



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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Connor Downs Academy, Mutton Hill, Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5DH

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Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

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Friendship and Character Development.

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English



Year 2 diary writing display linking English and history.

Our Year 2 English journey began with a focus on speaking and listening. The children learnt to recite a poem clearly and with expression to hold the attention of their peers. Next, the children identified the characteristic features of a riddle poem and wrote their own animal riddles. The children made a class book of riddles to share with their peers.

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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.

Reading and Sharing:



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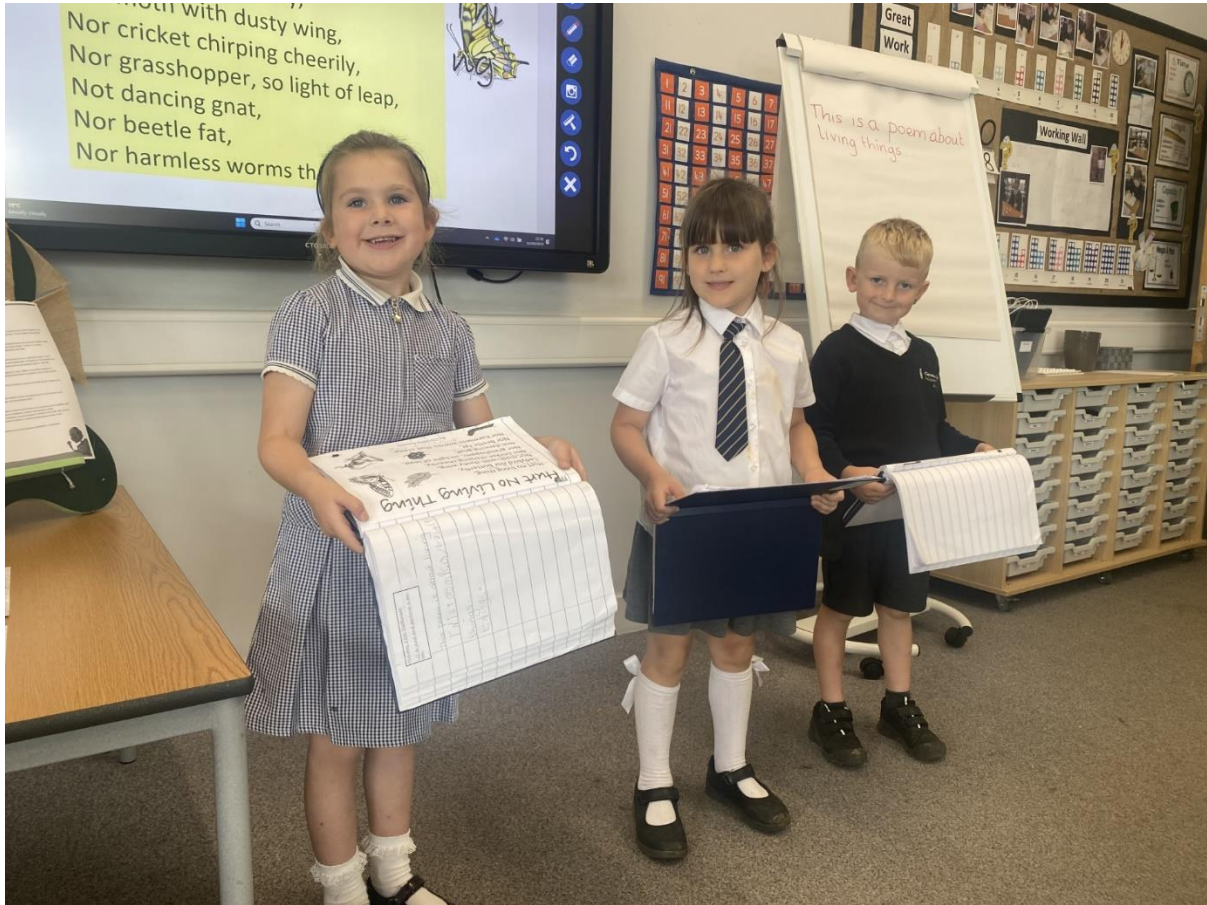




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The children's second theme, involved organising their writing into chunks to create an adventure story about toys which come alive at midnight, based on our school trip to Lanhydrock House and the toys we saw there in the nursery. The children found so much inspiration from our trip and were able to write descriptively about the setting and the characters they discovered at Lanhydrock.

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The children evaluated modelled text, planned their writing, and assessed their own and others' writing.

