



Connor Downs
Academy

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy

Welcome to Year 2!

I very much hope you enjoy hearing about our Autumn Term learning and seeing some photos of the class during their first term in Year 2. The children have worked so hard and made amazing progress, both academically and personally. We are so proud of all of them.

New Adventures:



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Friendship and Character Development.



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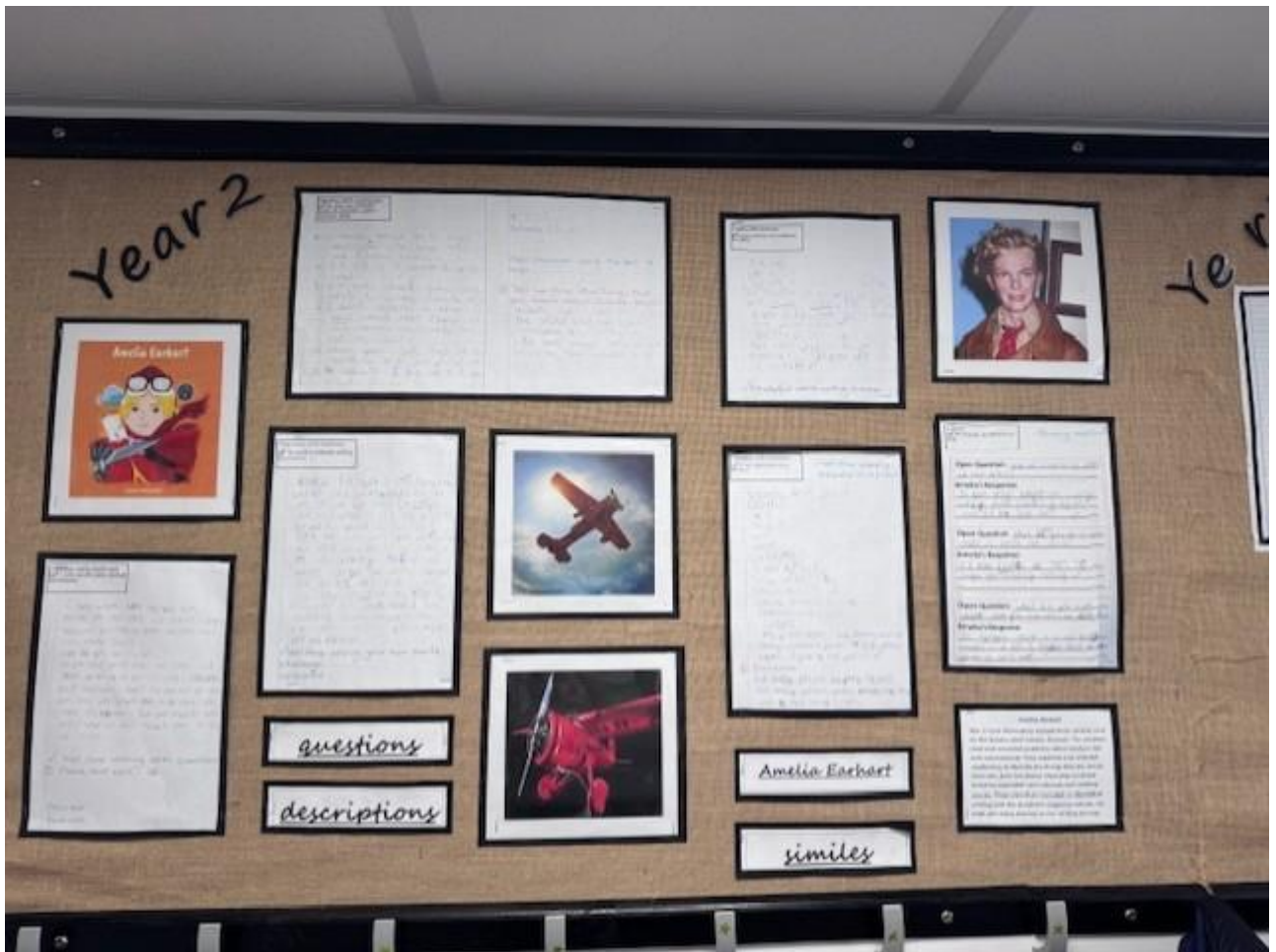




English

Year 2 Amelia Earhart writing display linking English and history.

Our Year 2 English journey began with a unit of writing about Amelia Earhart. The children learnt to express their own thoughts and opinions about Amelia's achievements. The children learnt to write open ended questions and answer them in role. Writing tasks involved learning to use expanded noun phrases, similes and metaphors to write detailed setting descriptions and newspaper articles.



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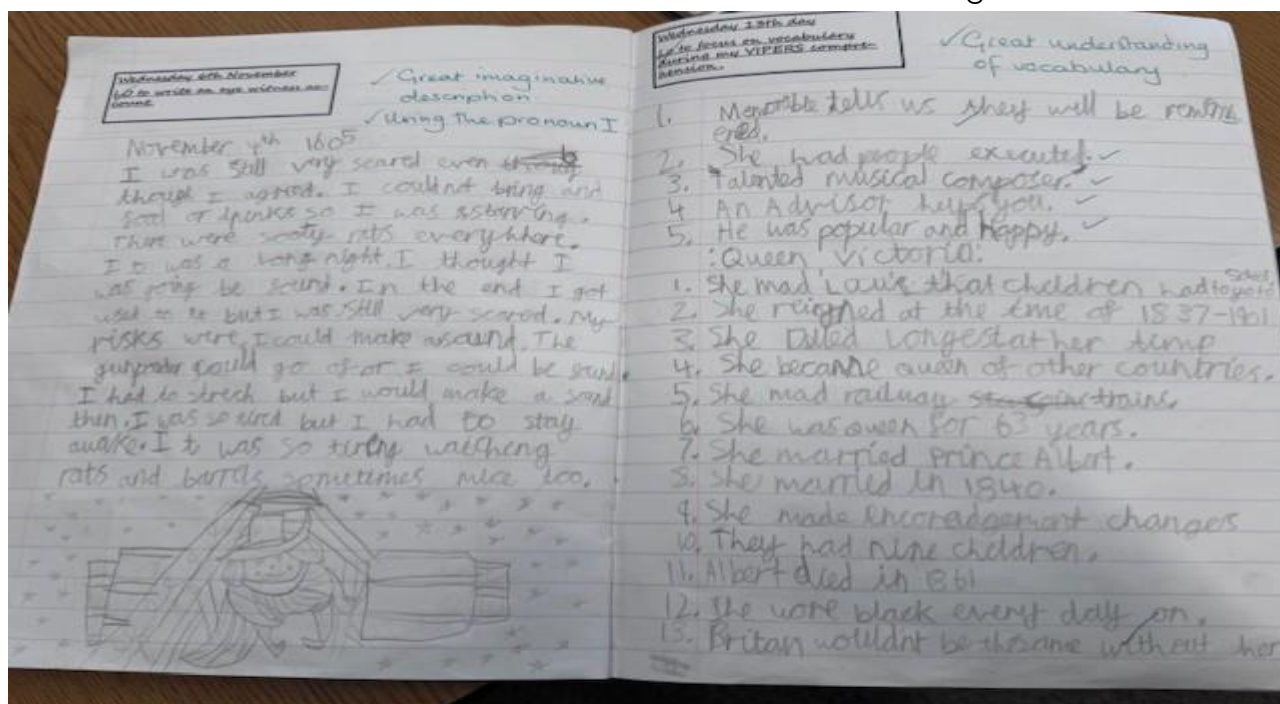
The Titanic, as our next writing unit, inspired amazing motivation and incredible writing. The children wrote very well informed fact files, letters and compared and described two settings on the Titanic.

Alongside this the children's SPAG journey began with a focus on sentences and speaking ideas in complete sentences before writing. They all contributed to toolkits to guide and support their writing.

All the children's writing was supported by their daily phonics, SPAG, guided reading programme and twice weekly reading comprehensions.

Next the children expressed how text makes them feel and used rhyme and alliteration to create their own magic spell poems.

The children also practised reciting a poem dramatically and wrote non-chronological reports on how Christmas is celebrated by people from Christian cultures around the world. The term ended with informal letter writing to Santa.



