



# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



**Connor Downs**  
Academy

## Year 4

# Summer Term 2022

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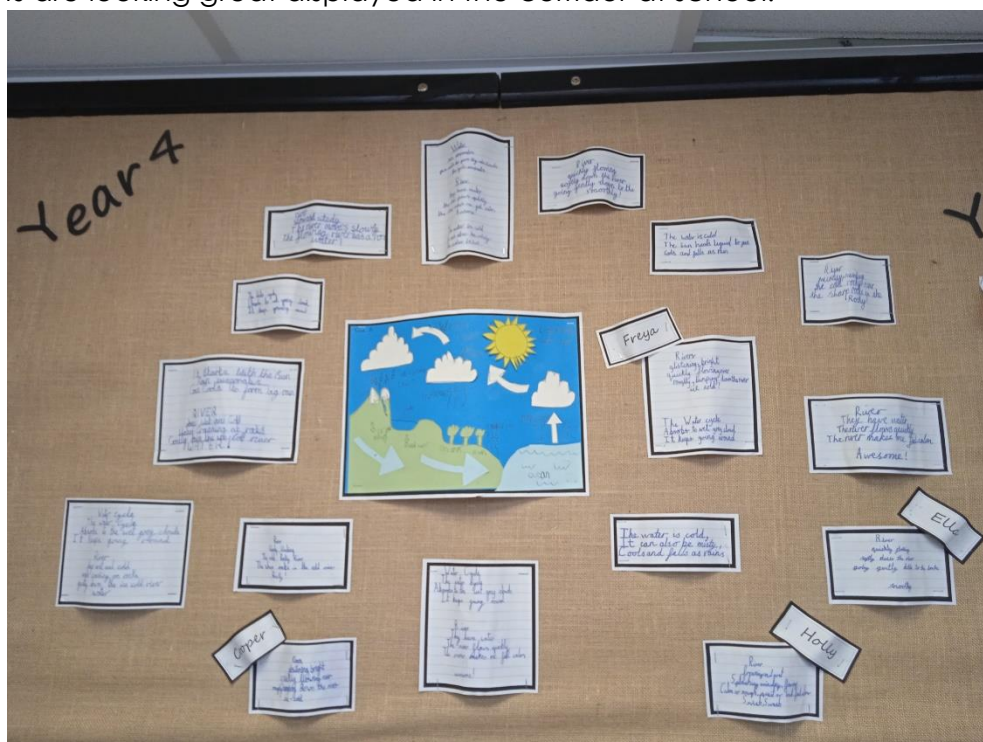
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## English

We started this term with our topic 'It's a small world'. We began by looking at features of and the purpose of biographies before researching a famous local person to write a biography about. The biographies were written about Richard Trevithick, Humphry Davy, Dame Barbara Hepworth and Ben Ainslie. Our next focus was on writing recounts. The children researched the features of a recount and planned their own recount to write from something they could remember doing recently. We had a lot of recounts about Easter holidays as well as recent sporting events.

Our final topic for the term, in English, was 'Amazing Amazon'. We began the topic by looking at a range of poetry. The first poems we wrote were poems about the river where they took on the shape of the river or the feature of the river being described in the poem. We then examined how haiku poems are formed and the number of syllables needed in each line. The children then chose to write a haiku poem about the river or water cycle. After our haiku poems, we then looked at cinquain poems, how many lines they have and how many syllables there are in each line. Again, the children chose the subject of their own cinquain. The finished products are looking great displayed in the corridor at school.



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We completed our 'Amazing Amazon' topic by writing a narrative story based in the Amazon Rainforest. The children were really able to imagine what it might be like in the rainforest after our trip to the Eden Project. Our last piece of work for the topic was to write an advertisement to encourage people to visit the Amazon Rainforest. The children researched features of advertisements and gathered a range of persuasive language to use. The adverts certainly made me want to get a trip booked.

## 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.

Our first unit of the term was to continue our decimals topic by comparing and ordering decimals. We then looked at money. First of all, we recapped on our learning from Year 3 by adding, subtracting and converting money. After this, we ordered and estimated money and then calculated change. In our unit on time, we recapped telling the time to the nearest minute and using am and pm. Then, we looked at the relationship between hours, minutes and seconds then years, months, weeks and days. We finished the topic by converting analogue to digital time. Our statistics unit then focused on interpreting charts and learning about line graphs. In our properties of shape unit, we looked at a range of angles and the different triangles and quadrilaterals and their features.