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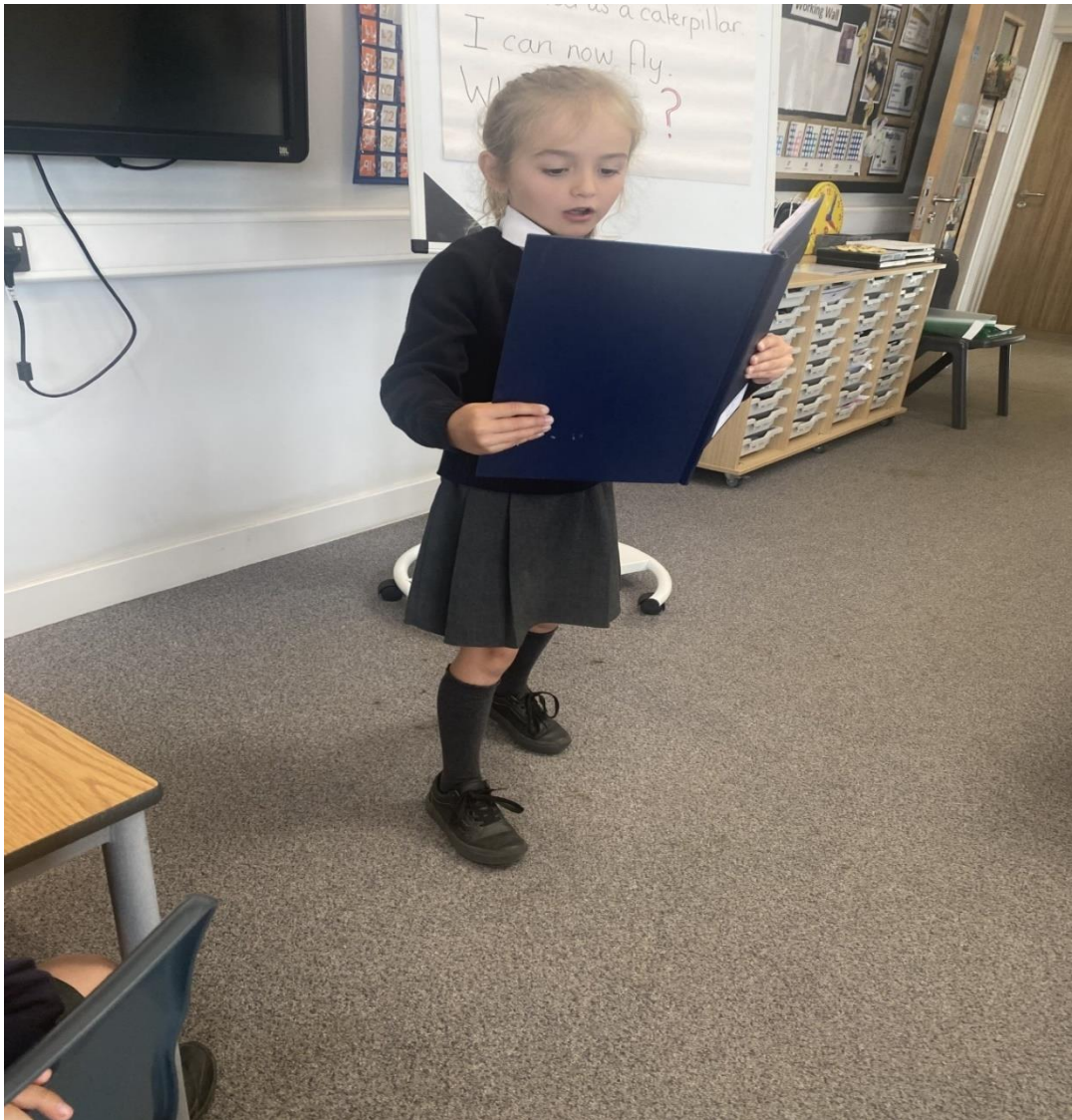
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The children's work was cross curricular and involve writing recounts, sequencing and creating glossaries for their science booklets. The children also took part in lots of drama and hot seating to bring their history alive and wrote diaries and eye witness accounts based on The Great Fire of London.

