story, Lenny, is evacuated to the countryside. He struggles to settle in as some of the other characters are unkind to him and he misses his family. The children wrote letters imagining they were Lenny, back to his mother. The children were able to describe the place Lenny was evacuated to using carefully considered adjectives and expressed his thoughts and feelings.

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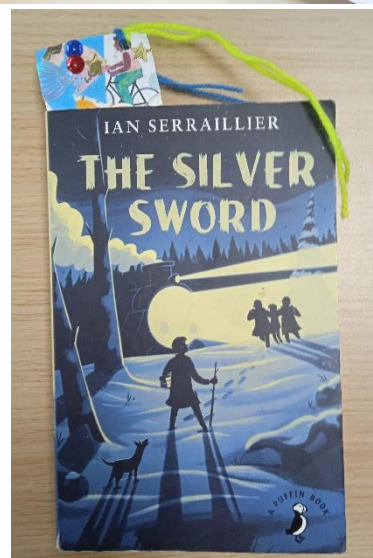
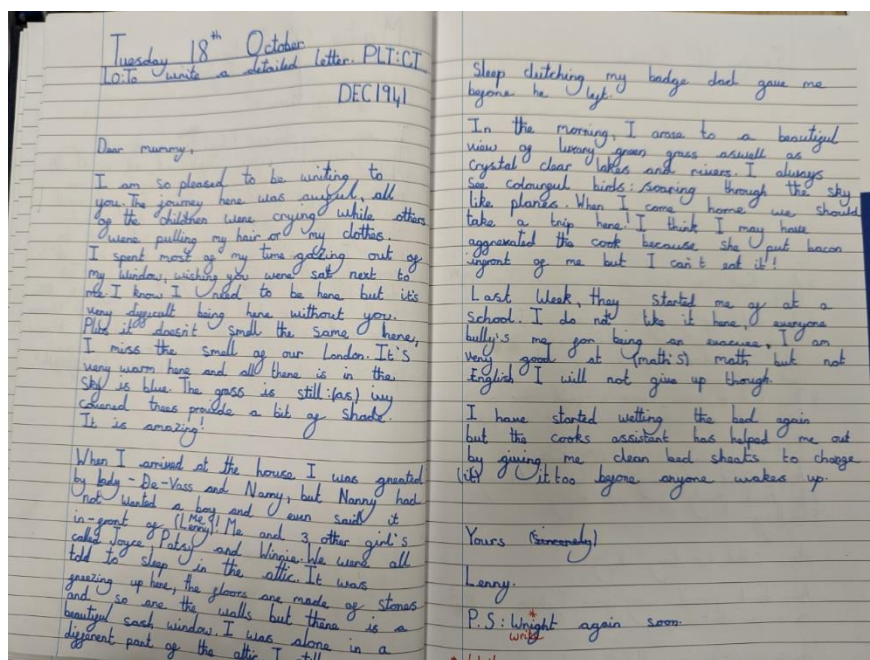
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Studying excellent literature helps children to develop their own characters- studying extracts from Anne Frank diary certainly achieves this. To begin, the children learnt how Jewish people were persecuted by Nazis in Europe during the war. They then learnt about the incredible story of Anne Frank and her family who hid in the annex to keep themselves safe. Once the children were able to empathise with Anne and her experience, they wrote their own diary entries inspired by her. The class managed to show the upmost sensitivity to produce very moving pieces of work which were then shared during a training session with Heads of School from across the Aspire Trust.



Our class text was 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serrallier, which is an epic adventure novel set in Europe during the war. At the end of November, during our Sponsored Reading week, the class took part in a variety of activities to promote reading for pleasure- this included reading with their buddies in Reception and Y2, as well as playing reading bingo and sharing terrible jokes! Well done to all the children who made their target and raised money to purchase new books in school.