After their hard work learning their times tables this year, the children all took part in the multiplication tables check in June. They all did an amazing job both in learning their times tables this year and trying their hardest in the multiplication tables check. I'm so proud of them all.

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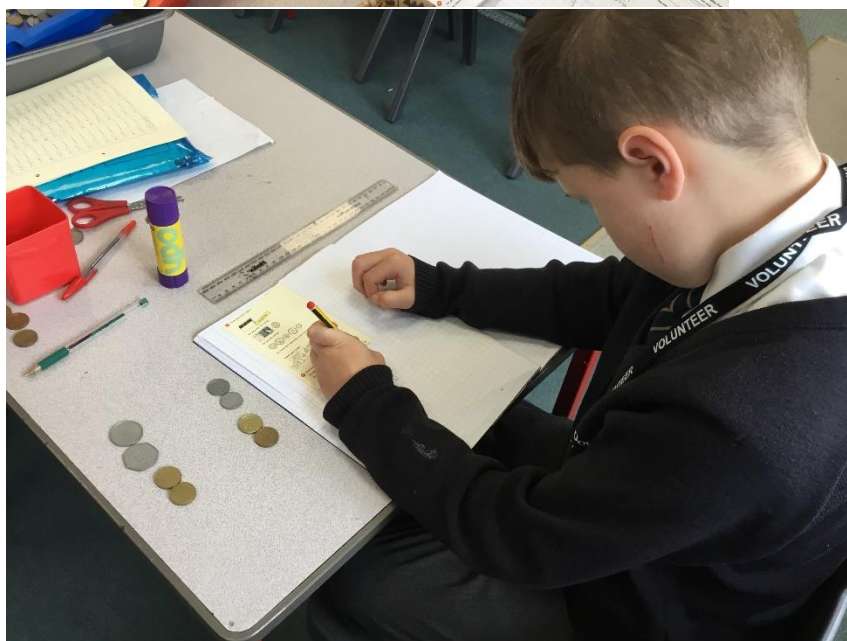
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## Science

During our 'Amazing Amazon' topic, we looked at changes of state and how they are involved in the water cycle. The children investigated which conditions allowed evaporation to take place the quickest.

As part of our 'a place for everything' topic we learned about vertebrates and invertebrates. We looked at the different types of each and what made them unique. At the end of the topic, we used classification keys to help to classify a range of animals.



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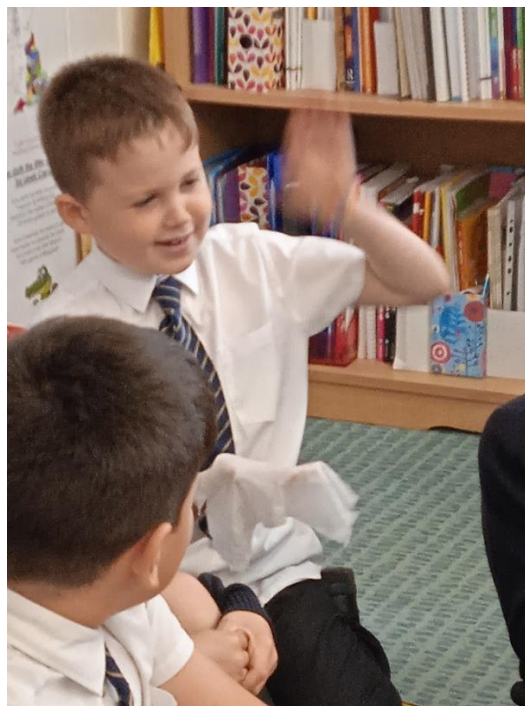




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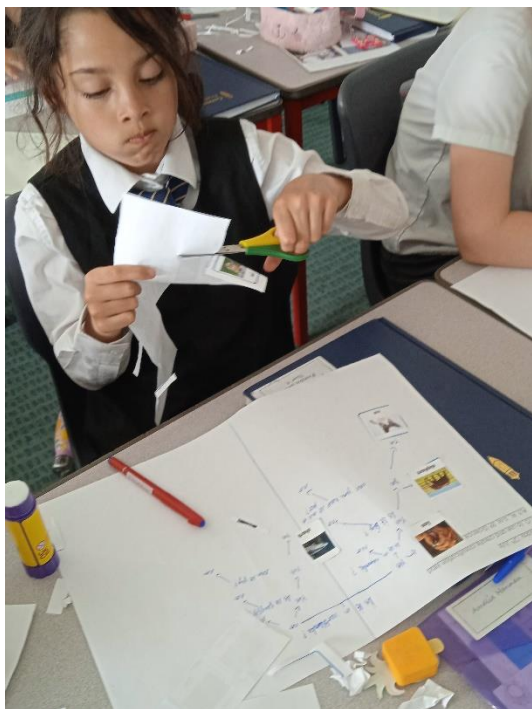




