



# Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



**Connor Downs**  
Academy

## Year 4

# Autumn Term 2025

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## English

Our first text type of the academic year was setting description poetry. We wrote our own poems based on an imaginary cellar underneath the school. We used line guides and frames to present our work for display in the hall corridor.

We moved on to look at newspaper reports. We looked at national newspapers to recognise their features and understand how they are organised. We used a text called The Creature which tells the reader of the events of local residents of Gwithian finding an unidentified whalelike creature washed up on the beach.



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At the end of the term, we learnt about the rainforest and used a text by Katherine Rundell titled 'The Explorer'. The children learnt about Similes, metaphors, adverbial phrase, personification, repetition and correctly punctuated dialogue that they then used in their own writing as they wrote the next chapter to an adventure story.

## 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 a 100 problem times table grid. Multiplication knowledge is practised every day five different ways every morning in preparation

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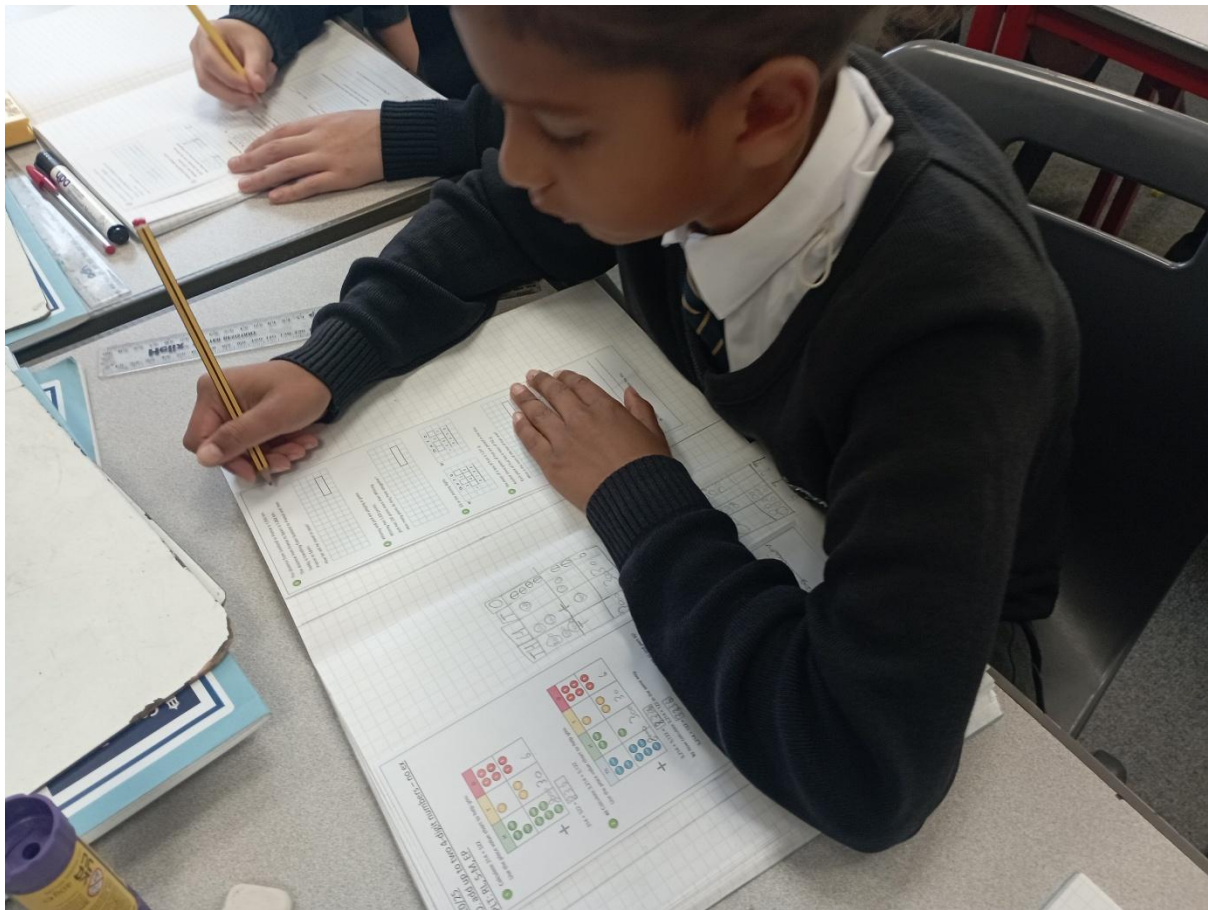
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for the Year 4 MTC in June. Four days a week, the children keep their arithmetic skills sharp through spiral review tasks and tables practice. At Connor Downs, the children tackle fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving tasks throughout each of their 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. The children learned to manipulate and partition numbers in their place value topic before developing their formal methods for addition and subtraction.



