



Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



Connor Downs
Academy

Year 5

Summer Term 2026

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English

This term our class book has been the Red-Headed League by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The children have enjoyed piecing together the clues to solve the mystery whilst simultaneously learning about Victorian London. The text complemented our writing as we worked to improve our vocabulary through the use of Mrs. Wordsmith words when describing the streets of Holmes' London. A focus has been our sentence structure and the use of BOAs (but, or and) in our compound sentences.



Our visual text, Replay, was used a vehicle to introduce high level vocabulary and complex sentences. Children investigated how the characters would feel throughout the story and reason about their actions.

Furthermore, we have studied the conventions of formal and informal letter writing.

In addition, we have learned about Shakespeare's Macbeth and written and performed a play script.

Through weekly *Spelling Shed* activities the children have developed their knowledge of spelling rules and increased their vocabulary.

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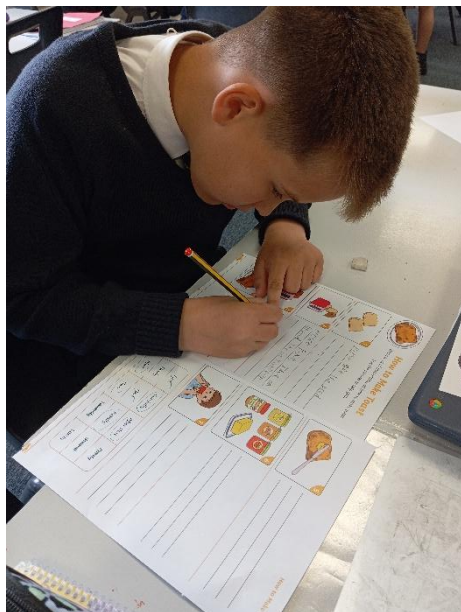
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Maths

The summer term built upon the children's prior knowledge. The children have reviewed their knowledge of angles and learned how to measure and draw angles accurately using a protractor. The children have recapped their knowledge of triangles and quadrilaterals and reasoned about the 3D shapes.

In addition, the children have learned how to describe position using coordinates and moved on to learn about reflection, translation and symmetry.

In the final topic of the year, we have learned about units of measurement and volume. The children used their previous learning to convert between units e.g. grams to kilograms. Finally, the children learned about how to convert units of time and how to read timetables.

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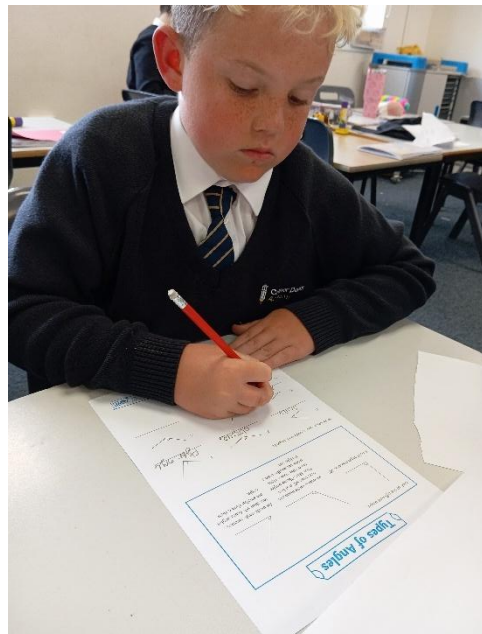
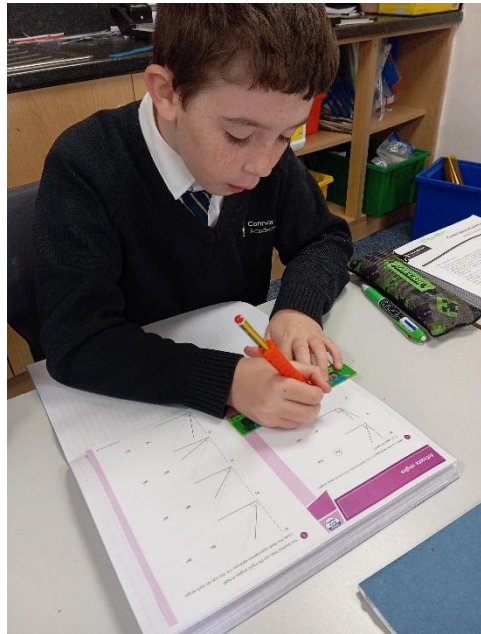
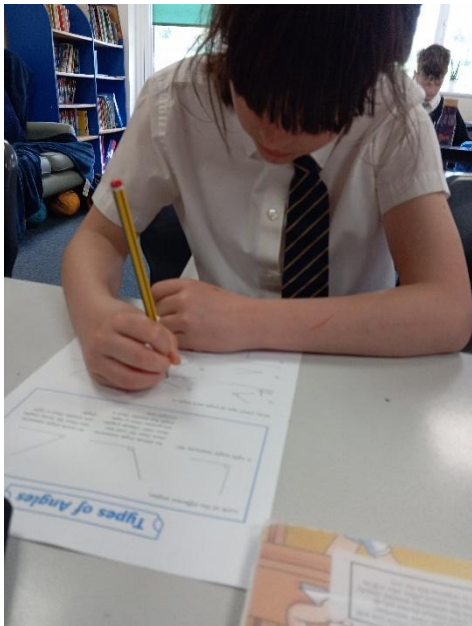
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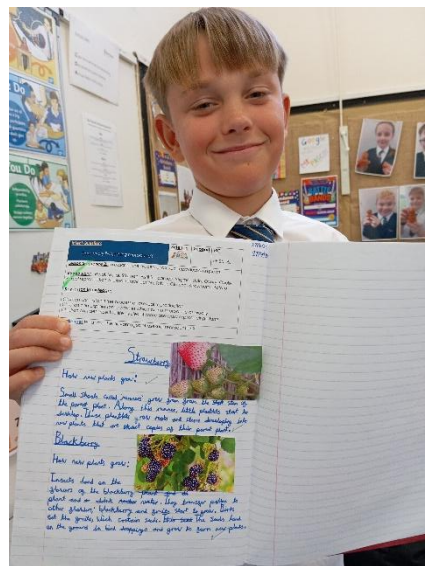
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Science