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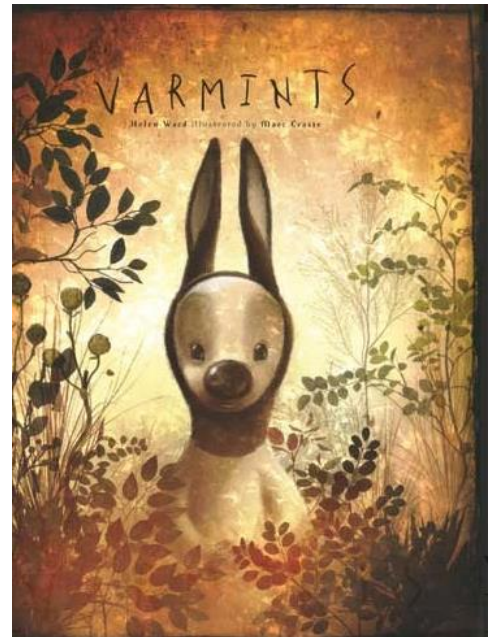
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The children then wrote stories. They were able to further develop their use of precise, descriptive language and dialogue when writing their own versions of an animation and book called Varmints, by Helen Ward and Marc Craste. This story allows the children to think about threats to the environment from an animals point of view.



During World Poetry Day this term, the class studied a poem called 'Word Bird' by Sally Crabtree, a local poet. The children used a thesaurus to discover new and excited words and wrote their own verse of a poem

about a word bird who invents new words. Inspiring

the children to find enjoyment in words and to love language is an important part of English lessons in school.



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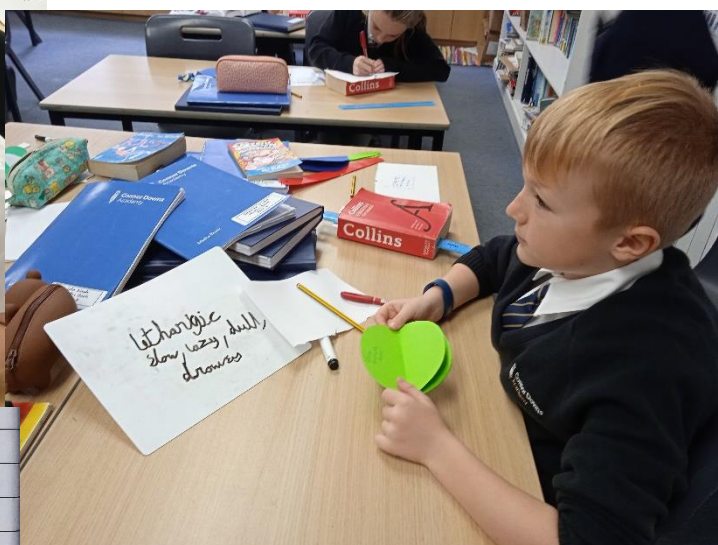
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Thursday 6th October
National Poetry Day
Making a Word Bird.

My interesting word from the thesaurus
for the word bird is athletic.

She sang the clouds, she sang the sun
She sang the moon, she sang the sun
Oh the word bird sang
And the world began

Thursday 6th October
National Poetry Day
Making a Word Bird

My interesting word from the
thesaurus for the word bird is related.

She trilled the sand,
She trilled the trees
She trilled the grass
She trilled the leaves
Oh the word bird trilled sang
And the world began

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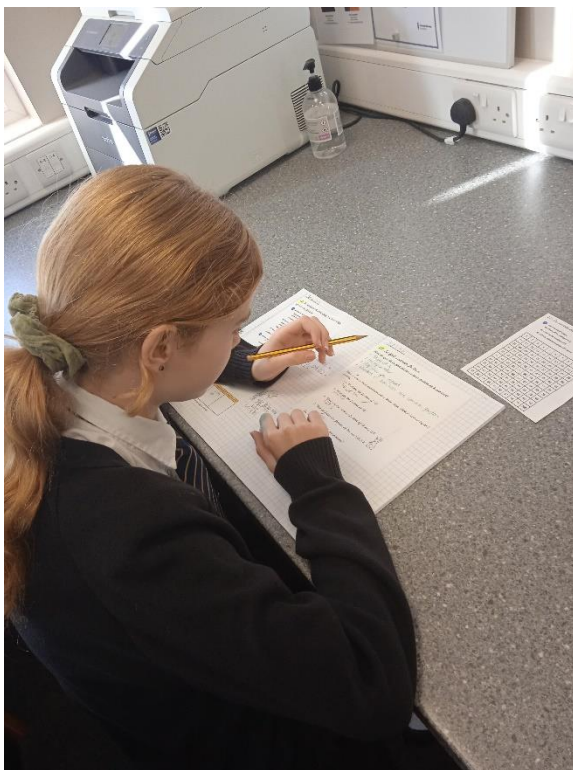