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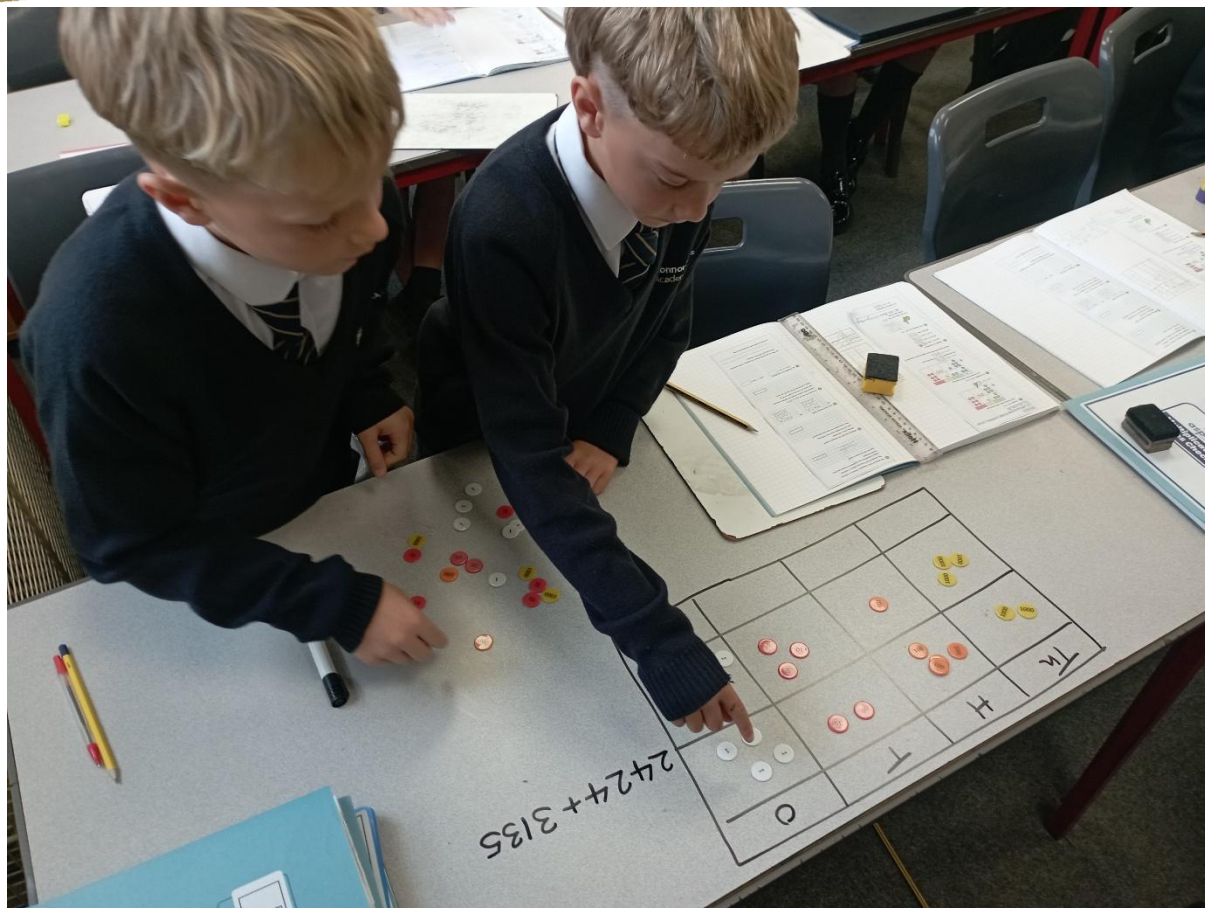