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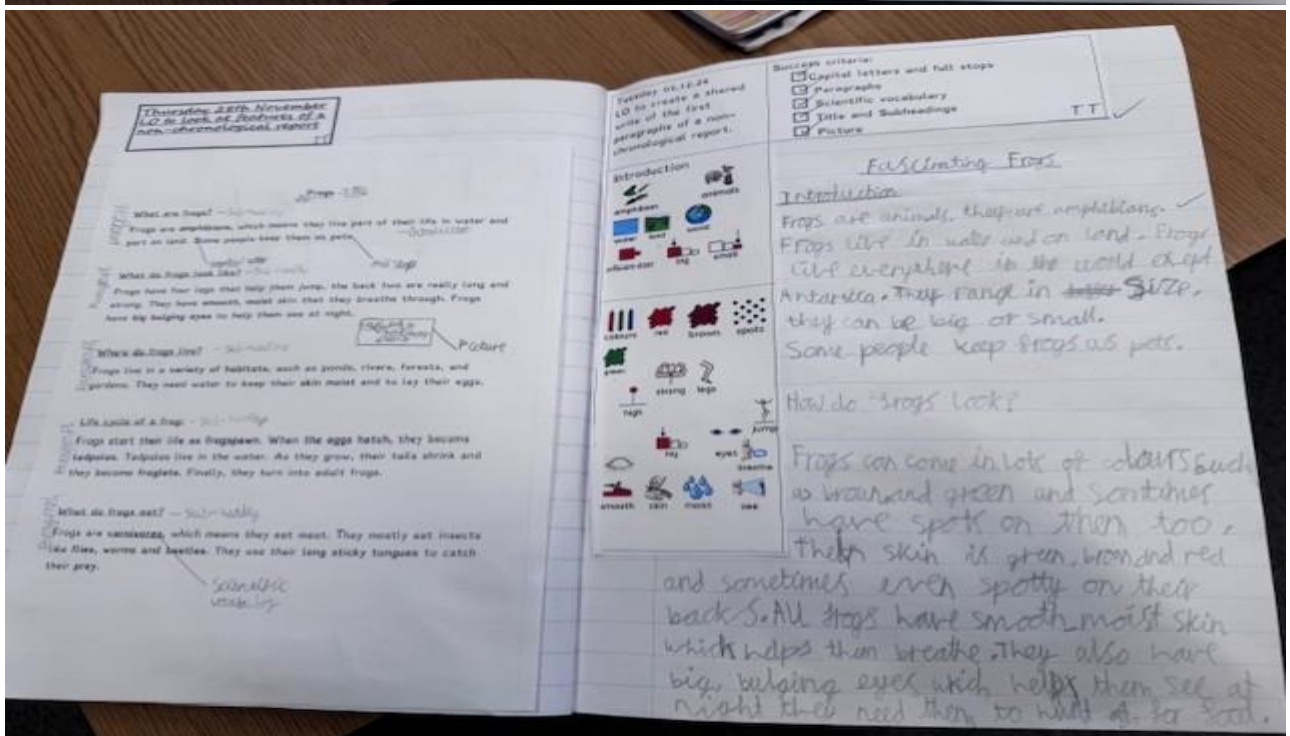
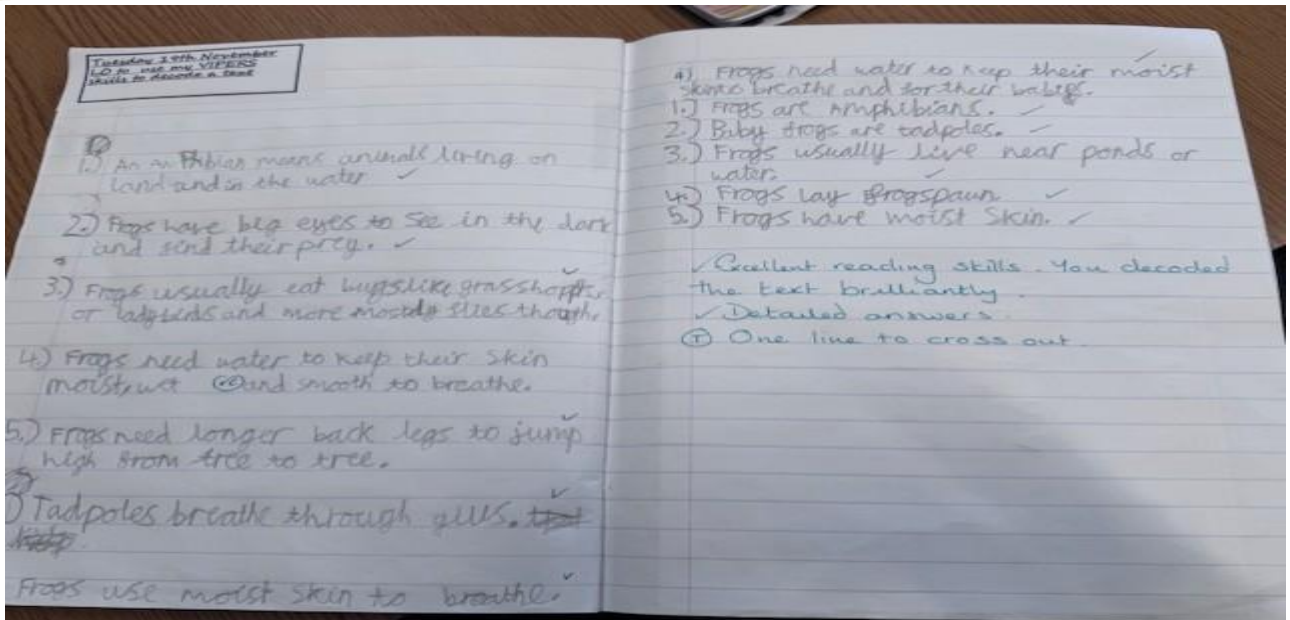
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Maths:

The children have had an exciting and challenging maths journey. Their first unit was place value, reading, writing, and ordering numbers. There was lots of evidence of reflective enquiry and independent learning as the children demonstrated their skill and understanding. Next, the children looked at number: addition and subtraction. They recalled known facts to 20 and used related facts to 100.



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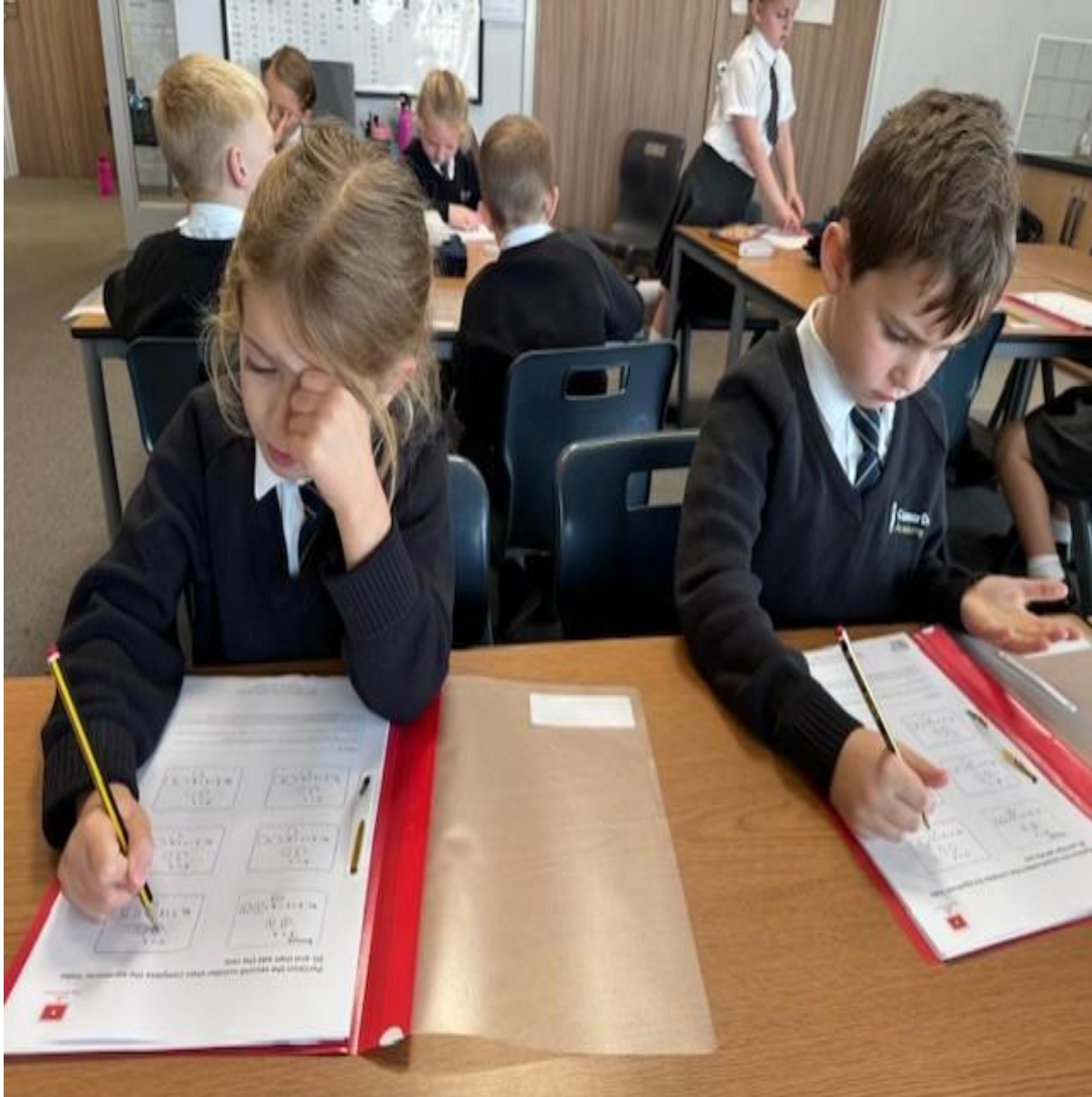
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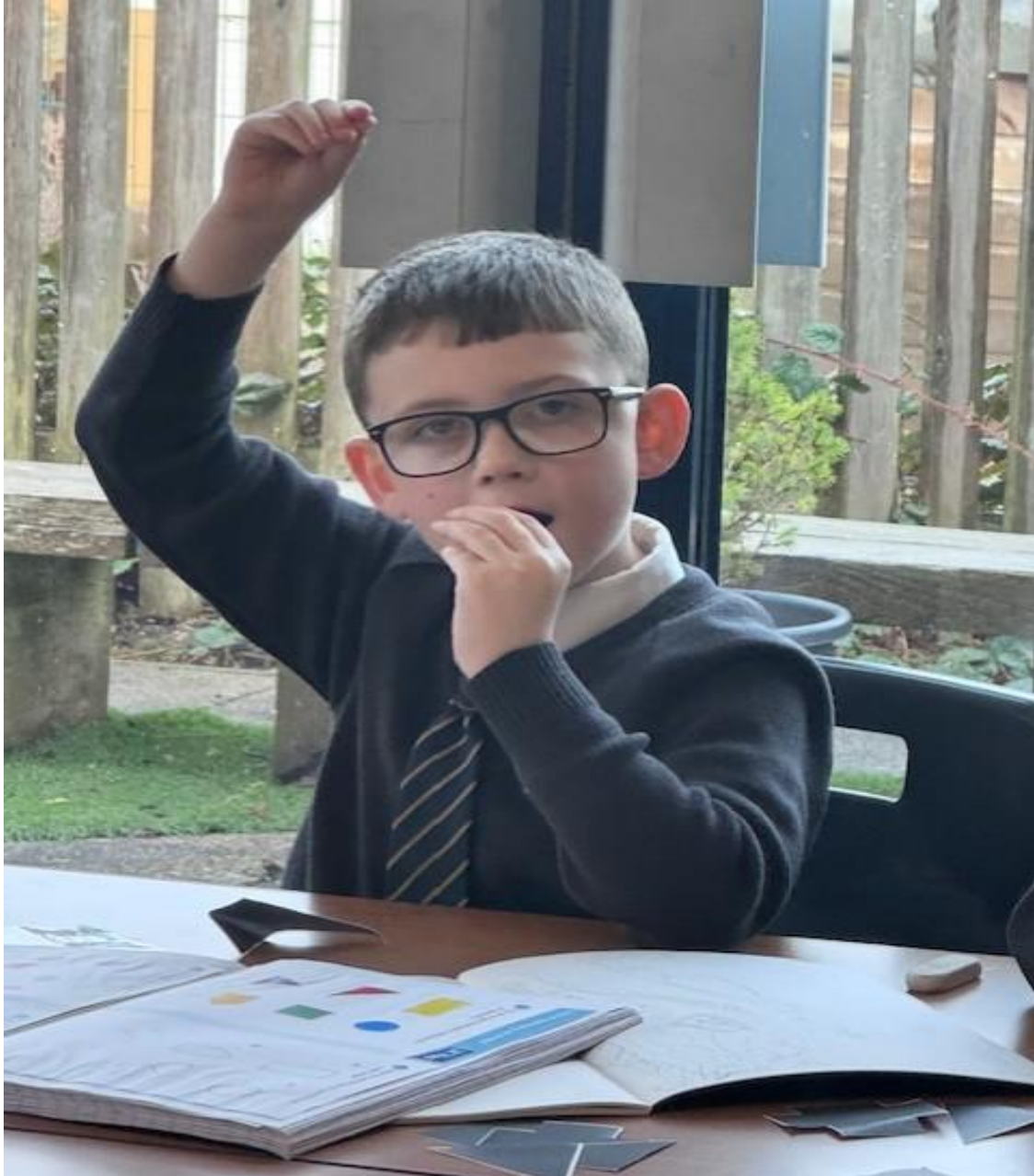