Maths

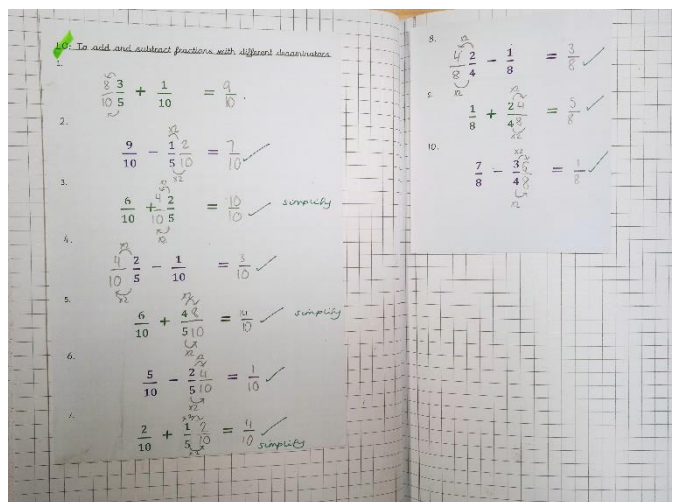
Each morning starts with challenging maths tasks that help the children to recall the learning they have completed previously. They also practise their times tables to ensure these are deeply embedded.

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. This term, the children have completed a place value unit which explores numbers up to 10 million. This includes ordering numbers, sequencing them, rounding and partitioning them into parts.

The children were able to put their skills with large numbers into good practise in their geography lessons this term exploring the value of different countries exports and their population size.



The children also completed work around the four operations- addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have developed formal written methods for these and solved problems using them. They also developed their fluency around number properties including factors, primes and squared and cubed numbers.



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In September, Y6 developed their understanding of place value with an active, outside football game.



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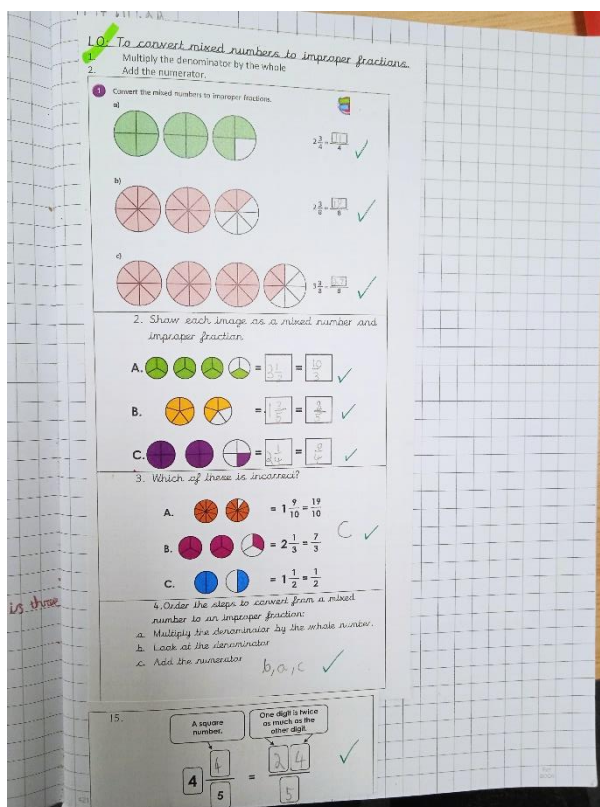
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The final unit studied this term has been about fractions. The children have been taught to add and subtract fractions with proper fractions and mixed numbers. They have learnt to multiply and divide fractions by whole numbers, to find fractions of amounts and to order fractions. The children were enthusiastic and focused throughout and could confidently talk about how to complete their tasks.