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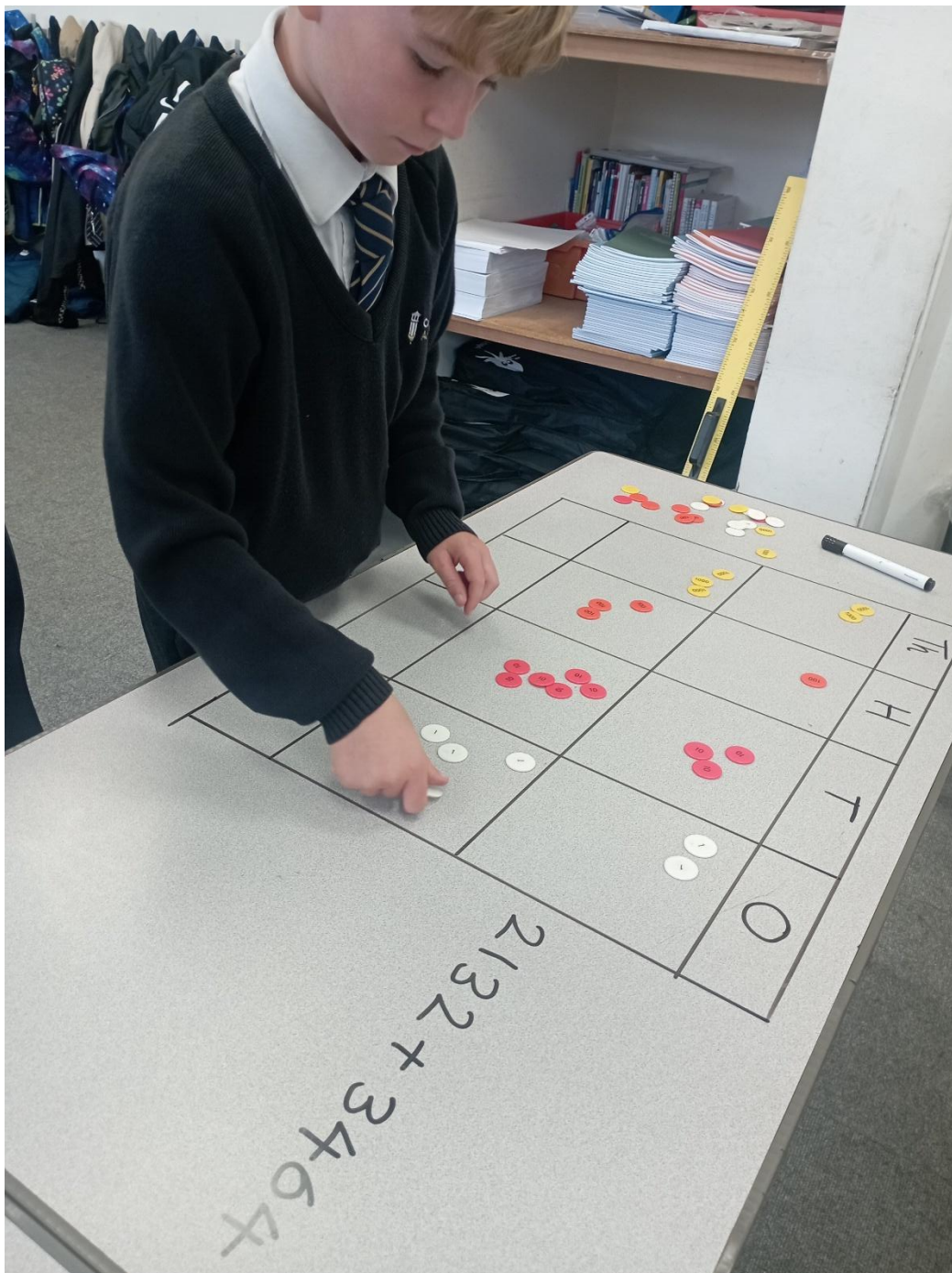




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Later in the term, we turned our attention to area. The children focused on counting squares to calculate area, made their own shapes with a particular area and compared the area of different shapes. Finally, we ended the term with a focus on multiplication and division. The children began with multiples of 3 and times tables and division facts for the 6- and 9-times tables. We then moved on to times tables and division facts for the 7-, 11- and 12-times tables. We finished the topic by multiplying and dividing numbers by 1, 0 and itself and multiplying three numbers.