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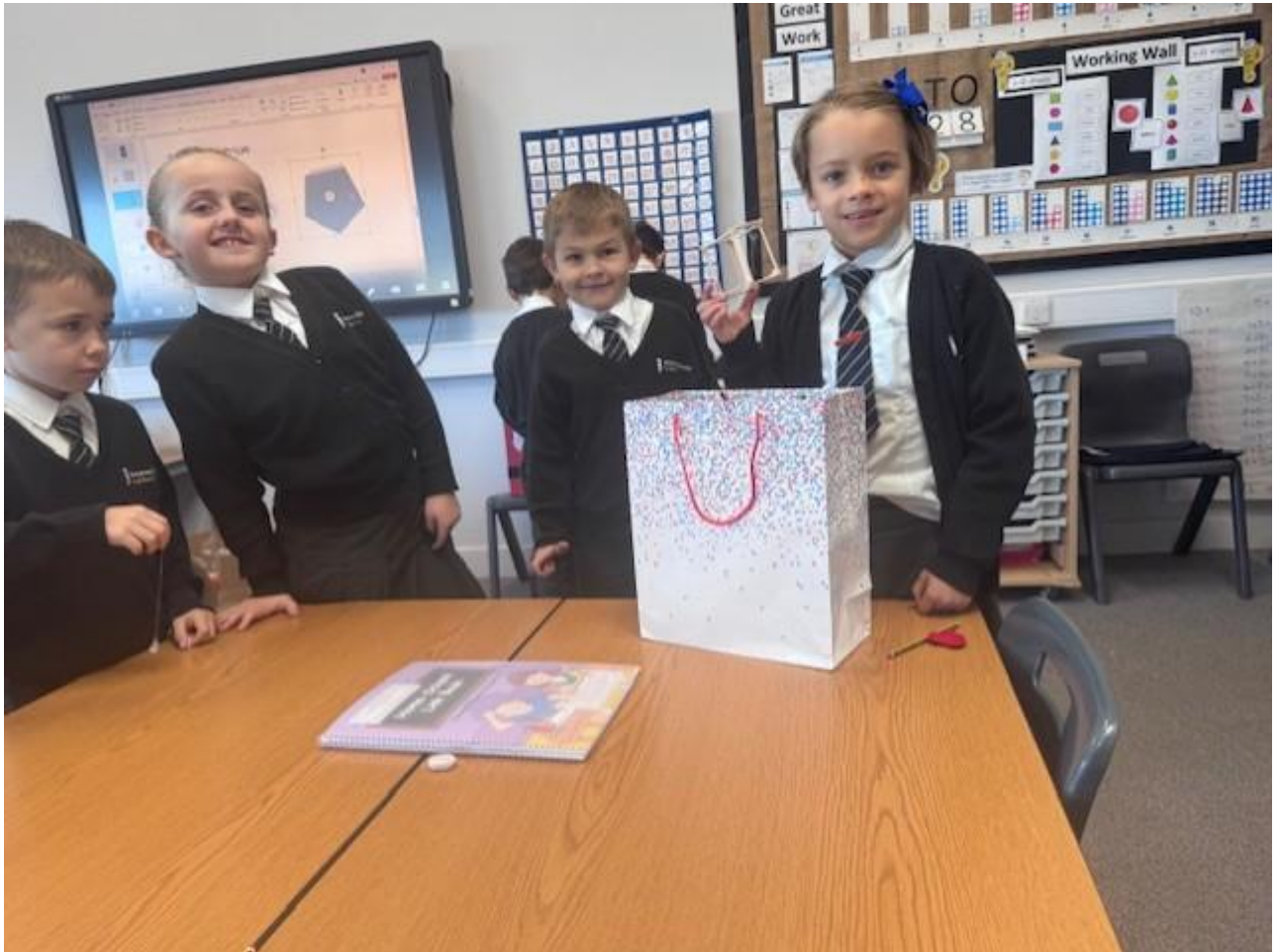




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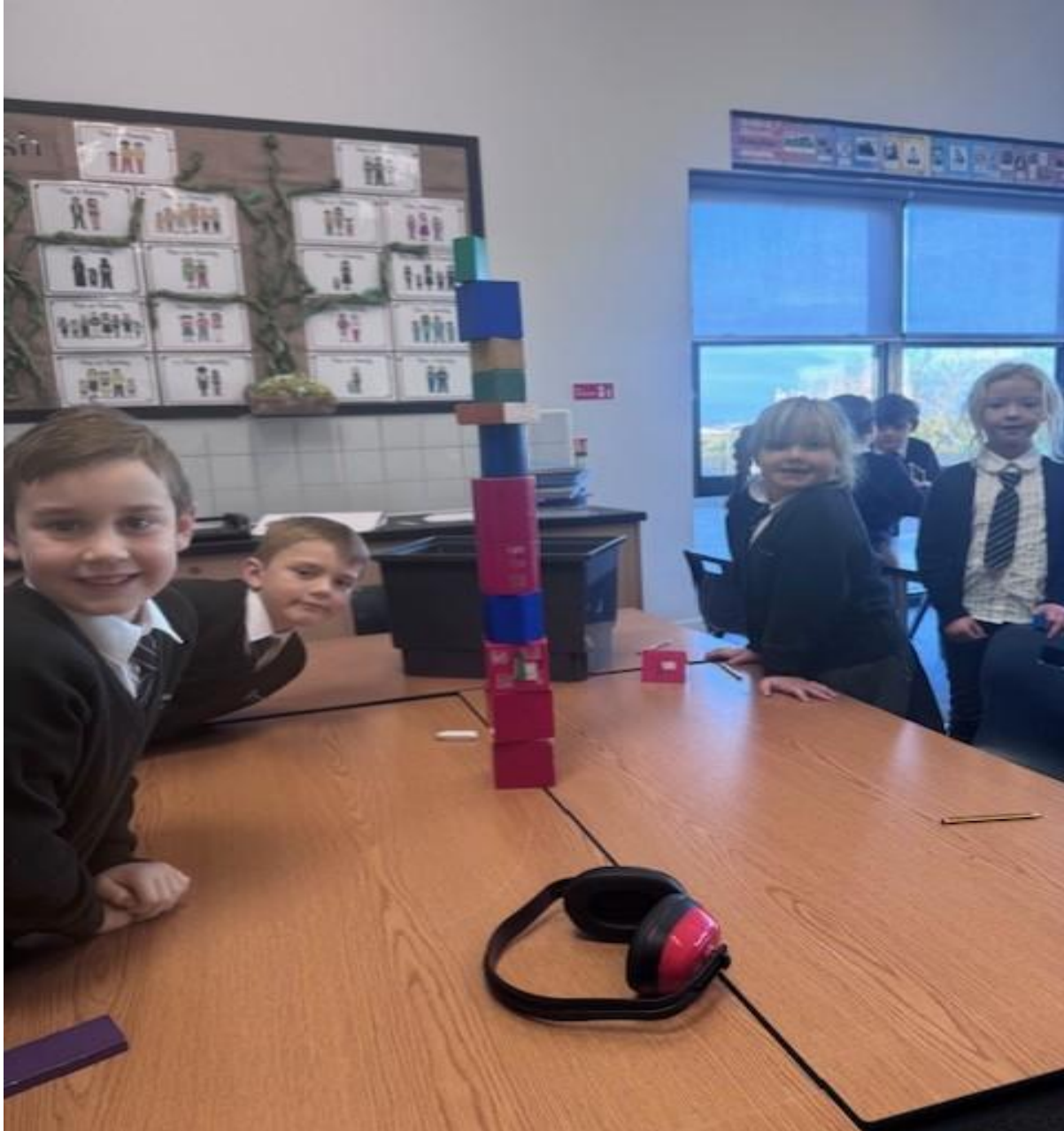