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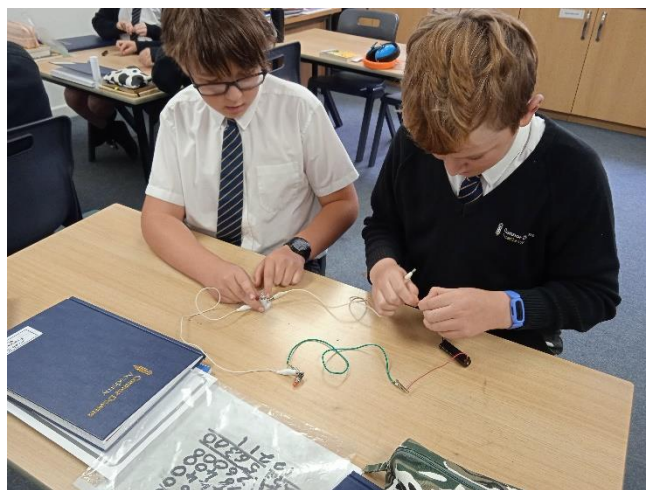
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Science

In September, Y6 were invited to take part in a 'Bubble Workshop' at CISA. The children watched bubbles being created which were filled with different gasses. They watched with delight, curiosity and surprise at the behaviour of the bubbles. The children explored 'surface tension' and saw the helium balloons float up to the ceiling. The highlight of the visit was the exploding balloon- it really made the ground in the auditorium shake and everybody jump!



In class, the children have explored electricity, exploring static electricity and making circuits to power bulbs, buzzers and motors. They were increasingly able to spot what had gone wrong with a circuit. The children investigated voltage through an investigation involving changing the number of bulbs in a circuit. They also learnt what happens when more volts are put into a circuit than a bulb can manage!



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Later in the term, Y6 learned about keeping healthy. They learnt about different food groups and having a healthy diet, as well as how muscles work in our body.

The children also explored the structure of the heart and how the circulation system works. They watched videos and explored online resources to learn about the heart. The children collected data regarding how exercise affects their own heart rate and considered why. Many children were fascinated to learn that different animals have hearts that beat at different rates.

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History



Learning about WW2 is always very engaging for the children. They especially enjoy learning how people's lives were affected by the War, such as how children's lives, food and cities changed. The children explored how war broke out in the first place in 1939 and who the leaders were during the War. The children learned about the D-Day landings and evacuation through

research and images.

Mr Gallagher, our Hub councillor and keen historian, visited school to share some intriguing WW2 objects with the children. These included a variety of weapons, bullets and everyday items such as an inkwell which Mr Gallagher allowed the children to (safely) handle. The children asked a great many questions and were able to make interesting inferences about what some of the objects were used for.

This topic provided the perfect opportunity to explore Remembrance Day, and the events of WW1 in more detail. The children read poetry, looked at artwork and read letters sent from the soldiers in the trenches.

We are very grateful to the Prefects and School Councillors who represented the school at Hayle War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday- thank you for carrying out your role so responsibly and looking so smart.

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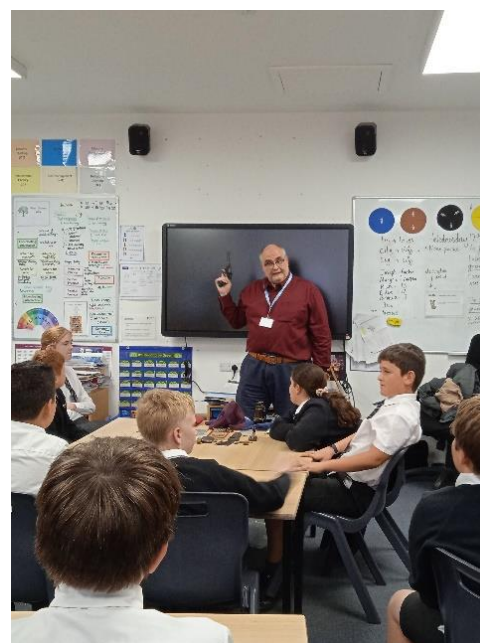
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Geography

The children used a variety of maps to locate countries and cities in Europe. They also considered why the cities in the UK were specifically targeted for bombing raids during WW2. Y6 also learnt about the geography of their local environment, including exploring which products are produced in Cornwall. This led to an exploration of global trade, specifically what is exported by different countries around the world using a website. The class also learnt about how the land in Connor Downs is used for different purposes including retail and residential. Y6 also really enjoyed monitoring an online world population counter in November as the 8 billionth person was born on planet earth.


