



Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



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Year 6

Autumn Term 2021

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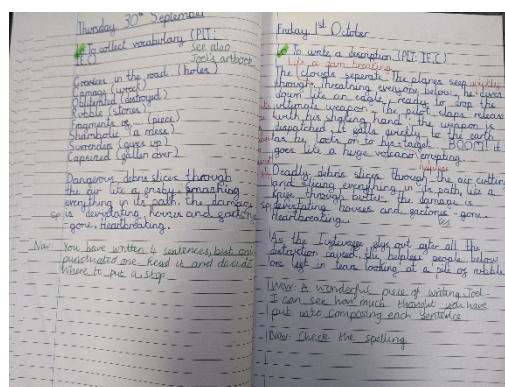




English

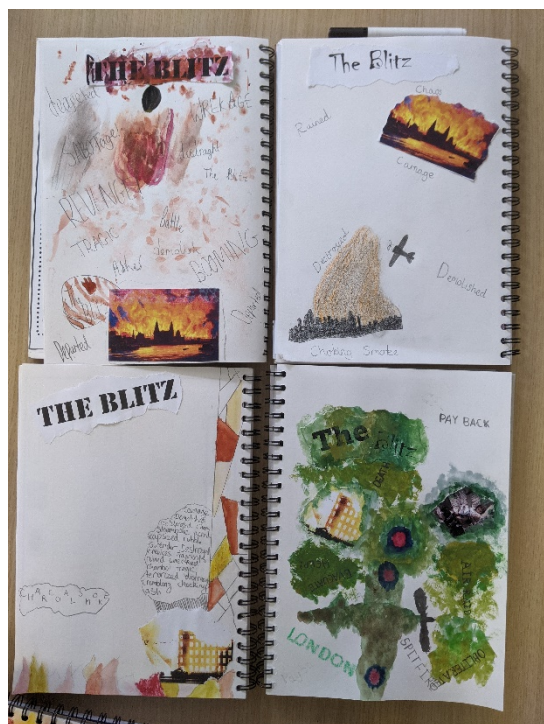
All the children's English work this term has been stimulated by the topic 'A Child's War'. They have written descriptive pieces about the Blitz which made good use of figurative language including similes and metaphors. The children watched footage of WW2 bombing raids to imagine a bomb falling through the air before exploding.

The children also researched and wrote a report all about Evacuation. This topic was fascinating to the children, and they asked lots of interesting questions, for example, why did some parents allow their children to be evacuated and what happened if the children did not like where they were sent. We were fascinated to learn that Connor



Downs Academy itself was attended by evacuees during the war.

After reading extracts of Anne Frank's Diary, the children wrote their own diary entries inspired by her. They managed to show the upmost sensitivity and empathy to produce very moving pieces of work.