During this topic the children learned about the life cycles of plants and animals. The children dissected an owl pellet as part of outdoor learning with Ms Pedley. The children have spent time in the outdoor classroom learning about life cycles and habitats. During the topic the children were able to carefully collect specimens from our pond and identify them using a key. The children also continued to take care of our animals.



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PE

The first part of the summer term focussed on striking and field skills. The children learned how to catch with "soft hands" and field the ball and return it accurately to the wicket keeper. The children then developed their striking skills and incorporated these into games like "rapid fire".



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Next, the children learned to develop their running technique over sprints and hurdles. In a link to fielding, throwing skills were taught using our screaming "nerf" balls and foam javelins. Finally, in preparation for sports day, the children practised their relay skills and baton changes. At Carn Brea, Year 5 competed alongside other schools in 5 athletic events and had a great day.

As part of our outdoor and adventurous provision, the children learned to surf at Gwithian. The excellent instructors taught the children about beach safety and the importance of warming up thoroughly. After learning about the correct surf technique, the children entered the water to catch some waves. All the children showed great courage and resilience to improve their technique whilst thoroughly enjoying themselves.



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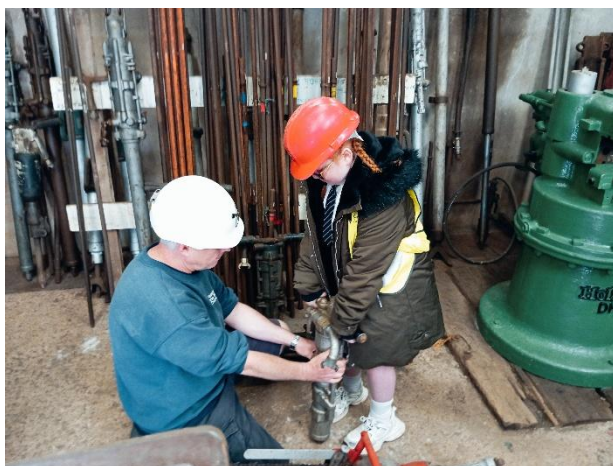
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History

In history, the children have learned about life as a Cornish miner. The children enjoyed an outreach lesson with Clint from Geevor tin mine where they journeyed through time and discovered how life of Cornish miners evolved. By visiting Geevor tin mine, the children were able to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors and actually meet some men who had worked the mine before its closure. They were able to hear stories, examine artefacts and go underground in order to develop their appreciation of the harsh realities of mining in Cornwall.