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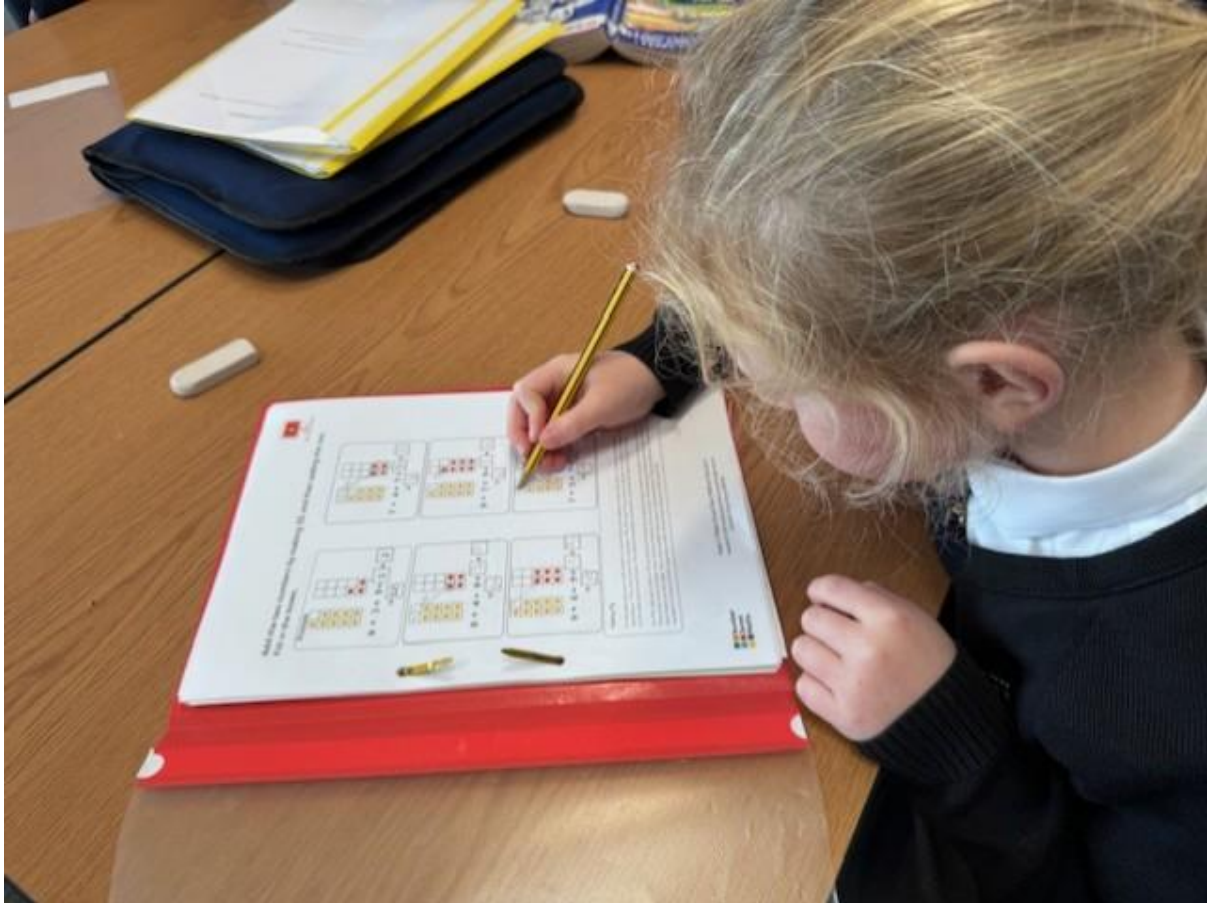
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Our reasoning and word problem solving challenges have often been cross curricular. The children used inverse to add and subtract and used this to check answers and solve missing number problem. The next step of the children's mathematical learning journey was followed by shape focusing on recognising 2-D and 3-D shapes. The children learnt to count sides, vertices and draw 2-D shapes. Next, they completed and found lines of symmetry. This was cross curricular and expanded in our PE lessons. This term concluded with introducing our times tables. The children have been so enthusiastic about our new times tables challenges. They have transferred skills well and made impressive progress.

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The children have worked hard on their times tables and have enjoyed our daily times tables challenges focusing on our target tables of 10x, 5x, 2x and 3x.



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Geography:

In geography Year 2 have explored what farms are and why they are important. The children explored the features of a farm. They also used maps and symbols to navigate their way around a farm. Their geographical study concluded with exploring how the seasons affect life on a farm and the differences between life on a farm and life in a town. Computing and google Earth was used to develop our skills and understanding. Next, we used maps to navigate our way around the school grounds and immediate area.



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History:

History this term has cross curricular links as we also studied significant historical events including Guy Fawkes and Remembrance.

In Year 2 our theme was National Celebrations, a study of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. History was emphasised and involved us comparing the lives of the two monarchs and looking at how Britain has changed. We explored how our country is run and a government is chosen and similarities and differences between the monarchs. We promoted British values throughout. The children have learnt to understand the importance of ceremonial events in a country's history. They have written imaginary diaries for a child in the crowd at the Queen's coronation. The children learnt about one of the Queen's most important roles, a ceremonial one. They discovered how lots of people all over the world like to watch the Royal family when they carry out traditional ceremonies such as The Trooping of The Colour which takes place throughout the year. (National Curriculum history KS1: changes within living memory where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life ♣ events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [for example, events commemorated through festivals or anniversaries]). The children compared their lives to our queens and looked at how this country has changed in the years between their reigns. The children found out about important traditions associated with the monarchy such as coronations, weddings and the Trooping of the Colour. (National Curriculum History KS1: to learn about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements).

The children also learnt to order events on a timeline and order new inventions and developments in technology. After they had made their choices, they were given the dates the items were invented and put them in the correct place on the timeline. (National Curriculum History KS1 to learn about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods).

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Class Visit

The children in Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed a lesson on the monarchy, delivered by Mrs Shilston, where they gained a wonderful insight into the current royal family and lines of succession. The children were actively involved and able to share their learning on famous monarchs. Mrs Shilston also shared with the class an exciting story based at Buckingham Palace. Finally, the children and adults in the class learned so much about Mrs Shilston's Lieutenancy role in Cornwall and feel very honoured to have learnt more about the monarchy's role in our home county. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Shilston for giving up her time to come into school and give such an interesting and informative presentation.



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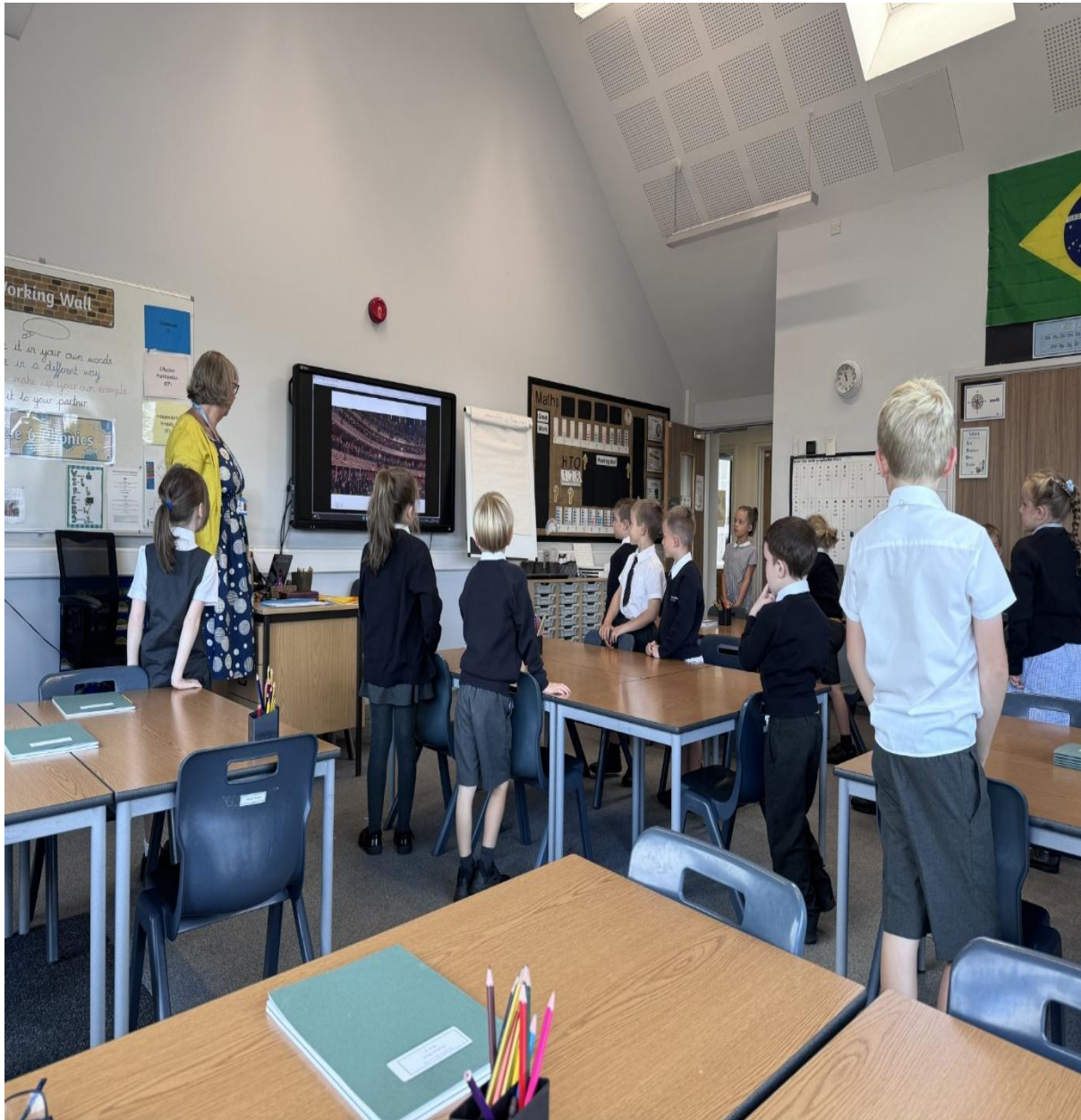