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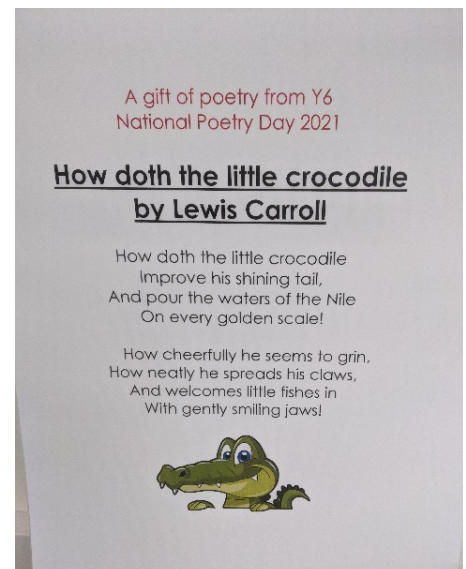
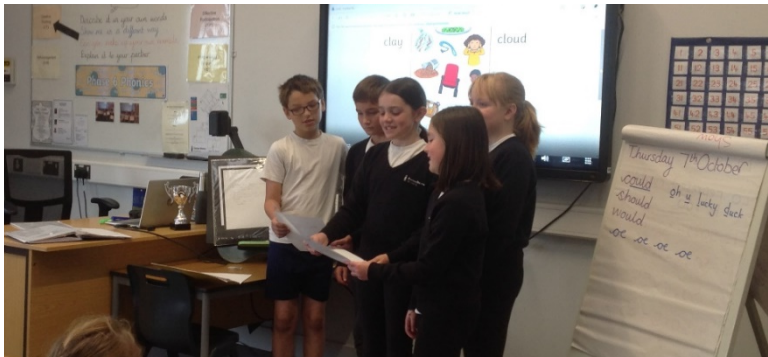
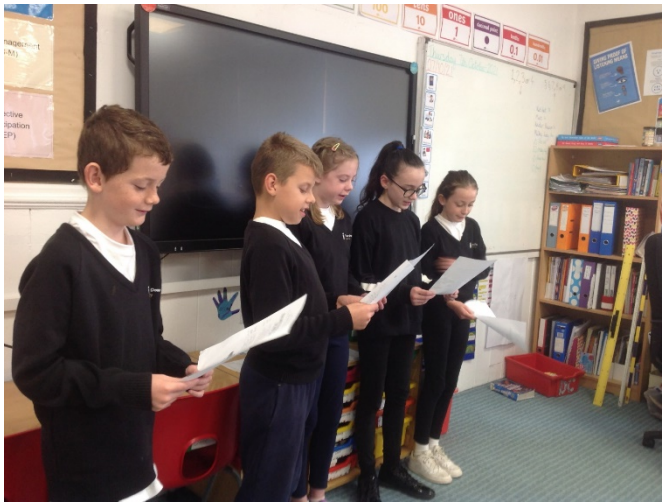
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On World Poetry Day in October, Year 6 performed poetry to different classes around school. They then left a copy with each class to learn themselves. This was a little nerve-wracking for some children, although everyone returned to the class feeling very proud of themselves.



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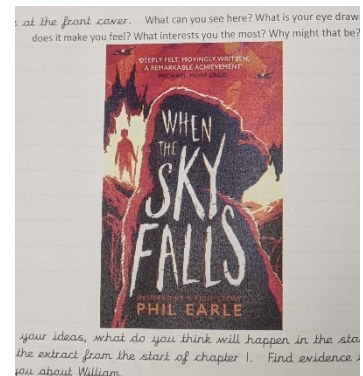
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The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes formed the basis of our work this half term. The character in the story, Lenny, is evacuated to the countryside. He struggles to settle in as some of the other characters are unkind to him. The children had to write a letter in character to Lenny's mother. The children chose for themselves how much to reveal in the letter. The children were also able to develop their use of precise, descriptive language and dialogue when writing their own end to the story in the style of Shirley Hughes.

This term we have read 1944 by Tony Bradbury, which is a short story set during in London during the Blitz. We have also been enjoying 'When the Sky Falls' which is a new text by an author called Phill Earle. This story explores life in a zoo during the war and raises some interesting points for discussion.



Maths

Each morning starts with some maths tasks that help the children to recall the learning they have completed previously. They also practise their times tables to ensure these are all 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. After this