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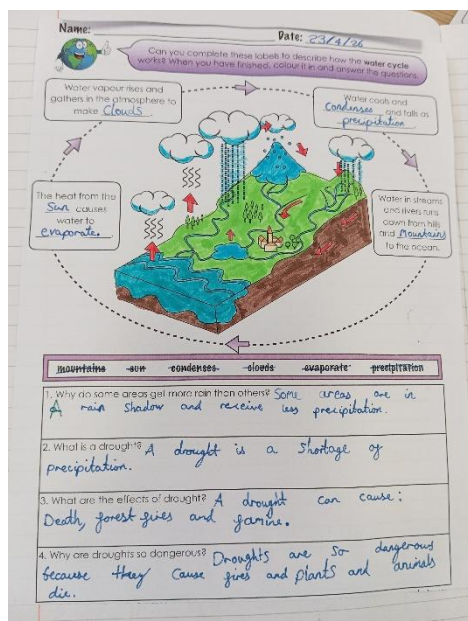
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Geography





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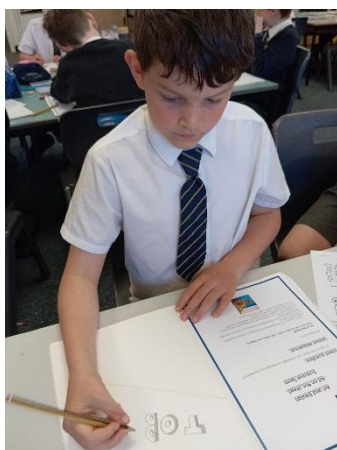
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Art

Our topic was called Street Art. The children investigated the motivation and value of graffiti in all of its different forms. They then designed their own "throwie" based on their name. Through their experimentation with colour, shape and shading they designed and refined their ideas in order to produce their final piece. In a link with English, the children read about Banksy. Having examined some of his artwork, the children were set the challenge to design graffiti for a shop corner in order to improve the environment. In a link to our county, the children studied the work of Matt McIvor, a local artist, illustrator, mural painter and poster designer.



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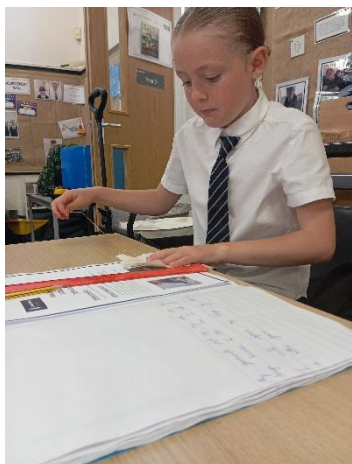
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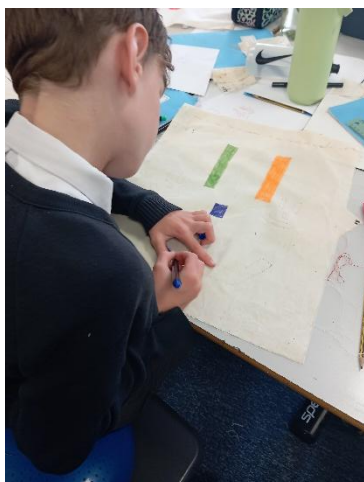
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Design Technology



The children have investigated textiles and fashion. The brief was to design and make a drawstring bag. The children learned how to measure, cut and make a pattern before cutting their material. They developed their knowledge of sewing terminology e.g. seam, pattern and hem as they followed the instructions. The children learned how to stitch accurately and safely. At the end of the project the children had the opportunity to reflect on the process and evaluate their product. Finally, they took their product to "market" and sold their bags at the school's summer fair.



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Music

At the beginning of each Music lesson this term, the children listened to a range of songs and decided whether they liked them or not. They used the interrelated dimensions of music – pulse, rhythm, pitch (high and low sounds), tempo (speed of the music), dynamics (how loud/quiet), timbre (sound quality) and structure - to explain why they did or did not like each piece they listened to.

In the first half of the term, the children learned to sing and play the glockenspiels for the song 'Dancing In The Street'. In the second half of the term, we followed the reflect, rewind and replay topic. During this time, the children listened to classical songs and identified the instruments they could hear within a range of songs. In addition, they explored the meanings of the interrelated dimensions of music and practised singing four songs they had learned this year, ready to perform them.

In addition to these in-class lessons, the children also participated in some live music singing during their trip to Geevor Mine. Clint played the guitar and Mark the accordion as the children sang *Cornwall my home* under the sheave wheels of Geevor.