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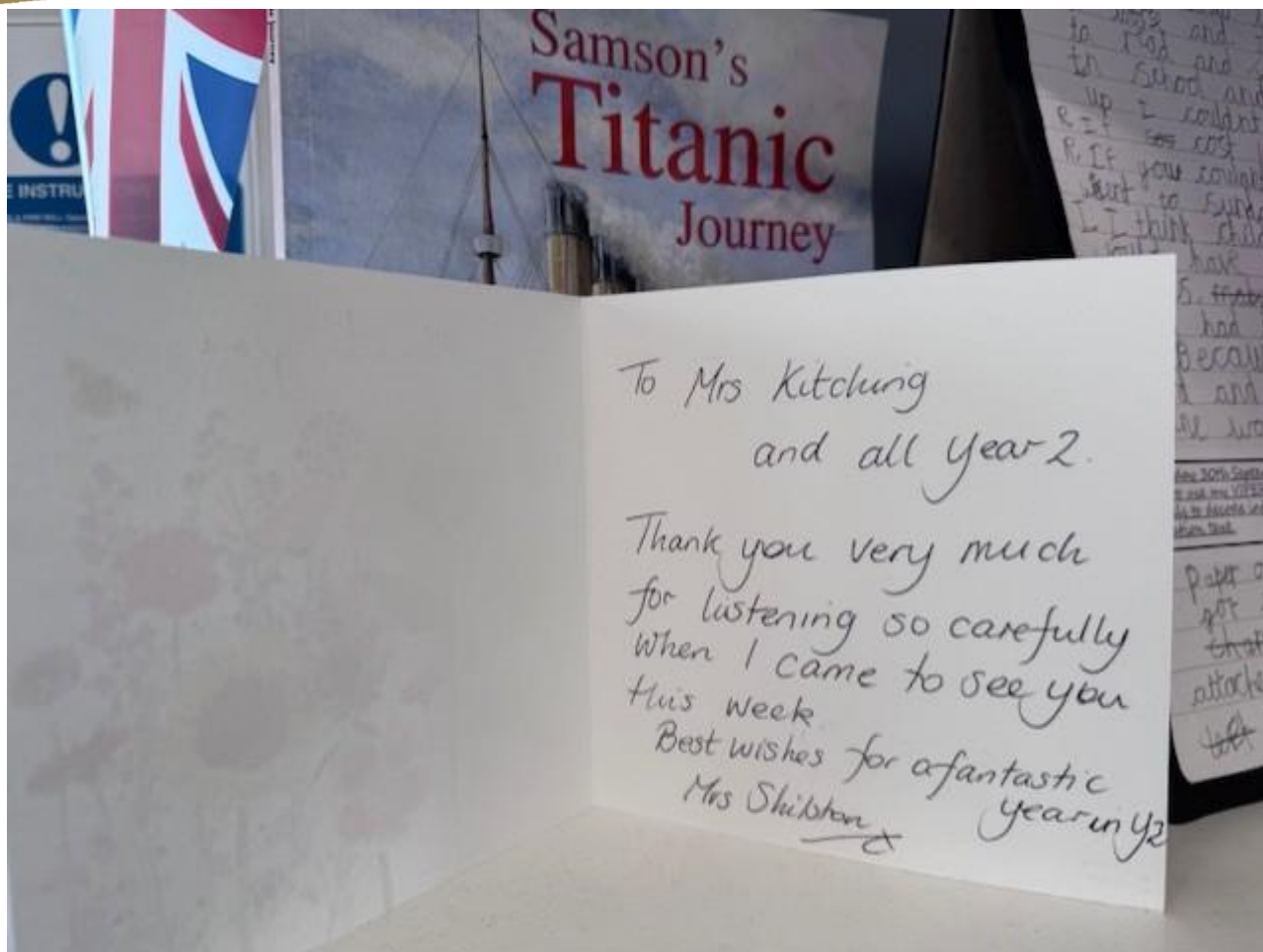
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RE:

In RE we have been busy developing our understanding of where we belong. Our aims have been to engage pupils so that they know about and understand how we show respect, love and care for one another. Focussing on what makes us feel special about being welcomed into a group of people. During Autumn 2 the children studied Christmas and why it is an important celebration to Christians. It was lovely to welcome families in to join our RE lesson about Christmas around the World. The children's understanding of the Christmas story was supported by our KS1 Nativity.

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Christingle Memories 2024

Year 2 had a wonderful evening at Phillack Church exploring Christmas traditions. The children made Christingles and took part in the magical Christmas service.



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Academy

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Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



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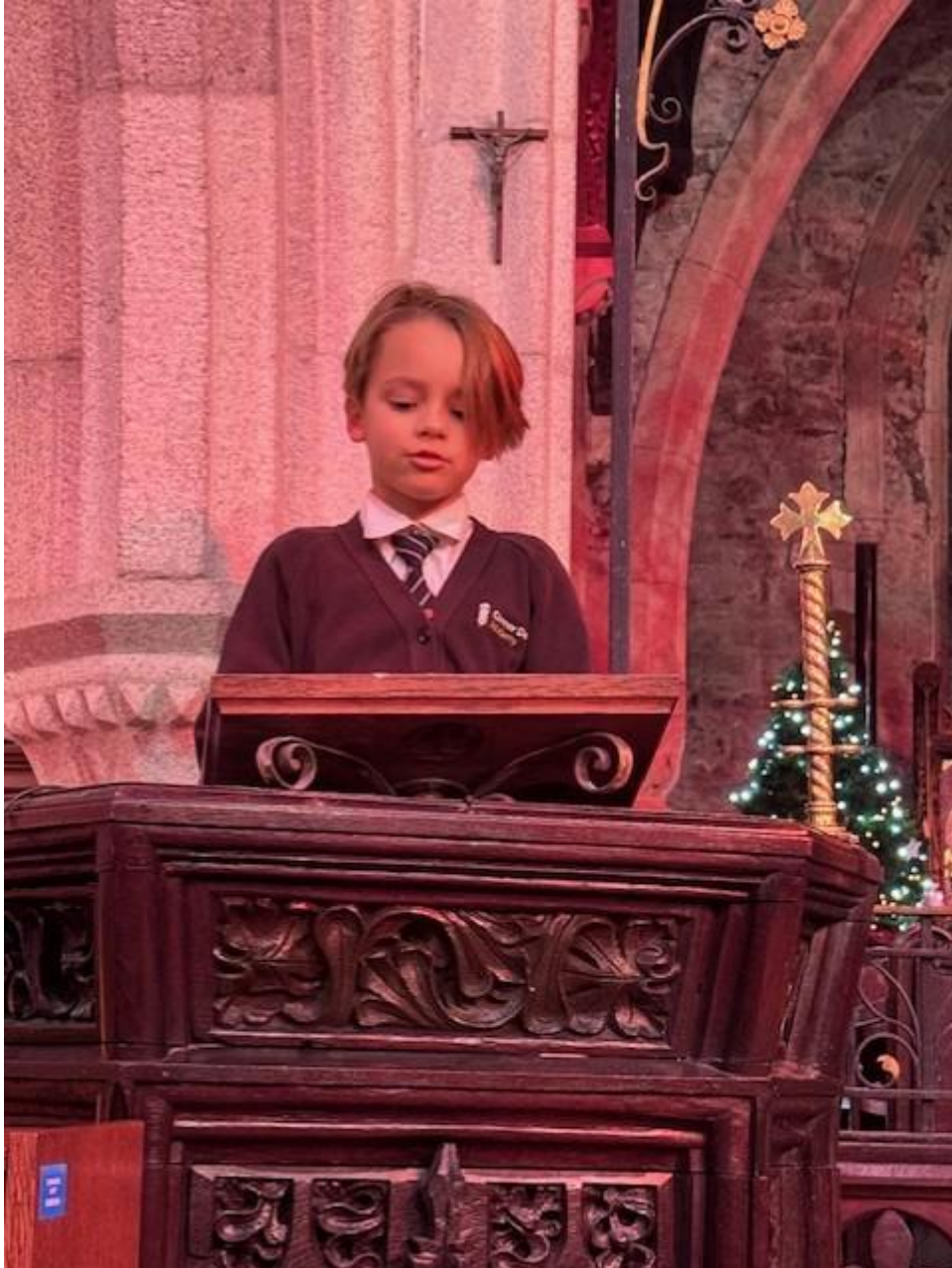