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



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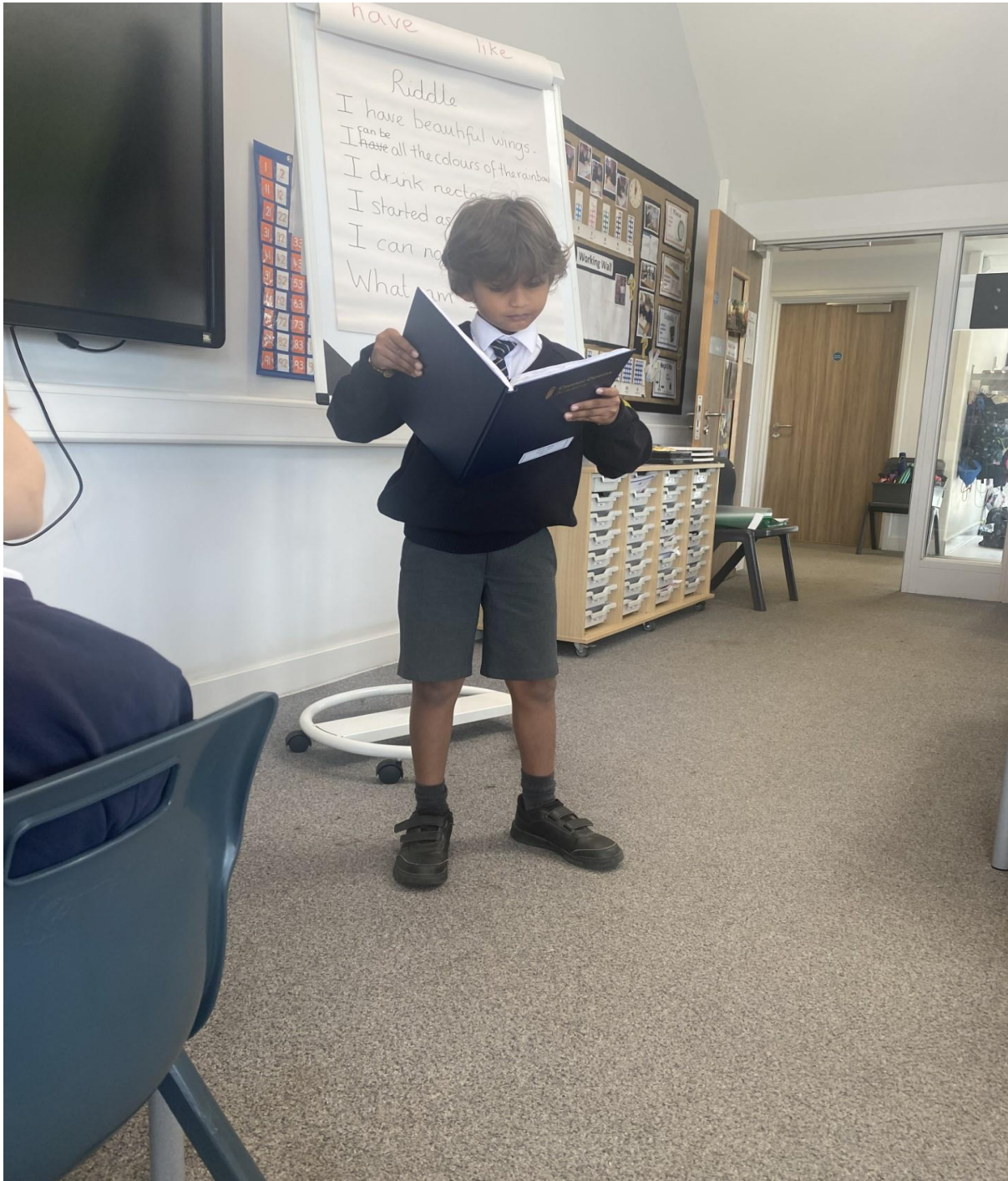
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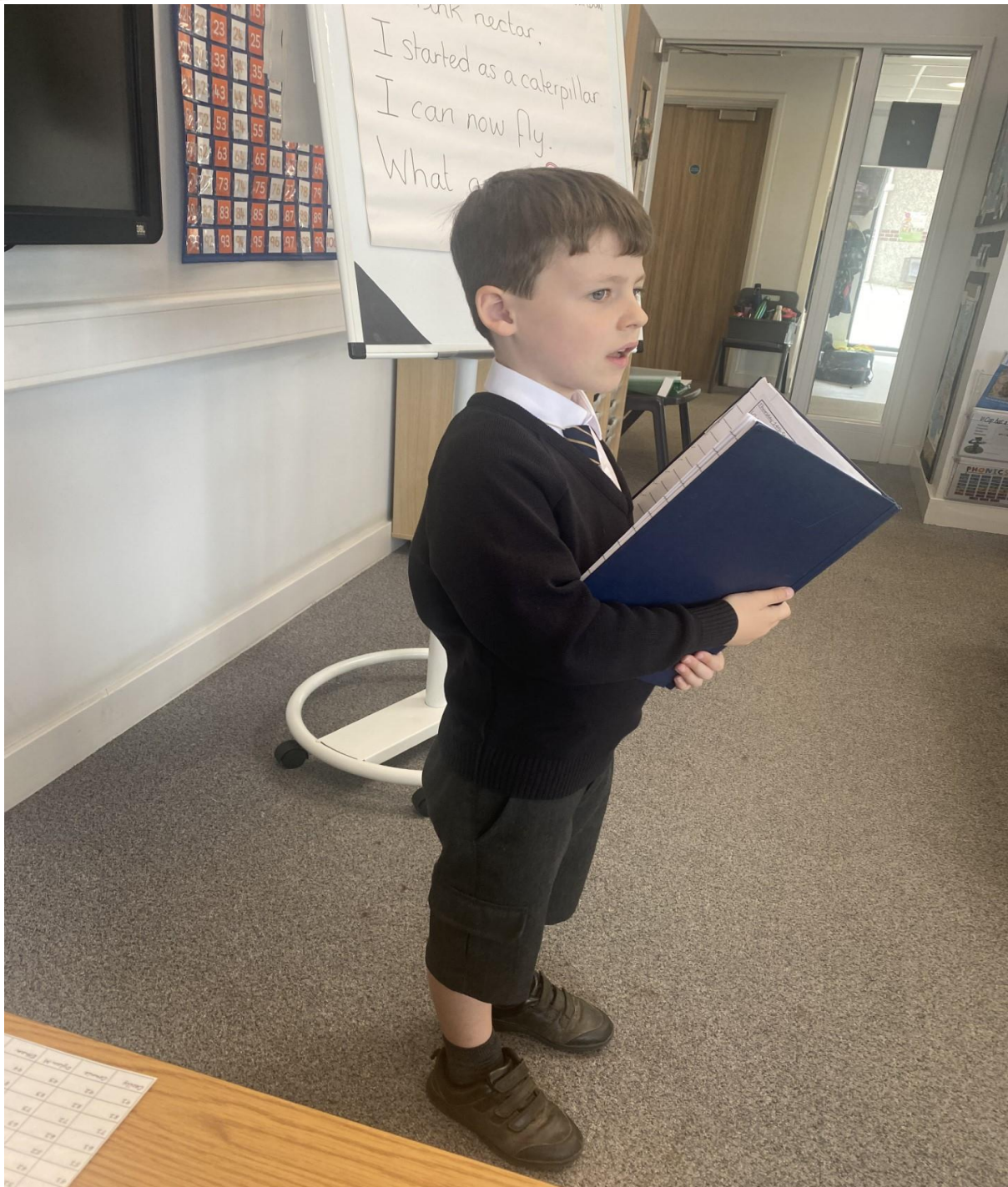