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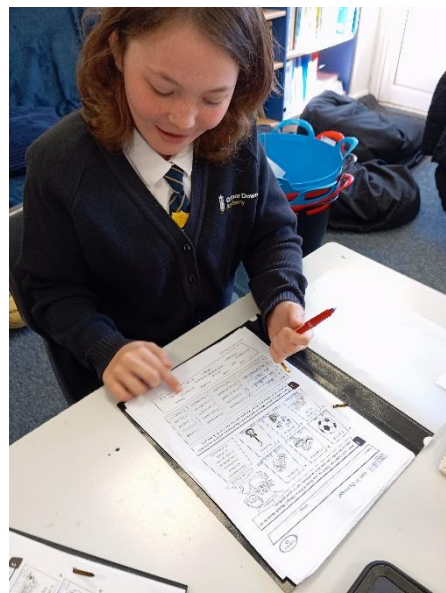
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MFL – French

This term, the children have enhanced their vocabulary using our engaging French programme called Rigolo. In particular, the children have learned to talk about the countries that speak French, to discuss the languages people speak and to name and describe items of clothing. Furthermore, the children have used the scheme's worksheets to practice their reading, speaking, writing and grammar.



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Computing



In this computing topic, pupils learned how data could be collected, organised, and used to answer questions. They developed skills in creating both paper-based and computer databases, deciding what information was needed and how it should be recorded. Pupils learned how to search databases using different criteria, including combining conditions with AND and OR, to find specific information efficiently. They also practised sorting data by appropriate attributes to make patterns and answers clearer.

In addition, pupils explored how data could be compared and interpreted, using their findings to answer real questions. They learned to select and create appropriate graphs to visually compare data and explain what the graphs showed. The topic also helped pupils understand how real-life databases were used in everyday situations, such as in schools, shops, or libraries. Overall, the topic built confidence in handling data, thinking logically, and using digital tools to support investigation and decision-making.



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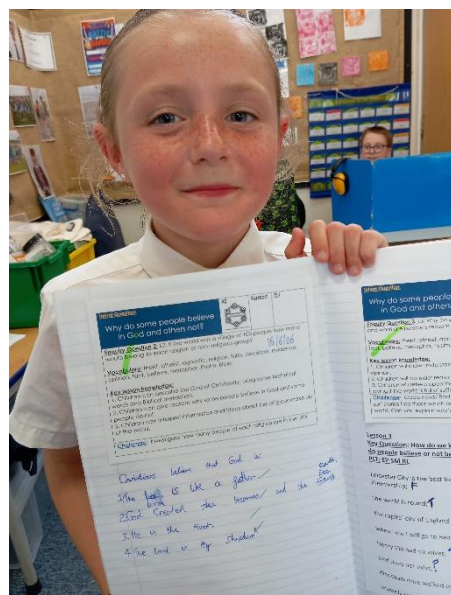
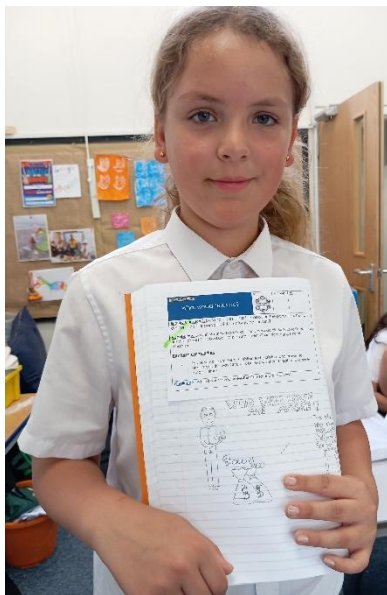
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RE

The children investigated the questions: *What would Jesus do? Can we live by the values of Jesus in the twenty-first century?* This investigation enabled the pupils to learn in depth from Christianity, considering in a detailed way some teachings of Jesus and the ways they are applied today. The children studied examples of what Jesus said, and how Christians today respond to the challenges of his teachings. The investigation reflects the principal aim of RE: to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions explored through religions and worldviews. This enables pupils to develop the understanding and disciplinary skills required to appreciate, analyse, and evaluate diverse responses to these questions, as well as to construct thoughtful responses of their own.