Wednesday 2nd November

LO: To explore economic activity as part of a local area study. Geography (PLT: IE)

What is physical geography?



What is human geography?



Find three items that were imported to the UK.


Item 1: shirt Where is it from? Bangladesh

Item 2: tie Where is it from? United Kingdom

Item 3: white board Where is it from? Taiwan

The children then explored this website <https://atlas.cid.harvard.edu/explore> learn about different products that were exported by different countries.

ATLAS



Monday 7th November

LO: To explore settlements as part of a local area study. Geography (PLT: IE, I)

Match up the words and definitions for land use:

Commercial: An area where ~~there~~ people live ✓
Industrial: An area where there are businesses ✓
Residential: An area where things are made ✓

How is the land around school used?

Find examples of land use in your school's local area and record them below.

Residential Buildings	Commercial Buildings	Industrial Buildings	Open Spaces
Harry's house - attached ✓ Nani's house - attached ✓ Mrs Smithers - attached house ✓	Spar ✓ Asda ✓ Tesco ✓ Lidl ✓ home bargains ✓	Foundry ✓ Brewery ✓ Maer Kaire ✓ railways ✓	school field ✓ play park ✓ playground ✓

Excellent work Layla 2xHP

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PE

The children all completed their block of swimming in September. They really made the most of their lessons as they were always listening and trying their best. All children made good progress with their swimming strokes or water confidence.

The children also enjoyed developing their basketball skills and gymnastics skills in school, including mirroring and creating sequences which showed great control of their bodies.

A highlight of the term was in November when Y6 took part in their day of activities at CSIA which is part of our Outdoor and Adventurous PE programme. The children were able to develop their confidence on the climbing wall- they used new vocabulary and challenged themselves to show good balance and control. The class also worked in groups to take part in an orienteering activity in the afternoon. Even though it was quite a wet afternoon, this only seemed to add to the children's enjoyment.



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This term, a group of children received their 'Sports Leaders' training to organise and run games for the children at break and lunchtime. They can be identified by their smart baseball caps! The children are all very enthusiastic and have created a file of games and activities they could use. This will help promote physical activity in school, but also helps the Y6 children develop their leadership skills.

Talented members of Y6 took part in a netball competition and came in second place! Well done!



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Music

Year 6 have learned to sing 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. They explored its rhythms and the instruments used to create the music. Many children choose to learn to play the Hand Bells this term, in order to perform some songs at the Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert. They practised carefully, receiving excellent tuition from Mrs Burden- the children involved would like to say thank you so much for your help and support.



RE

The children have been studying places of worship this term, looking specifically at Orthodox and Reform Synagogues, Mandirs and different types of Christian Church. The children learned about the features of these places of worship as well as considering the larger question about how and why people worship. The class spent a very worthwhile day exploring Truro Cathedral and Phillack Church. They completed a tour of the Cathedral by our very engaging guide, standing in the pulpit, learning about the marble font and sitting on the Bishop's Seat. The children were fascinated by the enormous matchstick model of the Cathedral and enjoyed

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lying on the Cathedral floor and spotting the shapes on the ceiling. Our visit coincided with Remembrance Day- the poppy wreaths and display in the Cathedral helped the children understand how the community marks such events.

After completing a piece of stain glass window art, we travelled to Phillack Church where Reverend Clive spoke briefly about the history of our local church. Y6 managed to spot a large number of crosses in the church and enjoyed sketching these, as well as other items of interest that caught the children's eye.

It was a very worthwhile day which helped bring the unit of work to life.



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PSHE

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) is delivered through our weekly SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) programme, 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 children have been learning about friendships, specifically getting on with each other and falling. They spend time role playing how to be assertive during these lessons and how to identify and stop bullying.