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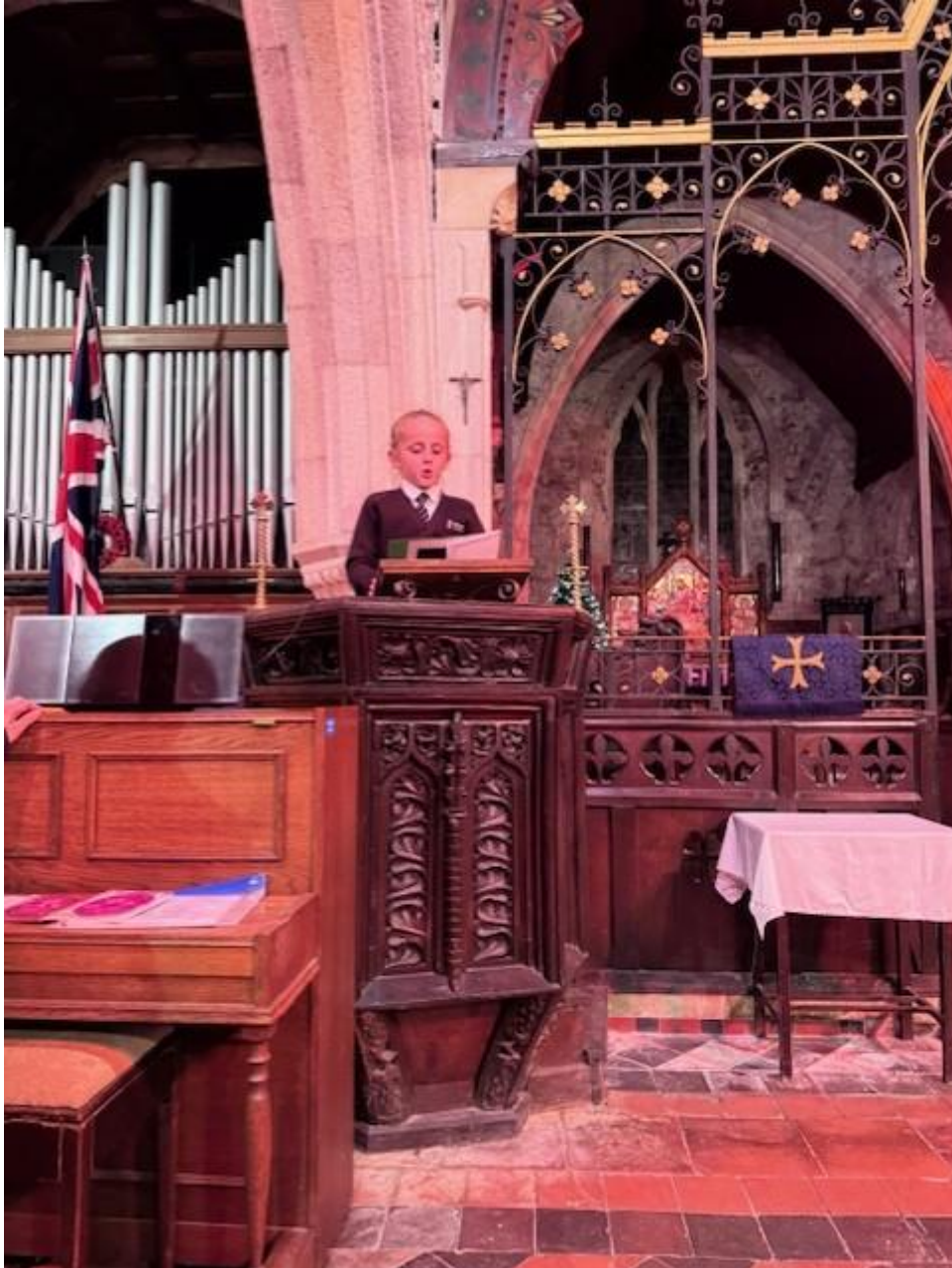




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Science:

In Year 2 the children have explored Science through our themes, Living in Habitats and Growth and Survival. The term began with the children exploring how living things need to live in suitable habitats. The children explored plants and animals that live in a seaside habitat. Next the children learnt about an unfamiliar habitat, micro habitats, and food chains. They thought carefully and explored choices and joined in discussions to justify their choices. The children then studied Growth and Survival, identified the offspring of a variety of animals, the children explored how humans grow as they get older, how to have a balanced and health diet and why exercise is important to keep our bodies healthy.



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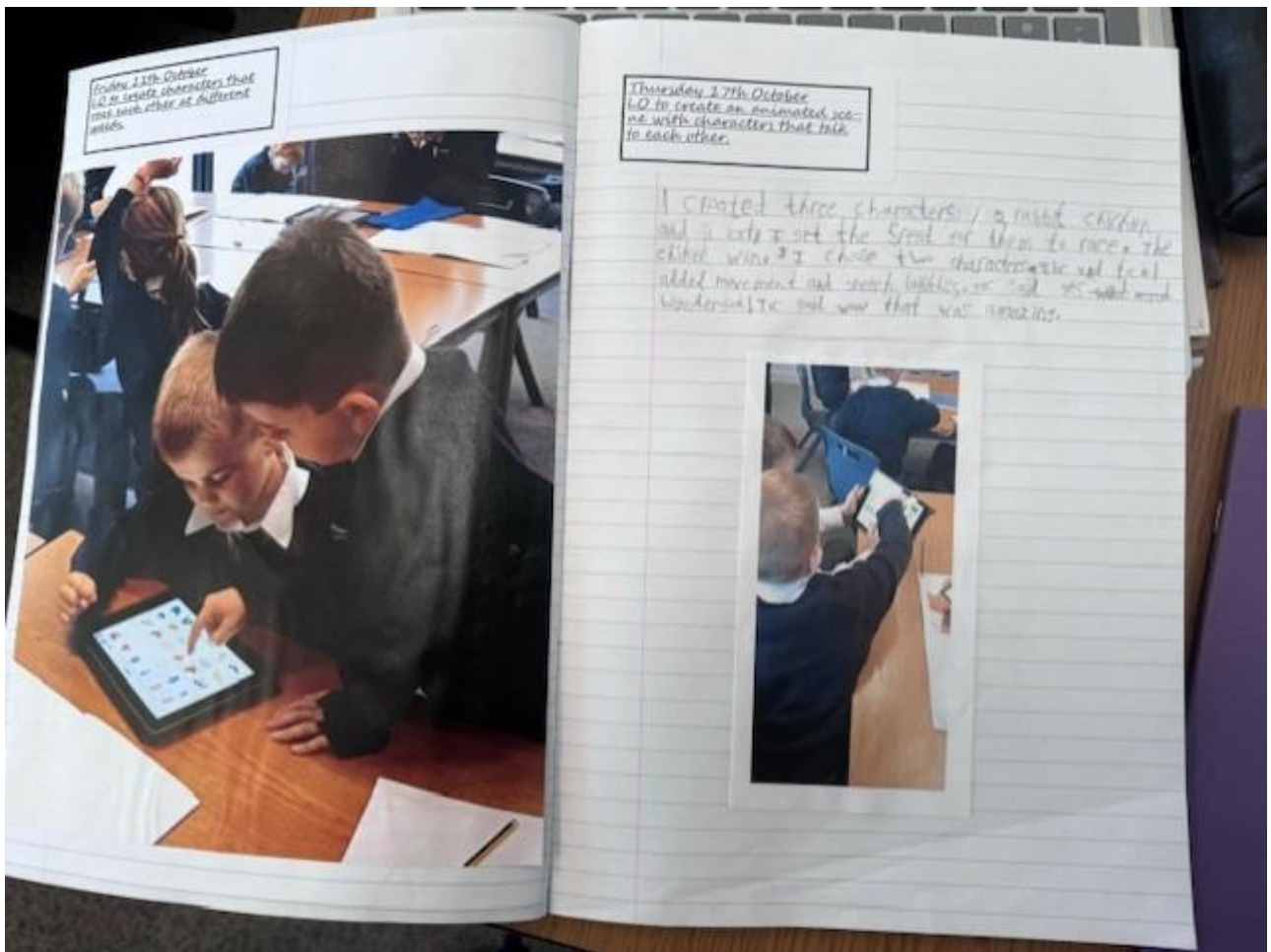
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Computing:

In computing, the children have had an exciting time programming concepts and controlling hardware. The children used Scratch Jr to create characters that race against each other at different speeds, created an animated scene with characters that talk to each other with speech bubbles and a debug code.



