



**Connor Downs**  
Academy

# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



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## Year 4

# Autumn Term 2021

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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. We revised the different word classes and sorted words into the correct word class. The children then used these word classes in their writing. They all used a range of adverbs and adjectives to describe the settings and what the characters were doing and how they were feeling. 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.



The first non-fiction text we looked at this term was an information text. The children learned the different purposes that an author writes for: to persuade, to inform or to entertain. The children wrote their own information texts using their learning in Science about the digestive system.

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 the Battle of Hastings in our History lessons and looking at the Bayeux Tapestry in our Art lessons, so the children wrote newspaper articles about the Battle

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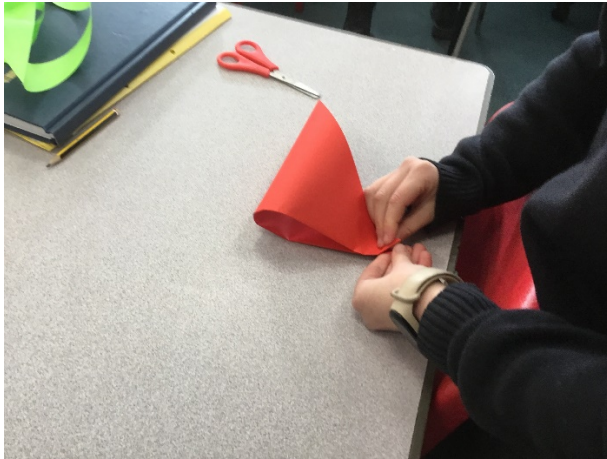
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of Hastings. The children also wrote a newspaper article describing our swimming lessons this term.

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 salt dough Christmas decoration. This was linked to our Design and Technology lessons where they all designed, made, and decorated a salt dough Christmas decoration.



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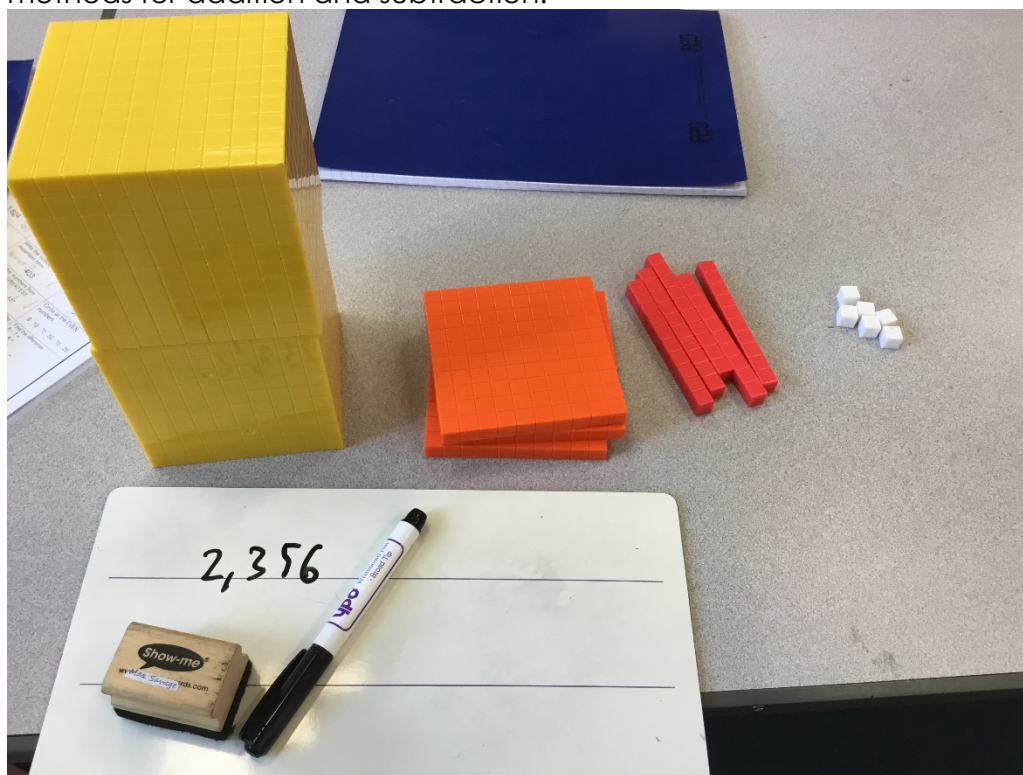