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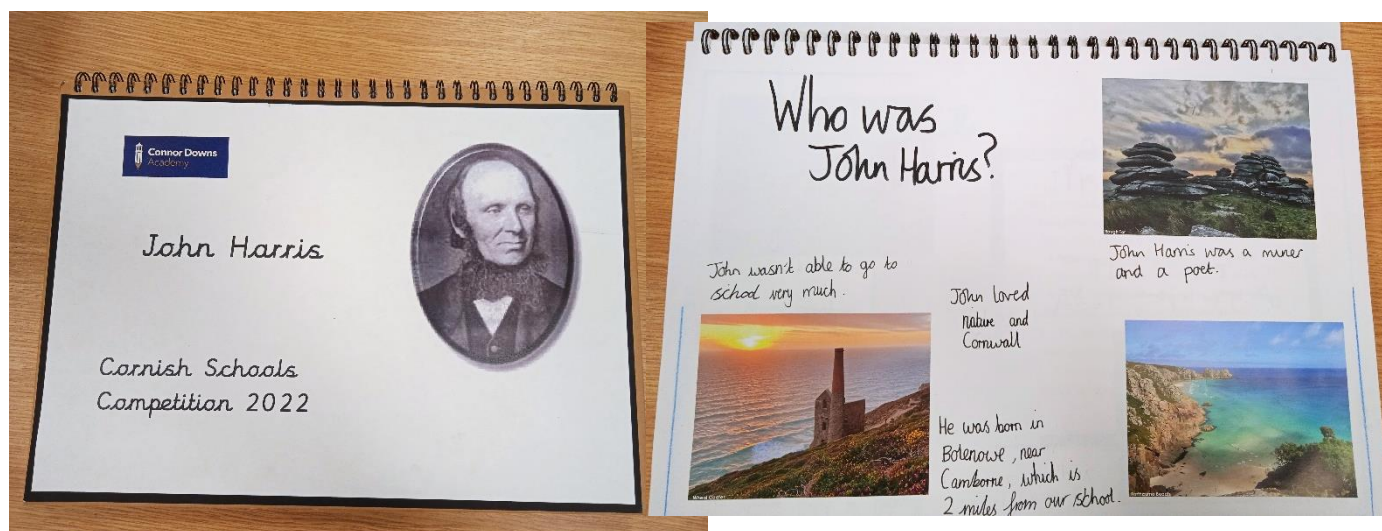
An interesting activity the children completed this term was working together to remember where the keys are on a keyboard- this required good memory strategies as well as working collaboratively.

French

We have recently begun to use a new French programme called 'Rigolo', where the children have been learning about French greetings, as well as knowing the vocabulary for different types of weather. The children have been practising reading French words and translating sentences into English.

DT and ART

This term, Y6 enjoyed entering an art and poetry competition to celebrate the life of local poet John Harris. John Harris was a miner, born in Bolenowe, near Camborne. The children were interested to learn that despite receiving only a basic education, he wrote incredibly thoughtful, beautiful poems, sometimes using only blackberry juice when he could not afford ink. The children studied his poem, 'Kynance Cove' and completed poetry studies, their own poems and landscape art work in response. We entered this in a local competition organised by the John Harris Society and are proud to say we won a prize of £1000. Thank you to our prefects who attended the prize giving event with Ms Speight. Well done everyone!