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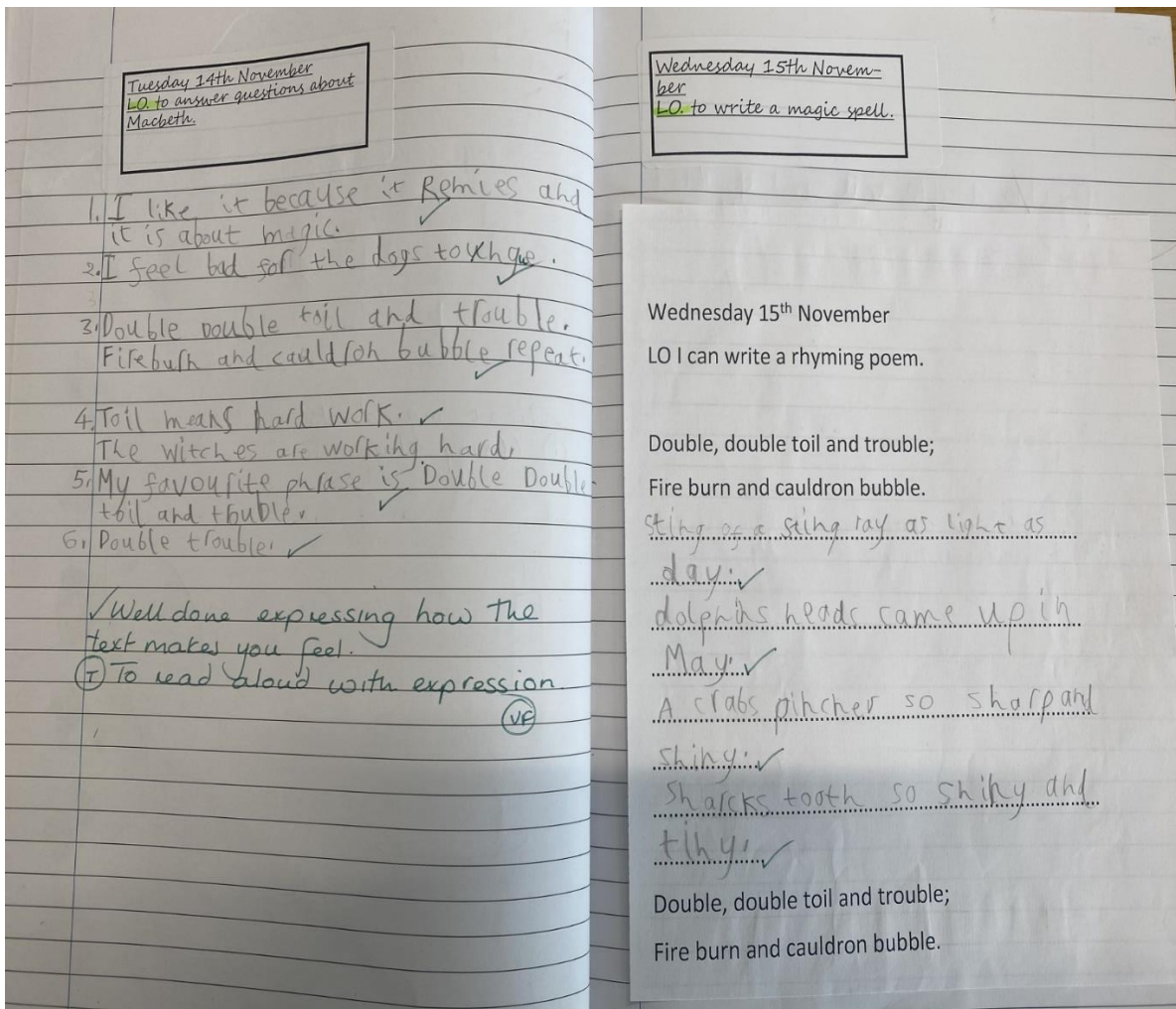