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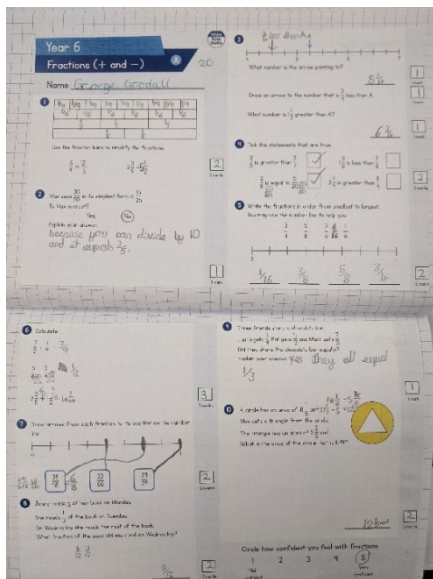
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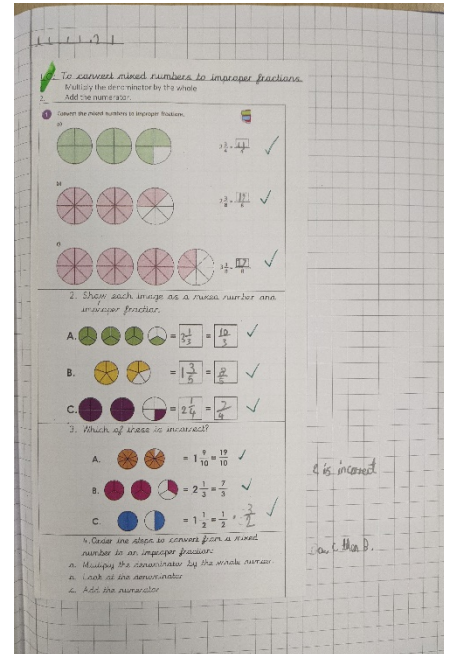
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the children completed work around the four operations- addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have developed formal written methods for these and solved problems using them. They also developed their fluency around number properties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



The final unit studied this term has been fractions. The children have been taught to add and subtract fractions up to mixed numbers, 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.



In November, the children completed a series of challenges as part of White Rose Maths 'Barvember' programme. The children explored drawing bars to represent the parts of a problem, which provides them with an additional way to find a solution.

A group of children from Y6 represented our school at the Nexus Maths Olympiad this term. We were all thrilled when they came in 3rd place!



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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 enjoyed balancing bubbles of dry ice on their heads!

The highlight of the visit was the exploding balloon- it really made the ground in the auditorium shake!



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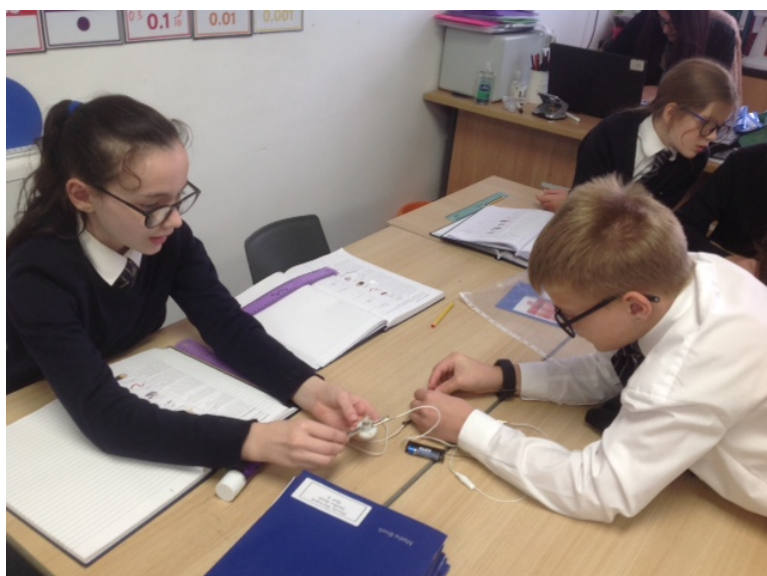
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In class, the children have explored electricity this term, including making circuits and spotting when they have gone wrong. The children investigated voltage though an investigation involving changing the number of bulbs in a circuit.



Later the term, Y6 learned about 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 heartrate and considered why. Many children were fascinated to learn that different animals have hearts that beat at different rates. Ask the

children if they remember which animal has the fastest heartrate- it is amazing.

The children were also invited to NEXUS in October to attend a workshop focusing on Chemistry. The children were able to have a hands-on, practical experience of mixing together different substances to see what happened. They recorded their results and discussed them at the end.



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History

Learning about WW2 continues to be a highly engaging topic in school. Learning how people's lives were affected by the War, such as how food changed, how cities changed, and children's lives were changed is fascinating. 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 then completed artwork based on these objects which allowed them an opportunity to develop their use of shade and tone.

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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. It was humbling to see how thoughtful and sensitive the children were during these lessons; it certainly made the minutes silence on the 11th November extremely poignant.