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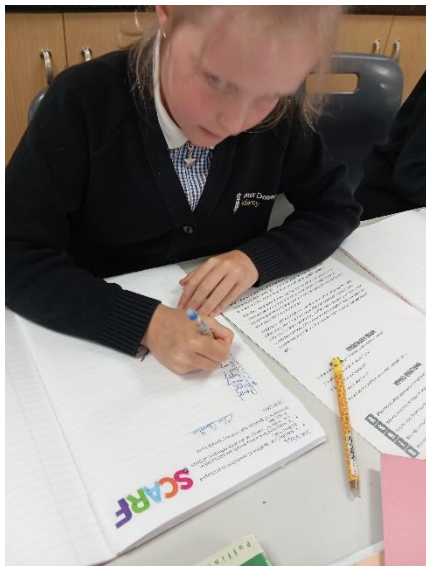
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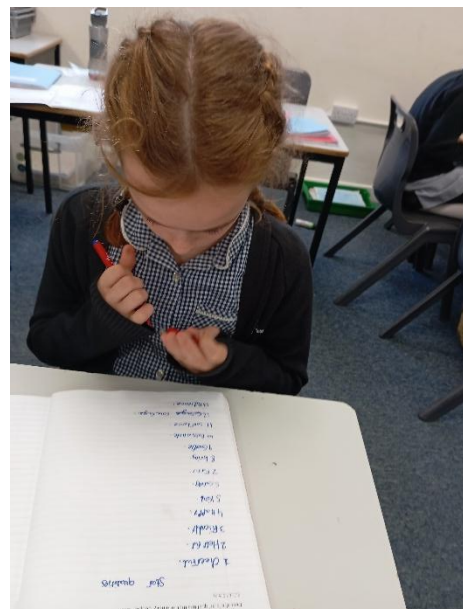
PSHE

The children have identified their own strengths and talents and described strategies for their personal development. We discussed what the world would be like if everybody was the same and how our differences make us special.



In the growing and changing topic, the children have learned how their bodies change as they develop and how this may impact their emotions. The children learned the scientific names for the body parts and played *Help! I'm a teenager - get me out of here!* so as to discuss strategies to cope with puberty and growing up.

As part of careers day, we were delighted to welcome Ben from Cornish metals to discuss a career in mining. Mr Da Silva showed Year 5 his culinary skills and discussed his career in hospitality and catering. Mrs Penberthy introduced the children a career in specialist eyecare. Mrs Eddy gave the children an insight into her role at the Tate in preparation for their London trip next year. The children also had the opportunity to meet their local police force and get the driver's view on a Scania lorry.



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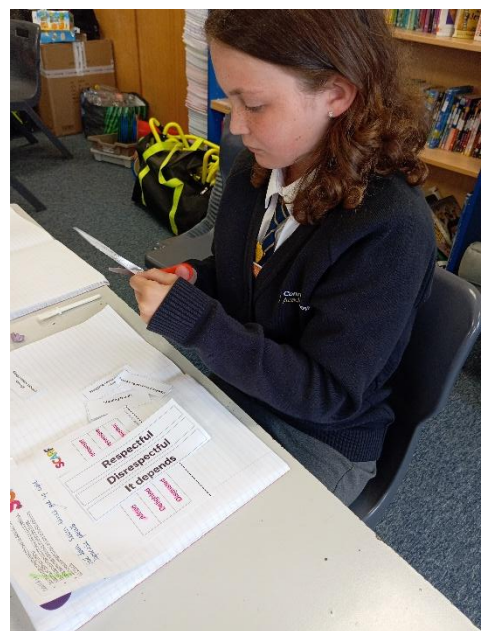
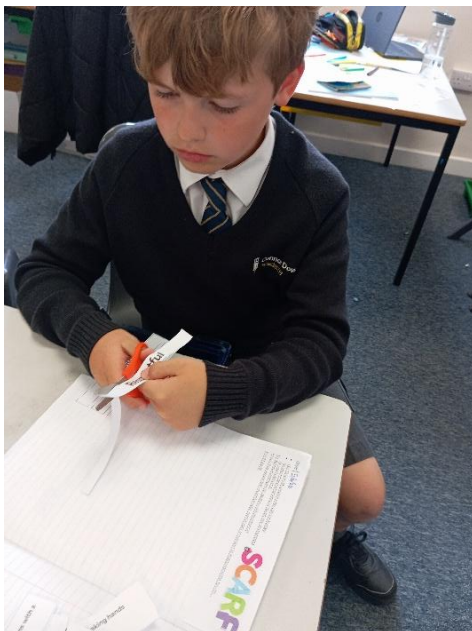
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As a part the Connor experience, linked to our motto: *Open spaces, open hearts, open minds* the children learned to surf at Gwithian.



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A massive thank you from all of Year 5 to all of the volunteers that have made our educational visits possible this year.

The children have had a fantastic range of educational experiences and we couldn't have done it without your ongoing support. Thank you and have a lovely summer.

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