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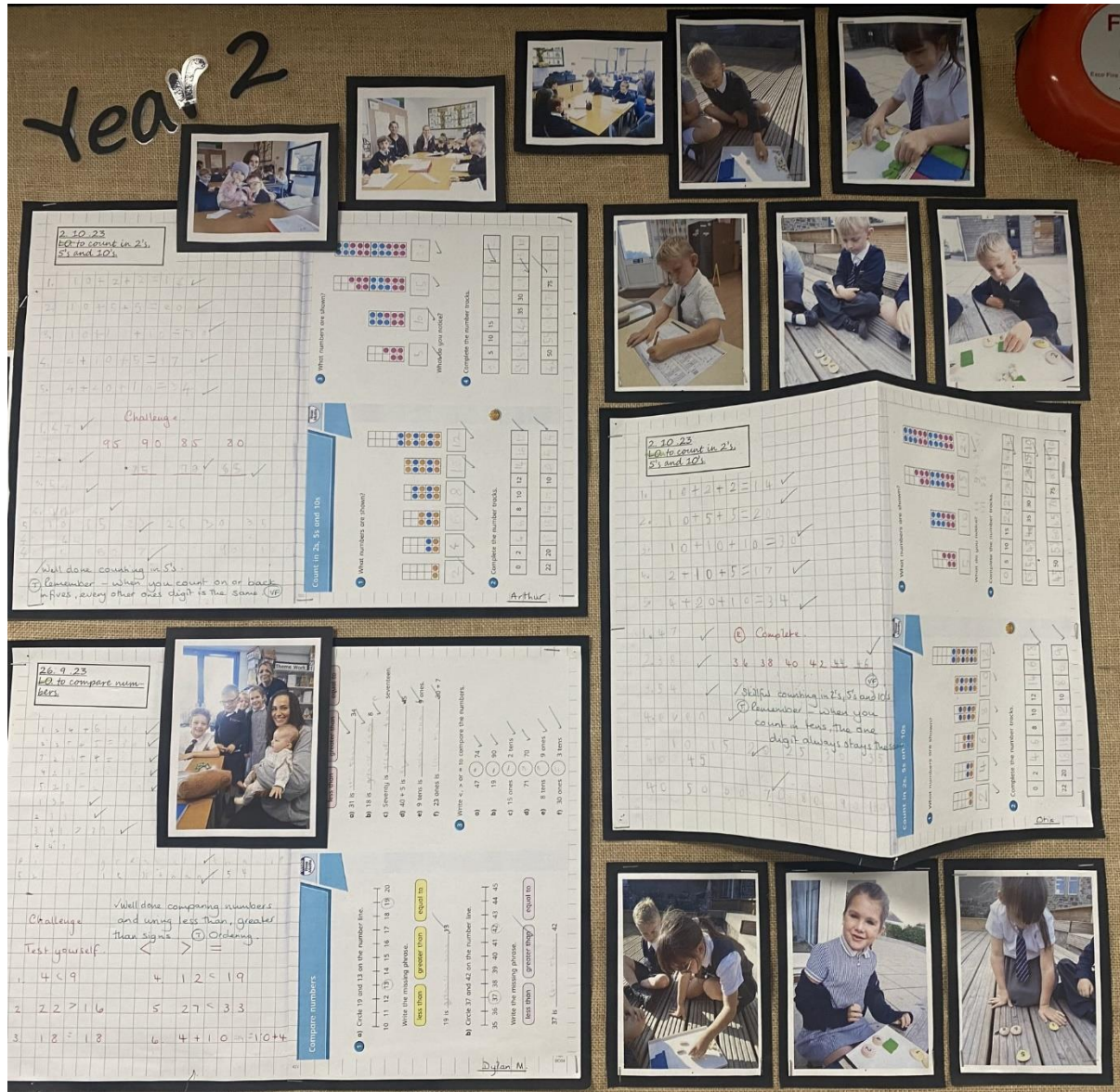