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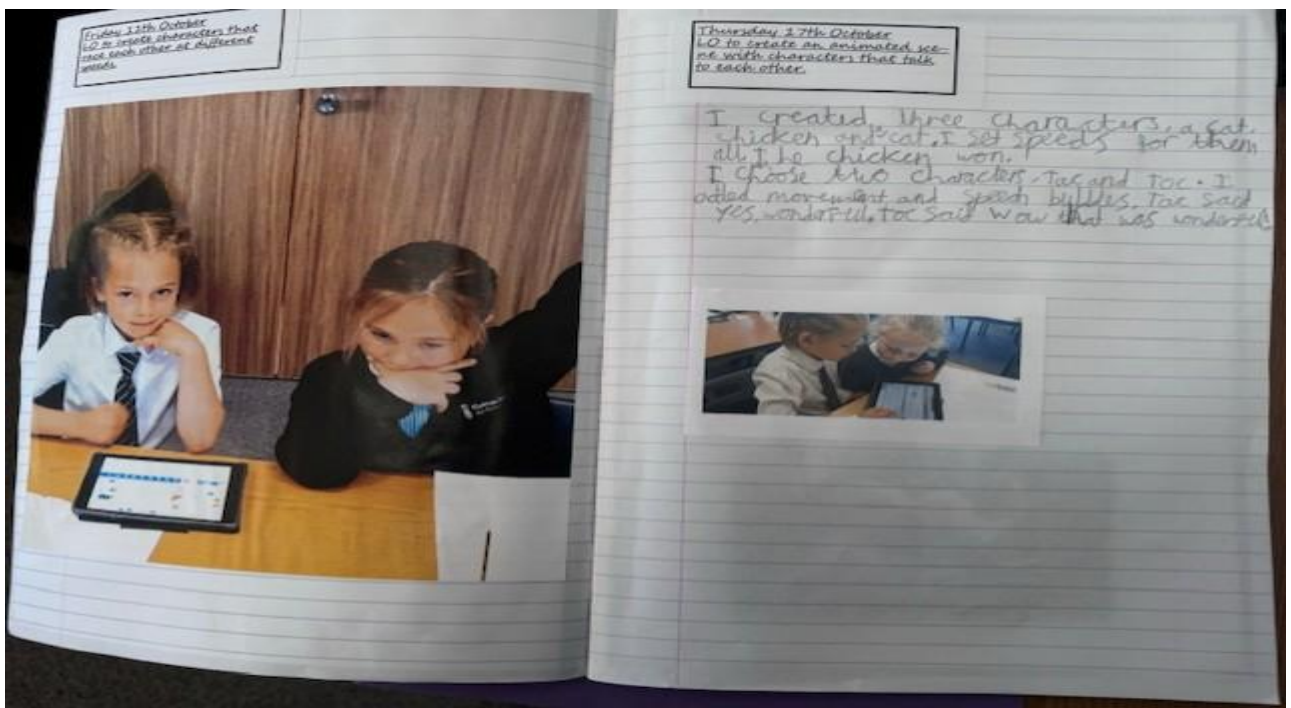
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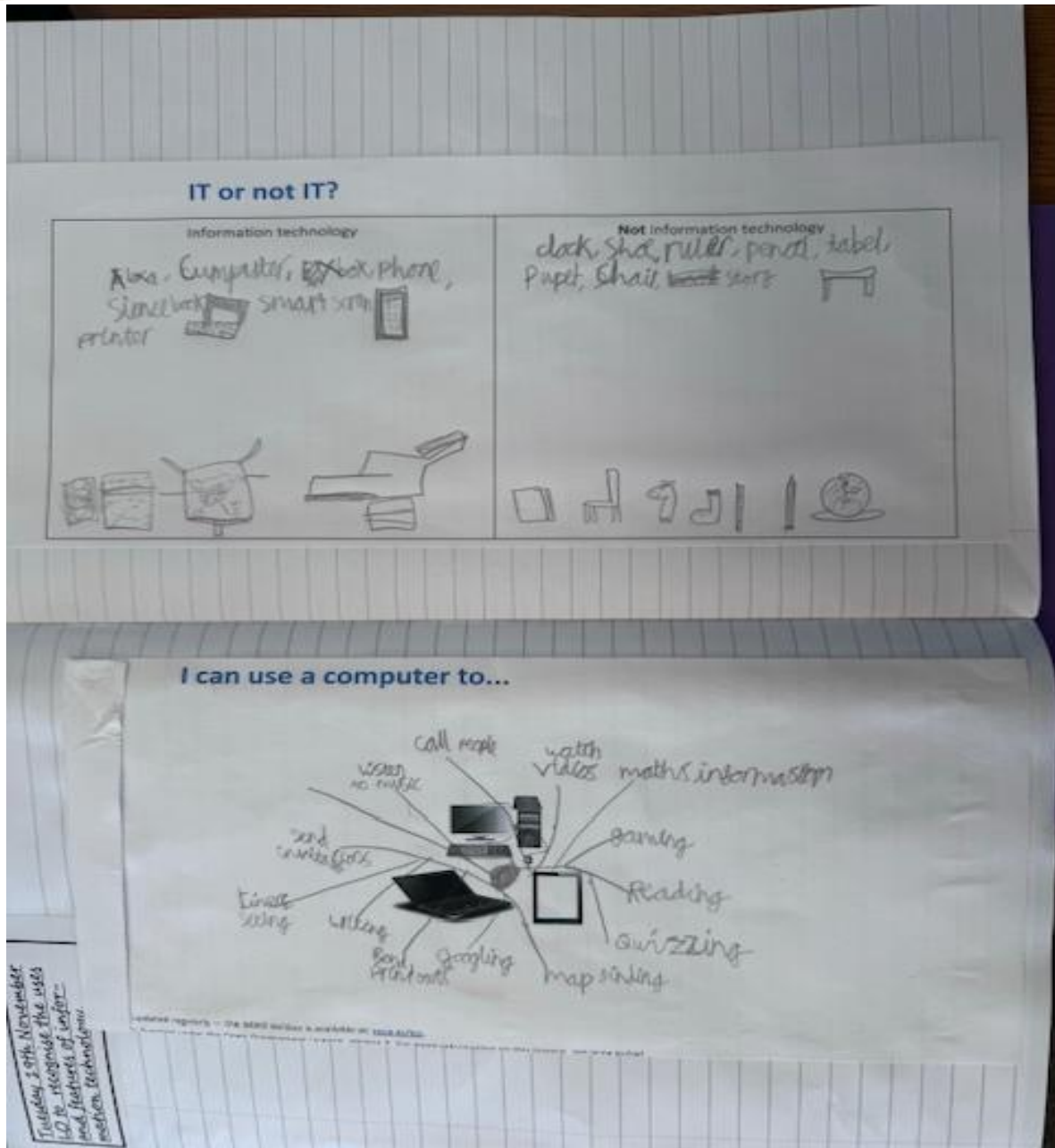
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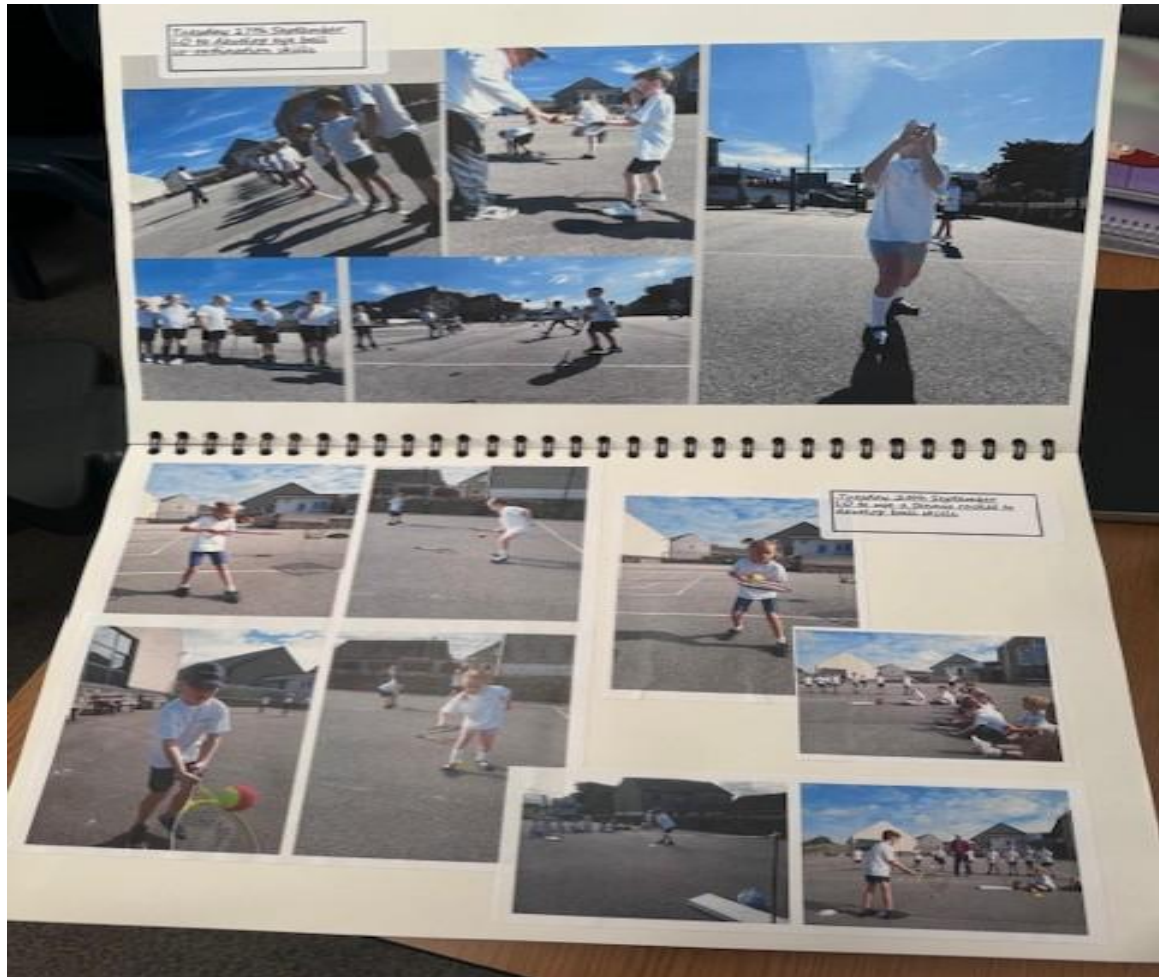
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PE:

In PE we have been focussing on dodging skills and pathways this term. We have been learning to travel and stop in a variety of ways showing movements and shapes that are stretched and curled. We have shown we can jump safely with control using apparatus. Next, we explored balances and sequences combining all elements. Finally, we evaluated our skills and practised performances.



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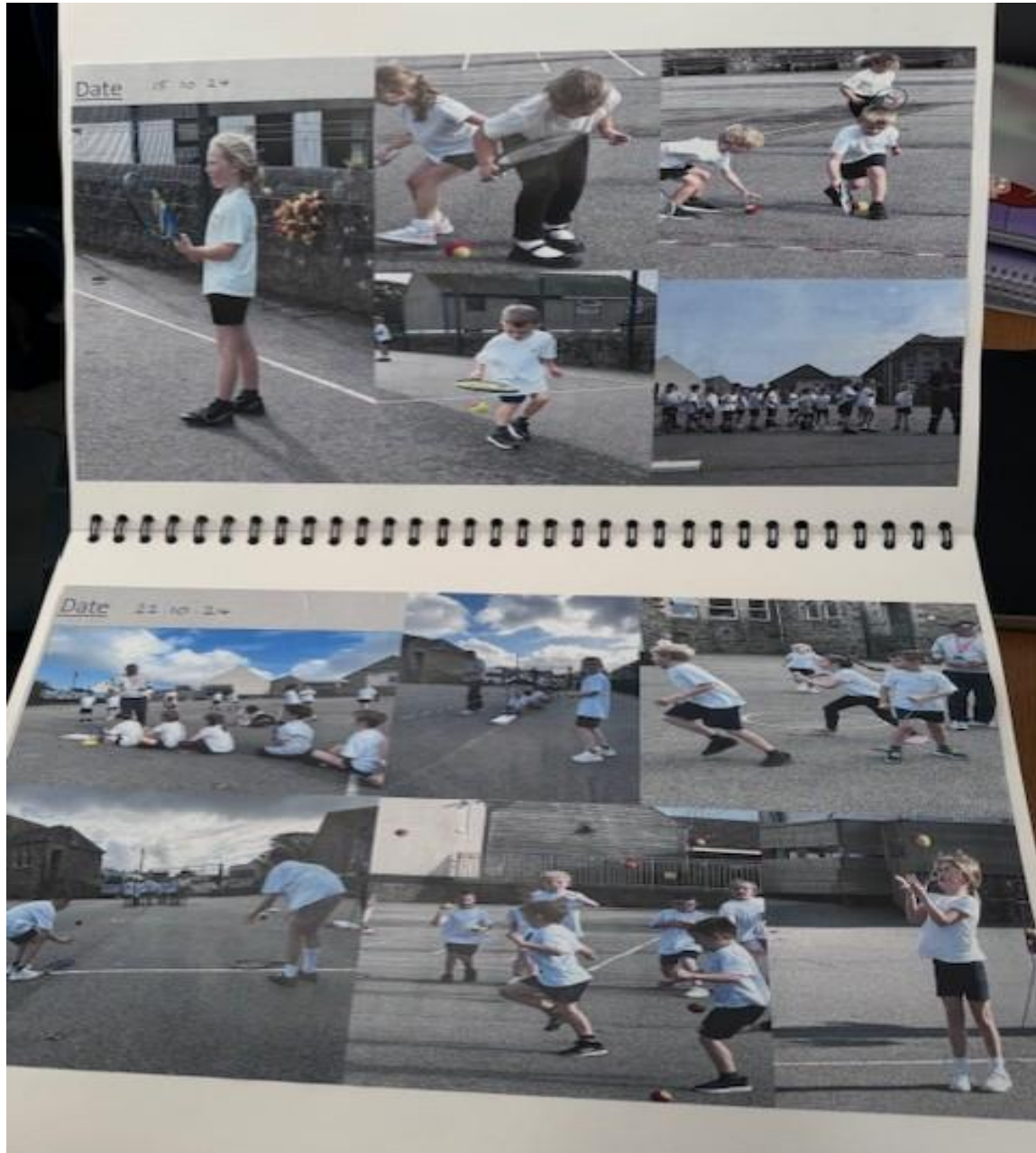