We are very grateful for the Head Prefect team and School Councillors who represented the school at Hayle War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday- thank you for being so smart and caring.

A highlight of the term was our visit from Mr Ivor Pascoe, a veteran from WW2. Mr Pascoe's house in Penryn was bombed during the war. The explosion sadly took the lives of some of his family members. The children studied the newspaper articles of the time, which revealed how much damage had been done.



Mr Pascoe was able to explain about his life in the Navy and talked with great eloquence about life during the war and after it. This was a truly precious, memorable experience for the children which we hope they treasure. The children have recently made a card to send to Mr Pascoe to celebrate his 99th birthday. The thank you letters the children wrote after his visit noted how inspired the children were by the visit.

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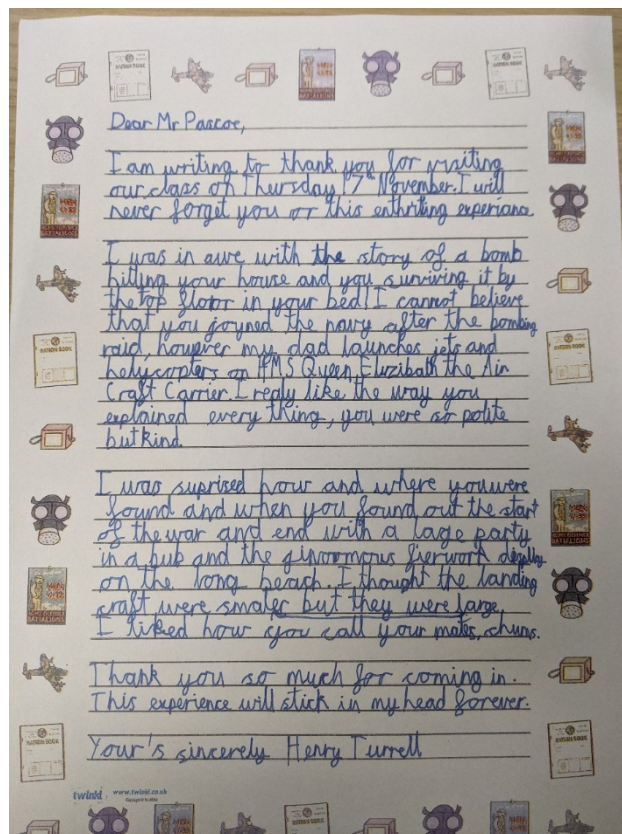
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Geography

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. The children also considered the various countries around the world which were involved in the war, including Japan and America.

PE

The class have thoroughly enjoyed their Cricket coaching sessions, which have been part of the 'Chance to Shine' programme. They have learnt fielding skills and the teamwork needed for this as well as batting and bowling skills. A particular favourite was a version of cricket where each team has 6 bats. If the ball hits the stump or the

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ball is caught, the team lose a bat rather than a player. This version is very enjoyable to play; the children particularly enjoy that any bats lost go into the 'bat grave'!

The children all completed their block of swimming back 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 enthusiastic singing on the bus on the way to and from swimming added to everyone's enjoyment.

This term, 11 children have been trained as 'Sports Leaders' to organise and run games for the children at break and lunchtime. They can be identified by their smart new hats! The children are all very enthusiastic and will start a rota in January. This is excellent, not only to promote physical activity in school, but to help the Y6 children develop leadership skills.



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RE

The children have explored Hinduism this term. They have learnt about Karma, Moksha and Reincarnation, as well as explored the Hindu Gods through art. Y6 were lucky enough to enjoy a workshop about Hinduism in November. The children were able to dress-up, role play and perform Hindu dancing with Daya.



PSHCE

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

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assertive during these lessons and enjoyed learning about different traditions around the world.

French

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



DT/ART

In Y6, we use art to help develop vocabulary and emotional skills. The children have used pencils, pastels and paints this term to develop their use of tone, shade and texture. Y6 enjoyed entering an art competition to design a picture to accompany a poem. In DT, the class have designed and made a Christmas Tree decoration which demonstrates a range of stitches. How festive!



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