Next the children expressed how text makes them feel and used rhyme and alliteration to create their own magic spell poems.



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.

Maths:



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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. The children played Victorian number games to develop their addition skills using concrete objects alongside mental calculations, these were the games that they saw in the nursery at Lanhydrock House.



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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.

Family time, sharing our maths:



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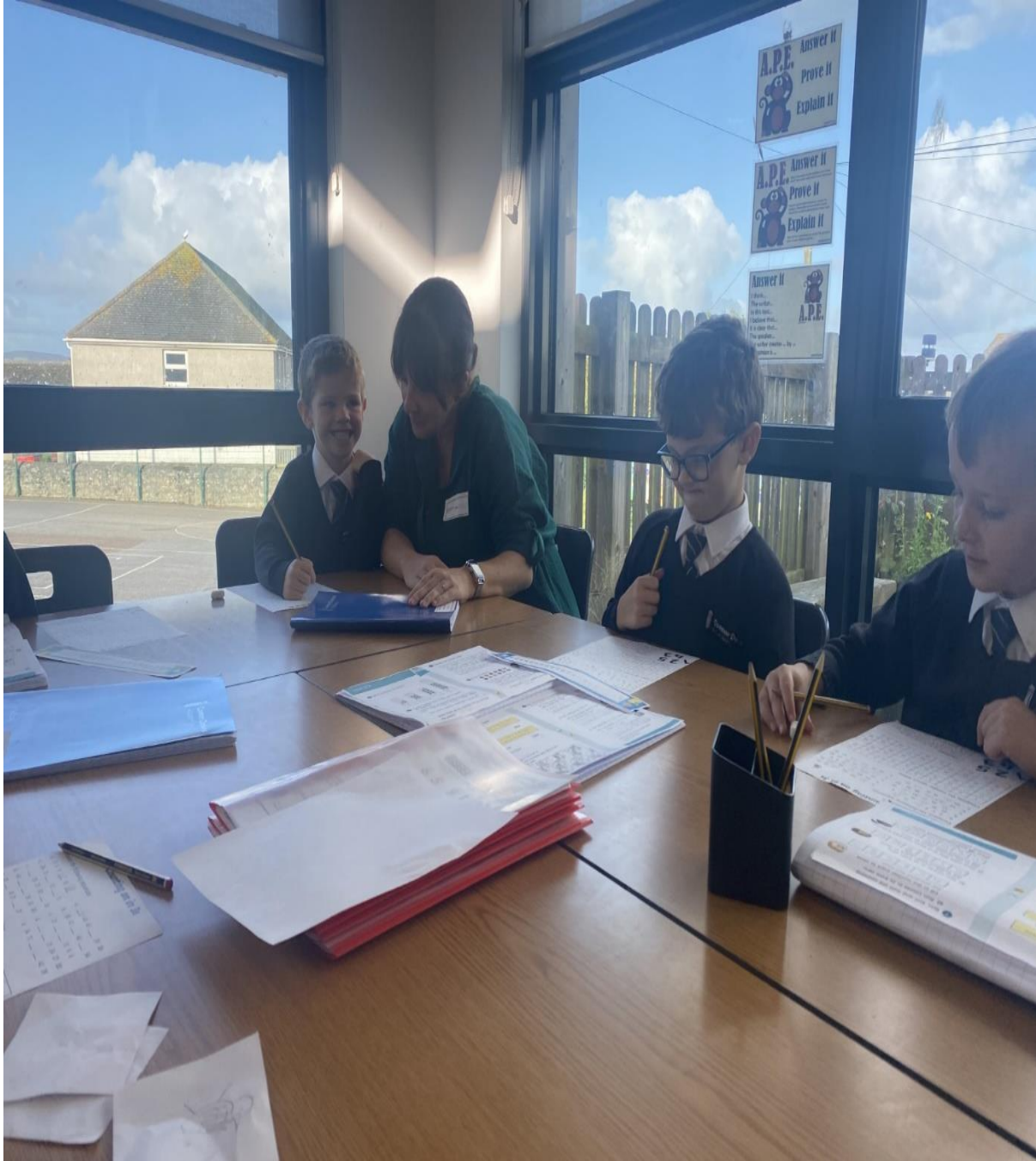
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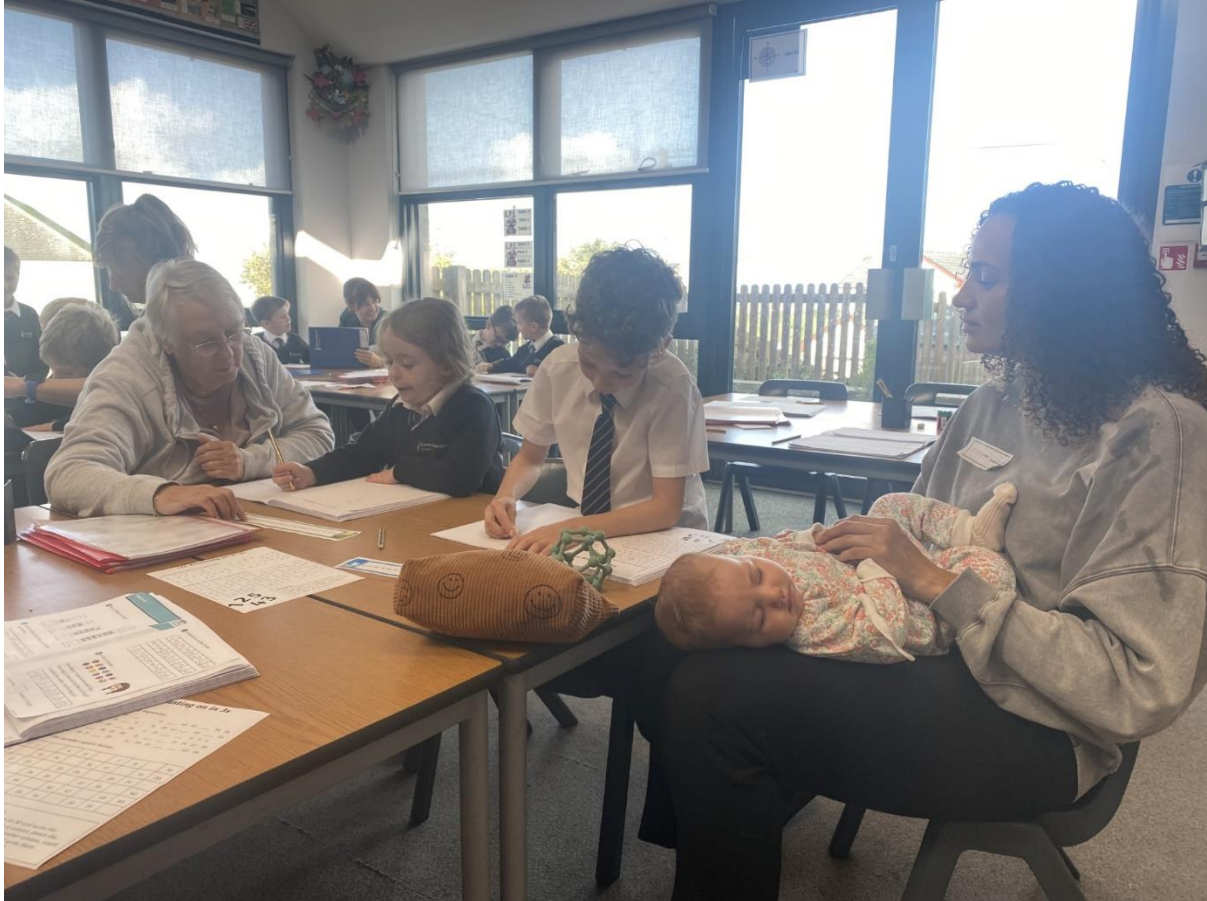
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Geography:

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

The children's learnt about The Great Fire of London exploring their intent Question: How did London change after The Great Fire? Pupils developed their historical enquiry by using photographs and illustrations to compare London today with London in 1666 and maps to explain some of the ways London has changed over time. They discovered that we can find out about the Great Fire of London from accounts written at the time, such as Samuel Pepys' diary. The children read extracts from Samuel Pepys diary and explained what they tell us about the fire. The children also distinguish between objects, writing and pictures as historical sources.

Alongside this the children's historical understanding learning journey began by explaining some of the ways in which London was different in 1666 to today. Discovering the key events of the Great Fire of London and researching some of the factors that made the Great Fire last so long and be so difficult to put out.