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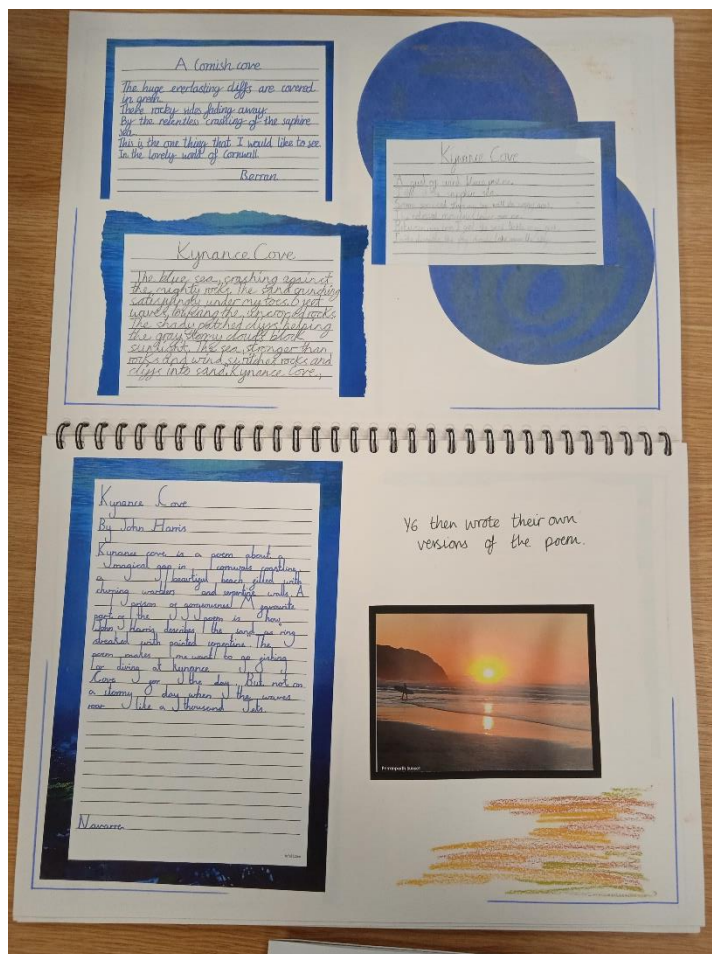
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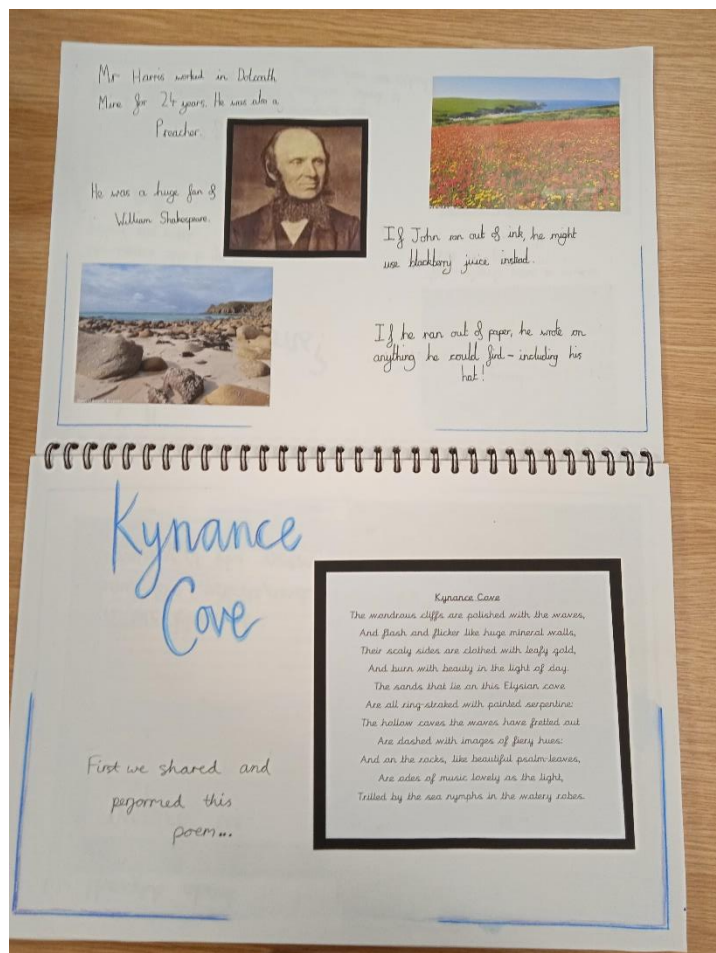
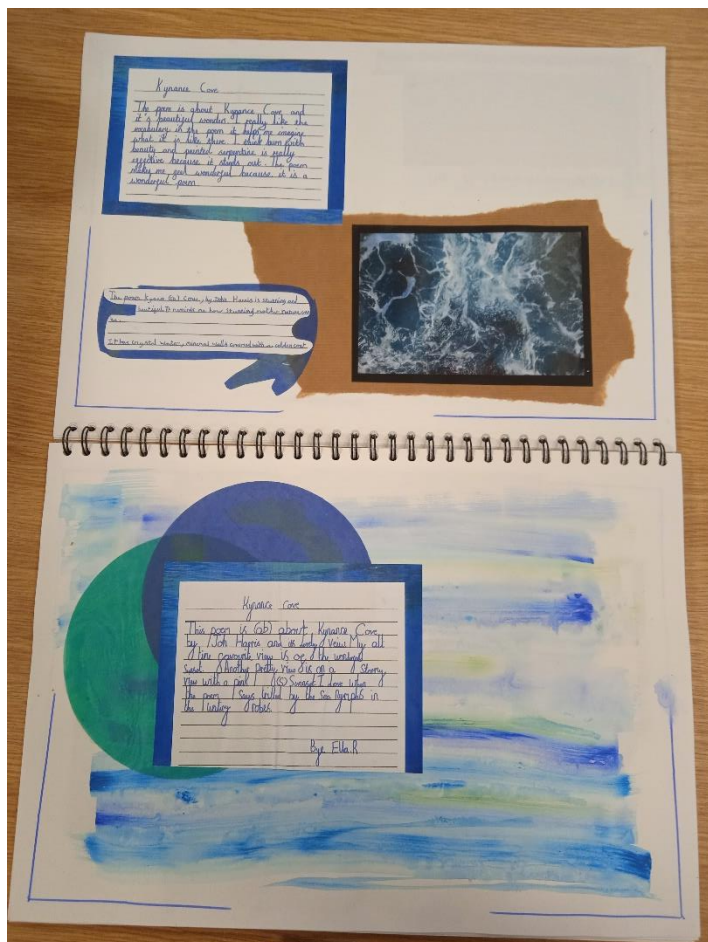