## Science

Our first topic this term was States of Matter. The children learned about the properties of solids, liquids and gases and compares and grouped materials. We also investigated changes of state when objects were heated or cooled and changed from one state to another. The children learned about condensation and evaporation and the role they both play in the water cycle.

Our final topic of the year was Living things and their habitats. We started by investigating a range of different habitats. The children then grouped organisms according to their characteristics. Classification keys helped us to organise, identify and classify animals and plants. The topic ended by looking at human impact on habitats and environments and how we can help to protect them.

## PE

In PE this term, the children started by learning to play tennis, taught by a professional coach. Unfortunately, our coach was delayed by a week, so we practiced our netball skills.

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Once our coach arrived, the children began by learning how to hold a tennis racket correctly and how to control the ball. The children then moved on to learning forehand and backhand strokes. We discussed how to play safely and ensure we were in control of our tennis racket and ball. The children played small games to practise their forehand and backhand.

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During the second half of the term, the children began gymnastics lessons where they focused on making bridges. They worked in pairs and small groups to put together methods of travelling and moving under bridges.



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## History

Our focus this term in history was the Anglo-Saxons, Picts and Scots. The children began the topic by looking at archaeological evidence from Sutton Hoo to find out how we know about the past and to learn more about the Anglo-Saxons. Next, they looked at who the Anglo-Saxons were and where they came from as well as learning about who the Picts and Scots were and where they lived. They learned

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about Anglo-Saxon life and culture by looking at languages used at the time, art, music, legends, and poetry. We ended the topic by learning about the spread of Christianity during the time of the Anglo-Saxons.

## Geography

We focused on learning about rainforests in Geography after half term. The topic began by finding out what a rainforest is and where they can be found around the world. We then moved on to explore and understand the layers of vegetation in a rainforest. The children learned about the climate of the rainforest and the tribes who call the rainforest home. They compared how they lived in the UK to how tribes lived in the rainforest. We ended our learning in the classroom by focusing on reasons the rainforest is under threat and how we can help to protect it.

## Art

In our plant art topic, we began by looking at the different artists who use plants in their artwork. The children discussed what they liked about different pieces of art. For our next lesson we learned about botanical illustrations and used the CAP process (constant observation, attention to detail and patience) to help make our observational sketches as accurate as possible. Moving on from this we learned about the artist Georgia O'Keeffe who created large scale paintings of plants. The children learned how to create tints, shades and tones of colour to create their own painting of a flower.