## Maths

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 Fridays, 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 that have arisen due to the disruptions caused by Covid-19. 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 length and perimeter. The children focused on calculating equivalent lengths for millimetres, centimetres, metres and

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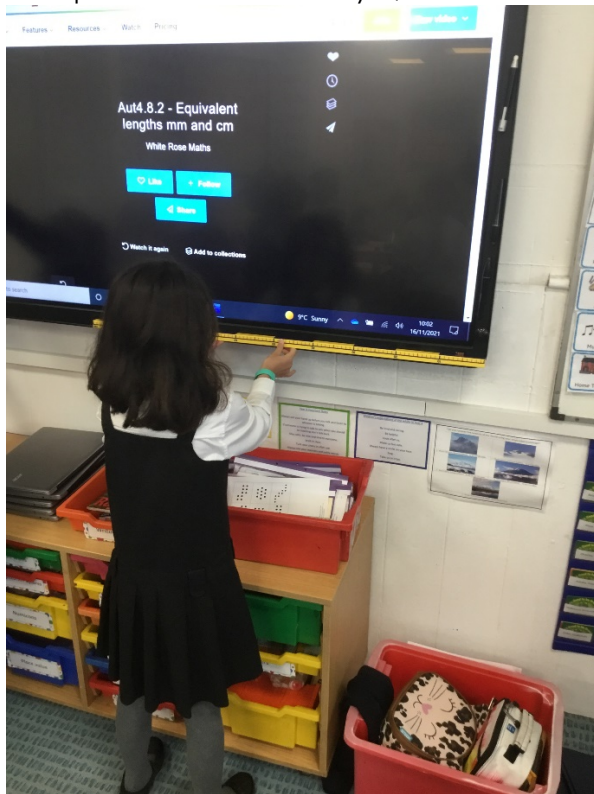
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kilometres. The children then used this knowledge while they were calculating the perimeter of rectangles and rectilinear shapes.

Finally, we ended the term with a focus on multiplication and division. The children began with multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 and moved on to recapping multiplying and dividing by 3 and recalling their 3 times tables knowledge. They then multiplied and divided by 6, 9 and 7 and the related times tables.



## Science

Our first topic this term was 'Where does all the food go?'. We focused on learning the main parts of the digestive system and what happened to our food as it moved through each part of our digestive system. The practical part of our lessons saw the children using digestive biscuits, water and banana alongside tights, plastic bags and funnels to see what happens to our food. It got pretty messy!

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Our final topic of the year was 'Batteries included'. Firstly, the children all investigated how to build a circuit and light a bulb. They then moved on to learning how a switch works. Finally, the children all created a simple circuit and used it to test which materials are conductors and which are insulators.

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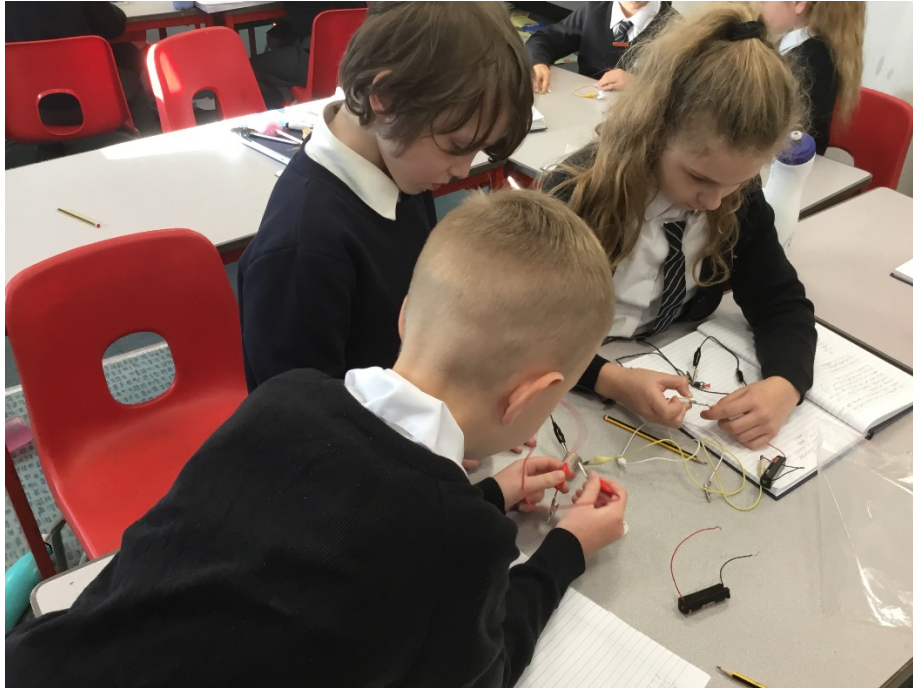




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## PE

In PE this term, the children started by learning to play hockey. They began by learning how to hold a hockey stick correctly and how to control the ball. The children then moved on to learning to defend and attack. We discussed how to play safely and ensure we were in control of our hockey stick and ball. The children played small games to practise their attacking and defending skills.