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This term the children also explored perspective in art as well as shade and tone by drawing natural items. Lots of very creative was also completed as part of our homework project.



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In DT, the class baked their own fruit crumbles and evaluated these.



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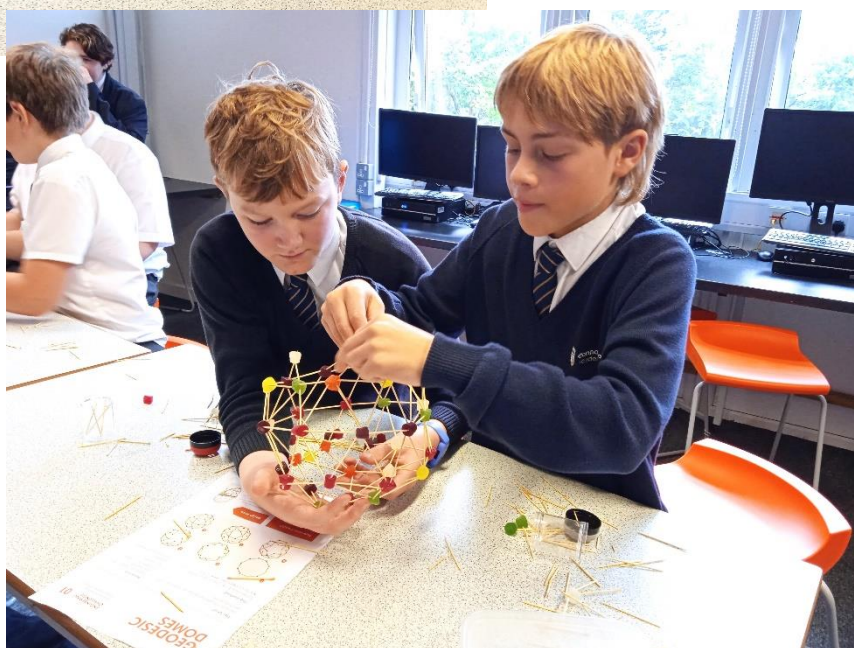
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During a taster day at Hayle School, the children created structures using sweets in a DT lesson.



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They also designed and made Christmas Tree decorations which demonstrated a range of stitches. Unsurprisingly, these sold very quickly at the Christmas Fayre!



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Merry Christmas everyone!

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Computing

Y6 explored coding in a programme called Kudo. They made changes to the code to change the background and what the characters could do.



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

A Company Limited by Guarantee. An Exempt Charity

Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD

Outdoor Education

This term, all of Y6 had the opportunity to go to Godrevy Warren which is a nature reserve that is not open to the public. The children were able to learn outdoor skills safely, including felling trees to create a more open area for the grasslands and meadows and having an outdoor fire to cook potatoes on!



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