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## PE

We have had a very busy term for PE. The children began by working in teams to solve problems and had to discuss ways in which they could complete each challenge within the imposed rules. The children ended the term by starting to learn about orienteering around our school site. They all did an amazing job of locating where we were on the map and then finding the control points around the site.

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## **Penzance Gym**

On six Thursdays this term (28<sup>th</sup> April, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June) Year 4 attended Penzance Gymnastics Club to work with specialist teachers to improve their gymnastics skills. The children all learned and practised a wide range of movements and were taught how to use the equipment in the gymnasium.

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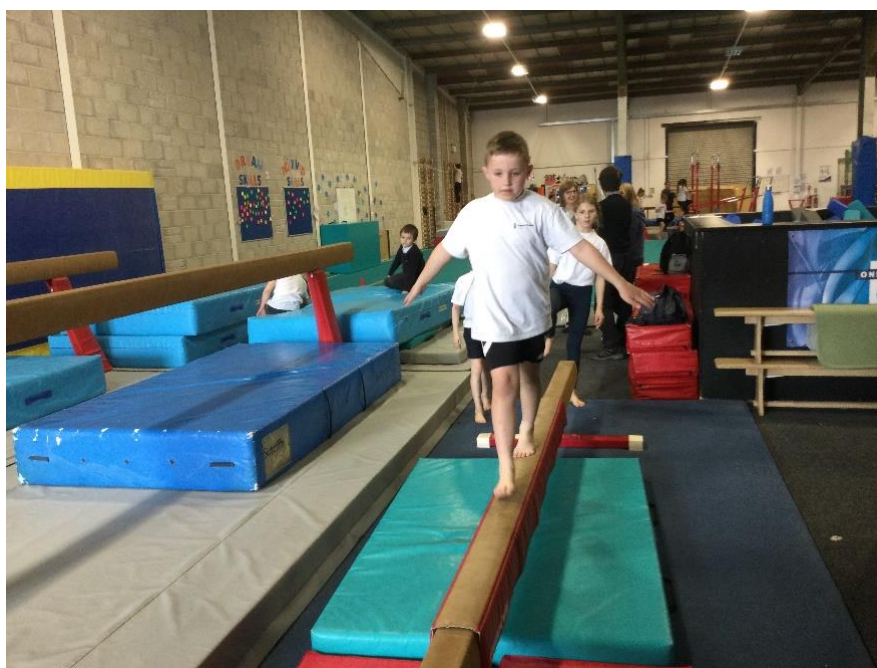
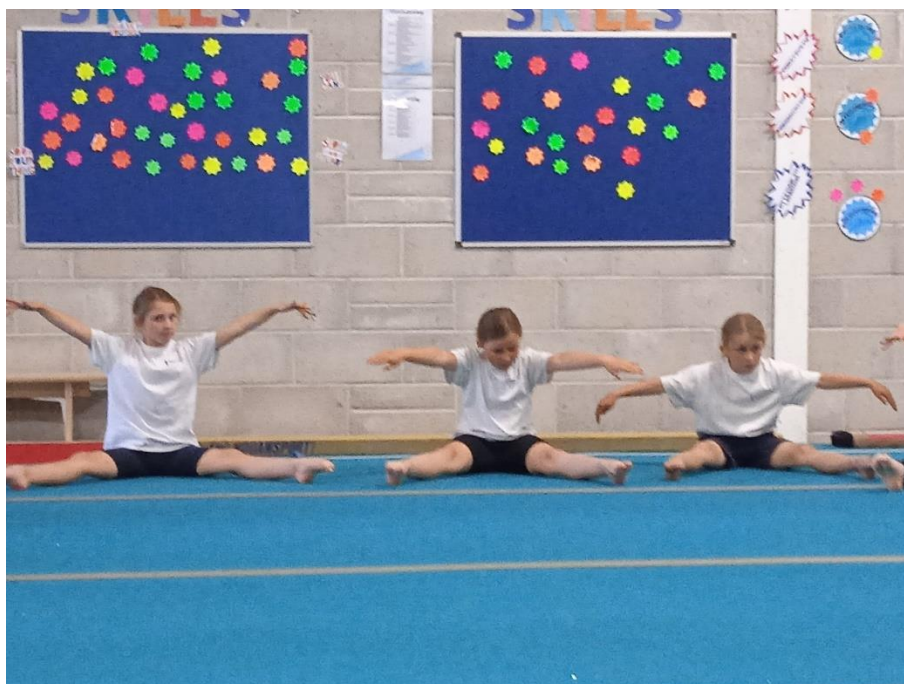