## Design and Technology

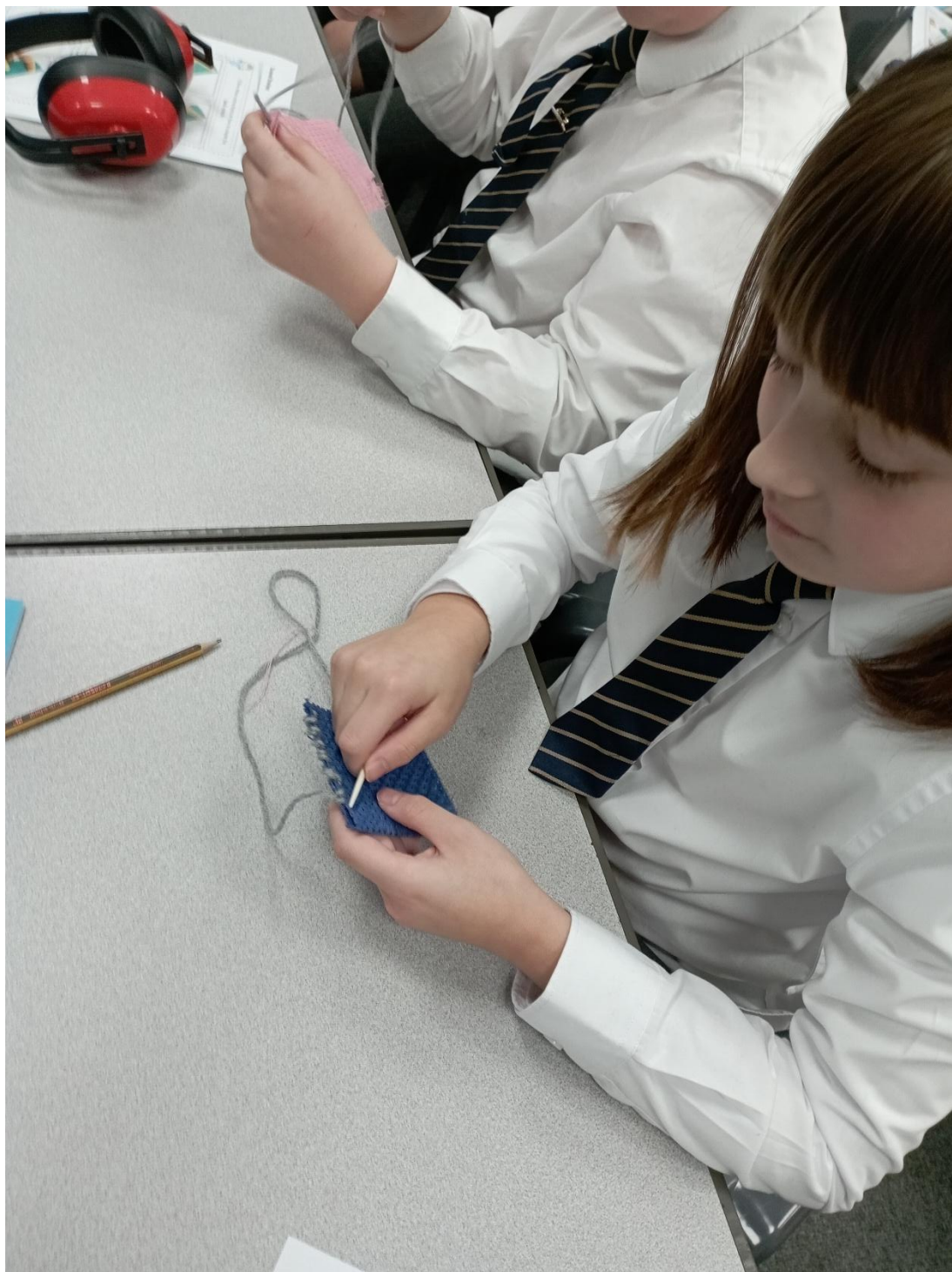
At the end of the term, the children began their seasonal stocking topic by evaluating a range of stockings and deciding whether they were mainly functional or visually appealing. We learned about different stitches that can be used to join material together – back stitch, running stitch, over stitch or zigzag stitch. They used this research to help them to design their own stocking; thinking about who it was for and which stitch and decoration they would use. At the end of the topic the children created their own stockings, many hours of sewing, stitching, unstitching and re sewing were spent in the hope of selling our decorations at the Christmas fair!



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## Computing

Every day in Year Four, the children access our Chromebooks. The children quiz after they have completed their reading books and they use Sumdog and TTRockstars at least once a week to enhance learning their times tables and to practice the MTC

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(multiplication tables check). In our Computing and PSHE lessons the children have revisited their learning about Internet safety this term.

Our first Computing topic was 'The Internet'. The children learned about networks and how messages are sent between networks. We learned that network devices make up the internet, the internet allows us to view the World Wide Web and that the World Wide Web is the part of the internet that contains websites and web pages. In our second scheme of work, the children have focused on recording audio files and have created podcasts.

## **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.

## **RE**

During the first half of the term, the children learned about Hinduism and what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. They learned what Hindus believe God is like, how and where Hindus worship and about celebrating Diwali. The second half of the Autumn Term we studied Christianity. We learned about how Christians view God, what gospels are and how Christians use them in worship and the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

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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.