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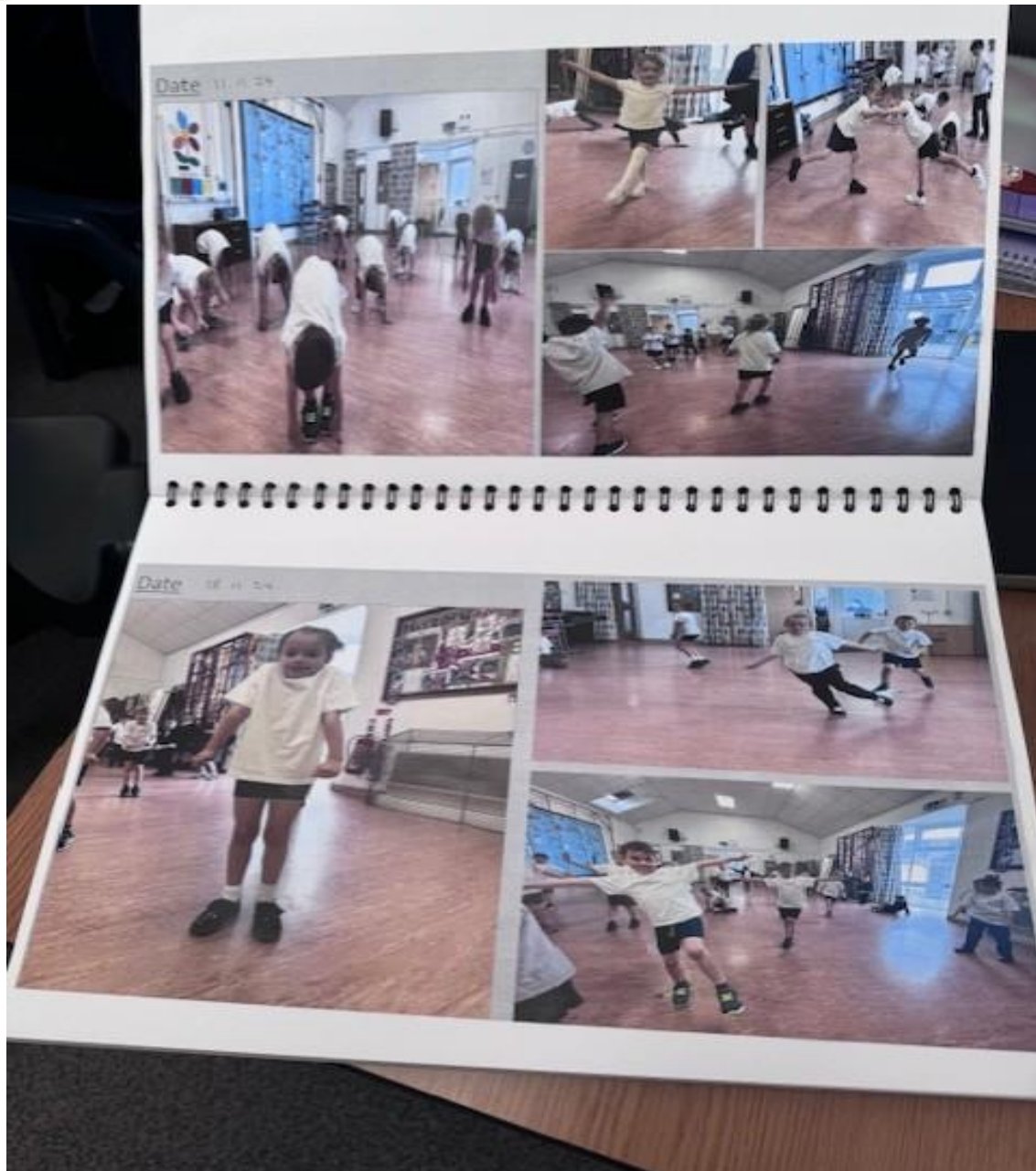




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Art:

In Year 2 the children's art learning journey was launched through their study of the famous modern artist Yayoi Kusama. First the children explored and discussed her work. They then experimented with different techniques for creating polka dots. Next the children recreated a piece of artwork using collage. Next steps involved creating a 3D form from clay using the rolling technique based on Yayoi Kusama's sculptures. Art concluded with an opportunity to use paint to recreate a painting in the style of Kusama's pumpkins.



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DT:

Alongside art the children have completed a variety of DT activities through their theme Puppets. The children learnt about moving parts, single pivot levers and slider mechanisms. They made moving Christmas cards and tree decorations. For our school fundraising the children designed and made printed cards and produced impressive products to sell to family and friends.



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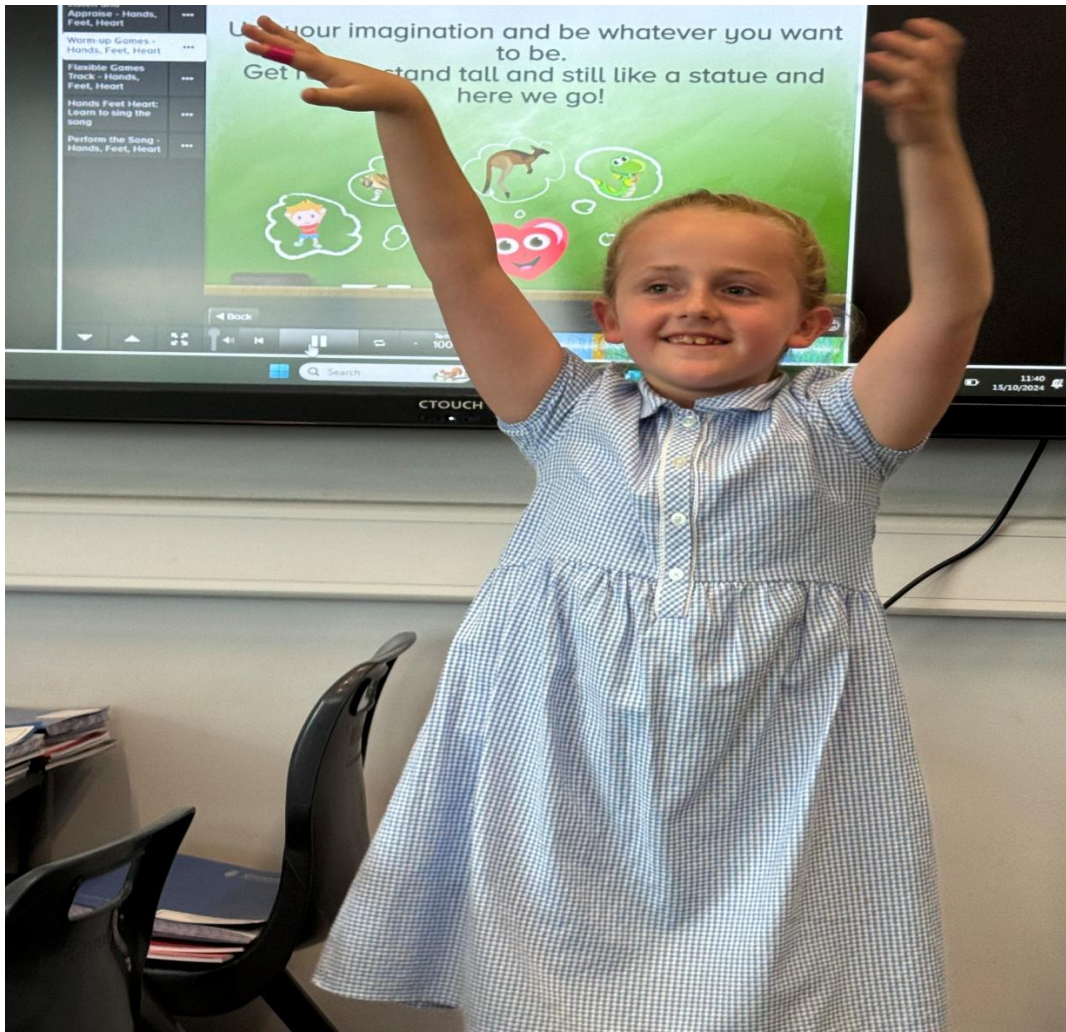
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Music:

In music the children really enjoyed learning to understand elements of pitch, tempo and dynamics. We listened carefully to music to identify these elements and say how different music makes us feel. The children matched pictures to music and explained their choices to others. Next, we performed, using percussion instruments in front of the class exploring all these elements. Through our writing linked to our trip we considered how music can be used to tell a story.



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Finally, everyone in Year 2 wishes you all a Merry Christmas. I hope that you enjoy extra-special family times, now your children are at home with you, over the festive period. We look forward to seeing you all back in 2025!



Very best wishes,
Mrs C Kitching.

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