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## Surf Day

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, Year 4 visited Eskinzo surf school at Porthtowan. After getting into their wetsuits, they were split into two groups and carried their bodyboards or surfboards onto the beach. Each group began with a safety talk, a warm up and instructions on using the equipment. The children either then spent half of the session learning to use bodyboards and then swapped to learn to use the surfboards or vice versa. The children were all enthusiastic, resilient, courageous and brave.



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## History and Geography

During our 'It's a small world topic' the children learned about historical influences in the local area and wrote a local history guide about Carn Brea. They learned about the origins of newcomers to the United Kingdom and used local maps to locate historical features such as castles, viewpoints, museums and other historical buildings. In our 'Amazing Amazon' topic, the children began by recapping the different layers of the rainforest and moved on to learn about how plants have adapted to survive in the rainforest. They learned about deforestation and thought about how we can help to save the rainforest. The children also recapped the eight points of the compass, learned to locate places on a map by using a four figure grid reference and created their own sketch maps of cultivating futures.

## Eden Project

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Year 4 visited the Eden Project. We had a welcome talk and then explored the biomes. The children were able to identify which layer of the rainforest different plants were in and found examples of the ways in which plants in the rainforest have adapted. In both biomes, the children were able to recognise plants, the countries they originated from and the vegetation belts they were in. The children were also able to recognise different climate zones and explain the differences between them. The children used their senses in the rainforest biome to record what they could hear, smell, feel and see. One member of the class also showed us how to gently stroke leaves to get them to curl up. We all had a fantastic day.



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## Art

In our 'It's a small world' topic, we learned about Shoji Hamada, the Japanese ceramicist who spent time working in St Ives. The children designed, made and painted their own clay pots inspired by Shoji Hamada.



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## Design and Technology

With our focus on many areas of nature this term, the children ended the term by designing and beginning to make their own bookmarks inspired by nature. The designs ranged from items you would find in nature to patterns created using nature-inspired colours.

## 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 regularly use Sumdog and TTRockstars to enhance learning their times tables.

In our Computing lessons, the children have been continuing to use Scratch to create repetition using shapes. They also used chromebooks to carry out research across a range of topics and use the mapping tools to plan their route to Carn Brea for their local history guides.

## 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 learned about parts of the body, eyes and hair, days of the week, saying the alphabet in French and learning their numbers up to 31.

## RE

We began the term by learning about the events of Pentecost and how and when it is celebrated by Christians. During the second half of term, we investigated why some people think that life is like a journey. The children discussed major life events and decided whether they agreed that life could be described as a journey.

## 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.

The first half of this term, the focus has been on being our best by learning about the seven R's (refuse, reduce, re-use, rot, recycle, repair and re-think) and how they can help us to help look after the environment.

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During the second half of the term, our topic growing and changing helped the children to think about how their feelings and bodies change as they go through puberty.

## Music

During our music lessons this term, we have followed the Charanga Musical School original curriculum. Our first song to learn this term was Blackbird by The Beatles. As we practised singing each week, we also listened to a range of other songs by The Beatles and appraised them by using a range of musical vocabulary to talk about the pulse, rhythm, dynamics, timbre, tempo and pitch.

In the second half of the term, we learned to sing Mamma Mia by Abba. Again, we also appraised a range of other songs written and sung by Abba. The children all enjoyed following the animals on screen when moving to the pulse of the song.



Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Crease would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a fantastic summer holiday and to thank the children and parents, as well as the staff at Connor Downs Academy, for making this such an enjoyable year. We will miss the

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class as they move up to Year 5 but will enjoy seeing how they continue to develop and grow.

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