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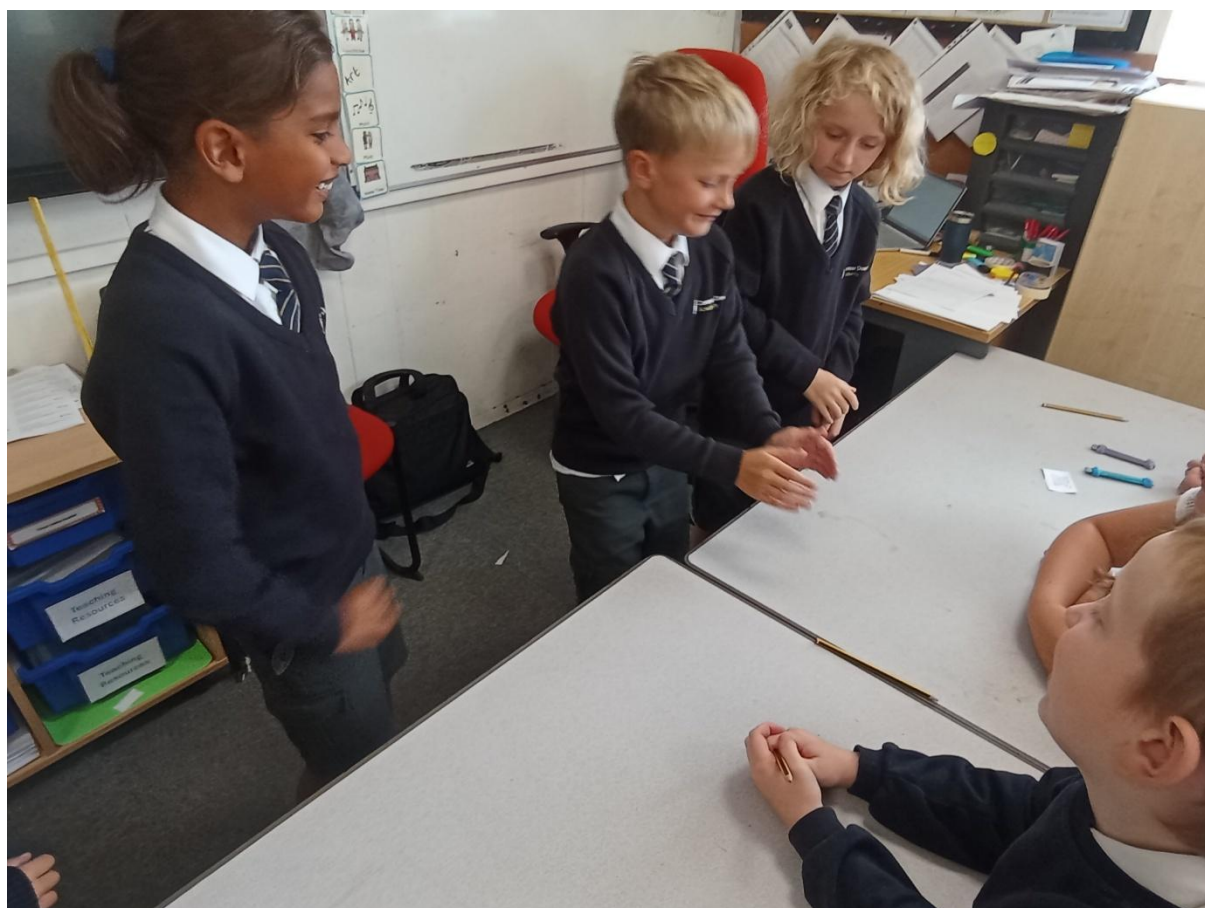
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## Music

Our music lessons this term have been somewhat different from our usual music sequence. The children of year 4 have in the past had a peripatetic music teacher come into school and teach them brass such as the trumpet, trombone and euphonium. However, this was not possible this year, so the children had ten lessons of ukulele instead. 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

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themselves. During the last few weeks of term, the class learned several songs as part of the KS2 carol concert of Noel, which they performed brilliantly at school and at Phillack Church.



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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children for their hard work this term and to thank all parents and carers for their support. Have a fantastic Christmas holiday and we will see you in January.

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