The children all thoroughly enjoyed our intensive swimming lessons this term. Every child worked hard and made great progress.

During the second half of the term, the children began gymnastics lessons where they focused on learning different jumps. They worked in pairs and small groups to put together sequences of jumps and methods of travelling. The class have all enjoyed wearing the school Moki watches this term. They all tried hard to clock up as many steps as they could.

We were very fortunate to attend two workshops at the Savvy Dance studio in Hayle. The children were praised for being well-behaved, polite and for learning the dance moves so quickly.

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## History

In our 'Were the dark ages dark?' topic we had a history focus on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. The children learned about Anglo-Saxon life, invasions (with a focus on Lindisfarne monastery) and learning about the conflict between the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons. We completed our topic by learning about the death of Edward the Confessor and how this led to the Battle of Hastings and the end of the Anglo-Saxon era.

## Geography

As part of our 'Were the dark ages dark?' topic we looked at Iceland where some Vikings also settled. The children learned about Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, reasons that tourists choose to visit Iceland and about the volcanoes found there and how they are formed. The children listened to some music by Bjork but were not very keen on it.

## Art

In our 'Where does our food go?' topic we looked at portraits produced by Giuseppe Arcimboldo. His portraits use fruit and vegetables to represent features of people's faces. The children all planned their own portraits in the style of Giuseppe Arcimboldo and used pastels to add colour and detail to their sketches.



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The second focus of our art lessons was to look at the Bayeux Tapestry and investigate what it tells us about the end of the Anglo-Saxon era. The children all utilised the idea of using a cartoon style strip to tell a story to design their own panel in the style of the Bayeux Tapestry. They chose an event from their lives, drew it and then added colours similar to those used in the Bayeux Tapestry. Related to our Science 'Batteries included' topic, the children all designed and made a paper lantern.

### **Design and Technology**

Our first Design and Technology project of the term was to design and make a healthy sandwich. After completing some taste testing of different fillings and types of bread, the children used the healthy plate to help them design their own sandwich. Everybody made their own sandwich using 50:50 bread and a range of healthy fillings. The children all grated cheese and cut cucumber as part of the process, even if they didn't use those ingredients in their sandwich. After making their sandwiches, the children enjoyed them by having a picnic in the classroom. At the end of the term, the children all designed, made, and decorated their own salt dough Christmas decoration.



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## Computing

Every day in Year Four, the children access our iPads and Chromebooks. The children quiz regularly after they have completed their reading books and they regularly use Sumdog and TTRockstars to enhance learning their times tables. In our Computing and PSHE lessons the children have revisited their learning about Internet safety, learned about how computer networks work and used Scratch to program their sprite and learn how to control and program.

## 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, the names of some instruments and counted to 10.

The class have also learned to sing 'head shoulders, knees and toes/Tête épaules genoux et orteils' to help them to learn different parts of the body.

## RE

During the first half of the term, the children learned about Hinduism and what Hindus believe god is like. They learned what Hindus believe about god and how and where they worship. The topic finale was a visit from Daya who talked to the children about how and where Hindus worship, dressed the children in traditional clothing and showed them traditional dance moves as well as role-playing the process of preparing to pray.



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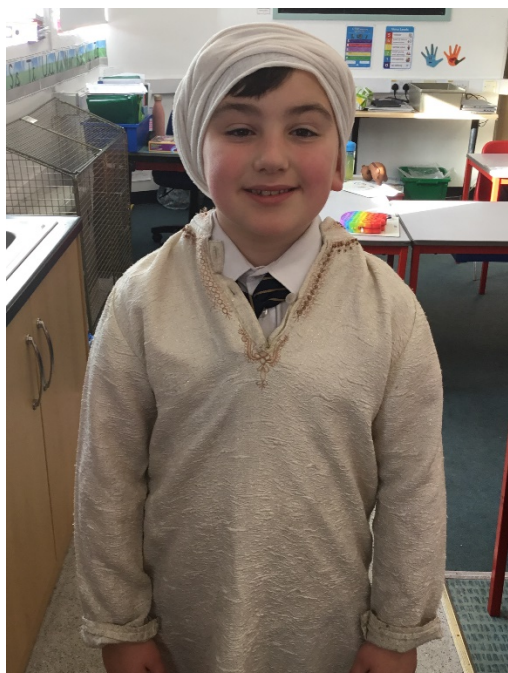




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During the second half of the Autumn Term, for our Christianity focus, we learned about the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

## **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*. In groups, the children showed how a machine performs different actions to reach a certain outcome and also developed their collaboration skills.

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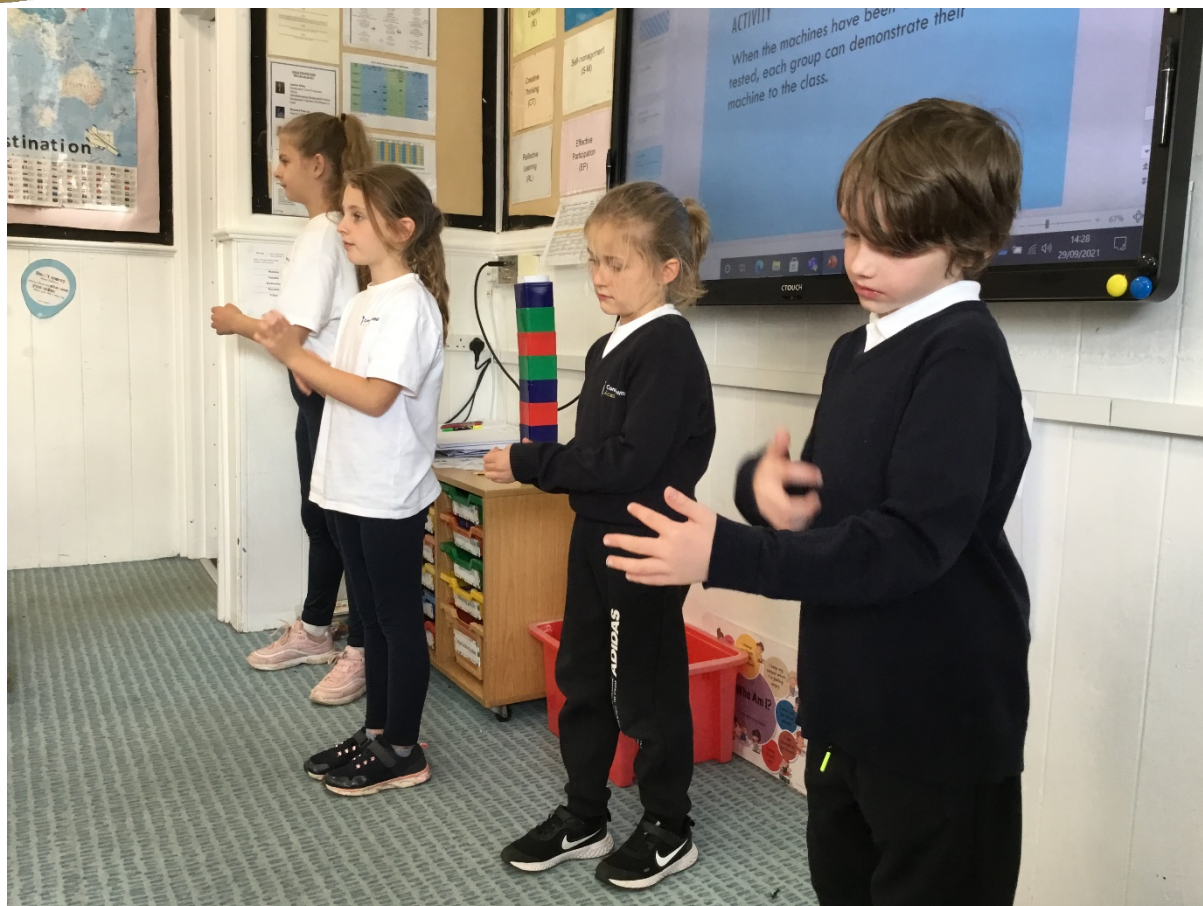
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At the end of the term, the children watched a Network Rail primary school safety talk. They should be able to tell you how to stay safe and explain the strategy 'STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, LIVE' to stay safe near rail lines.

## 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.

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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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