Chronological Understanding was developed as the children learnt that the Great Fire of London took place in the Stuart period. The children placed the Great Fire of London on a timeline and explored this further through activities linked to our whole school timeline.

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RE:

In RE we have been busy developing our understanding of Christianity and Judaism. Our aims have been to engage pupils so that they know about and understand Christianity and Judaism as living faiths, to engage and develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical text and develop pupils' ability to connect. We have focused on the Gospel and explored Bible stories which give good news. We have written accounts of what this means, described how Christians show their beliefs, talked through, thought and asked questions to make links to our lives and experiences. The children really enjoyed learning about life as a Jew and broadening their understanding of this faith.

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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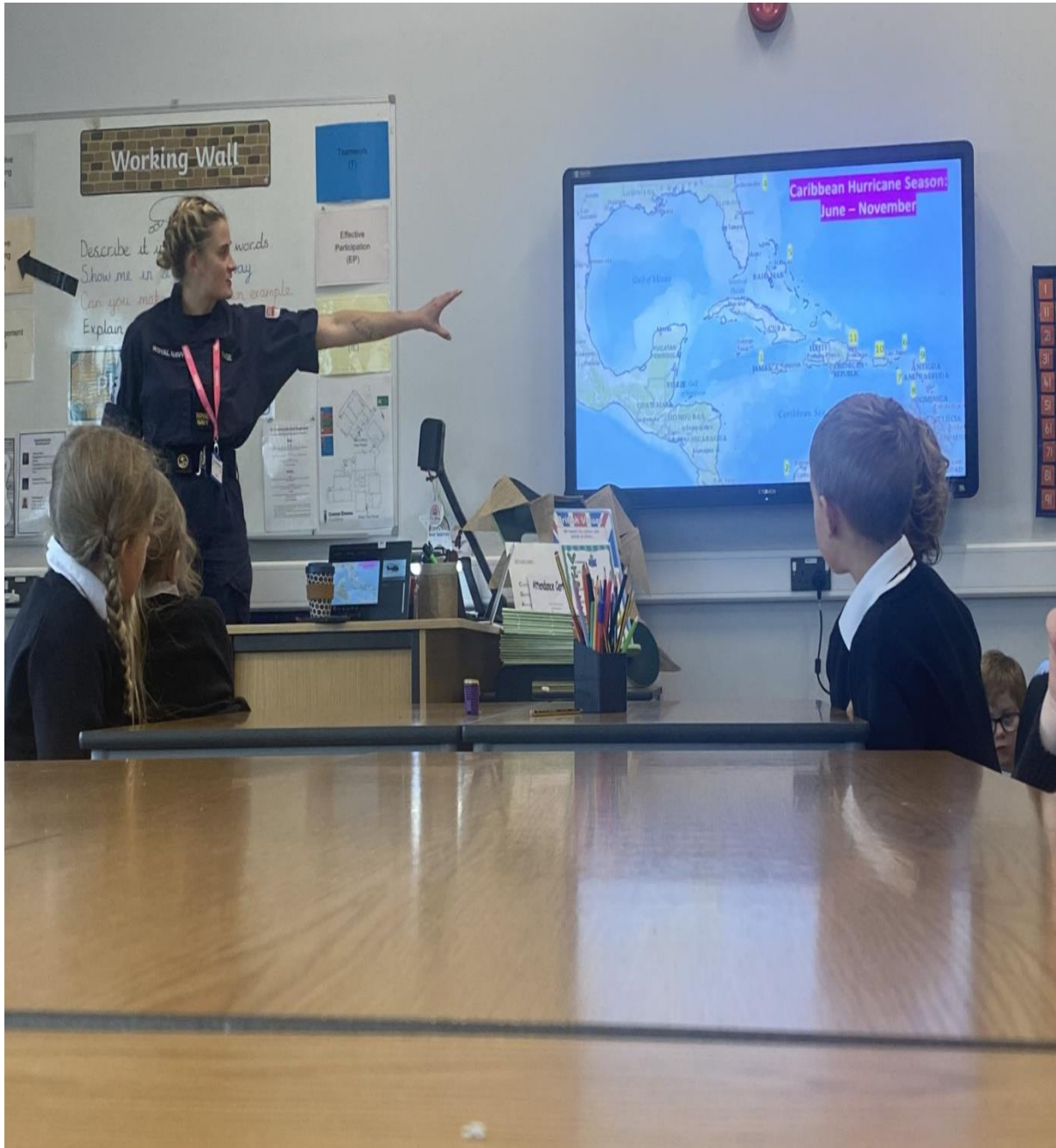




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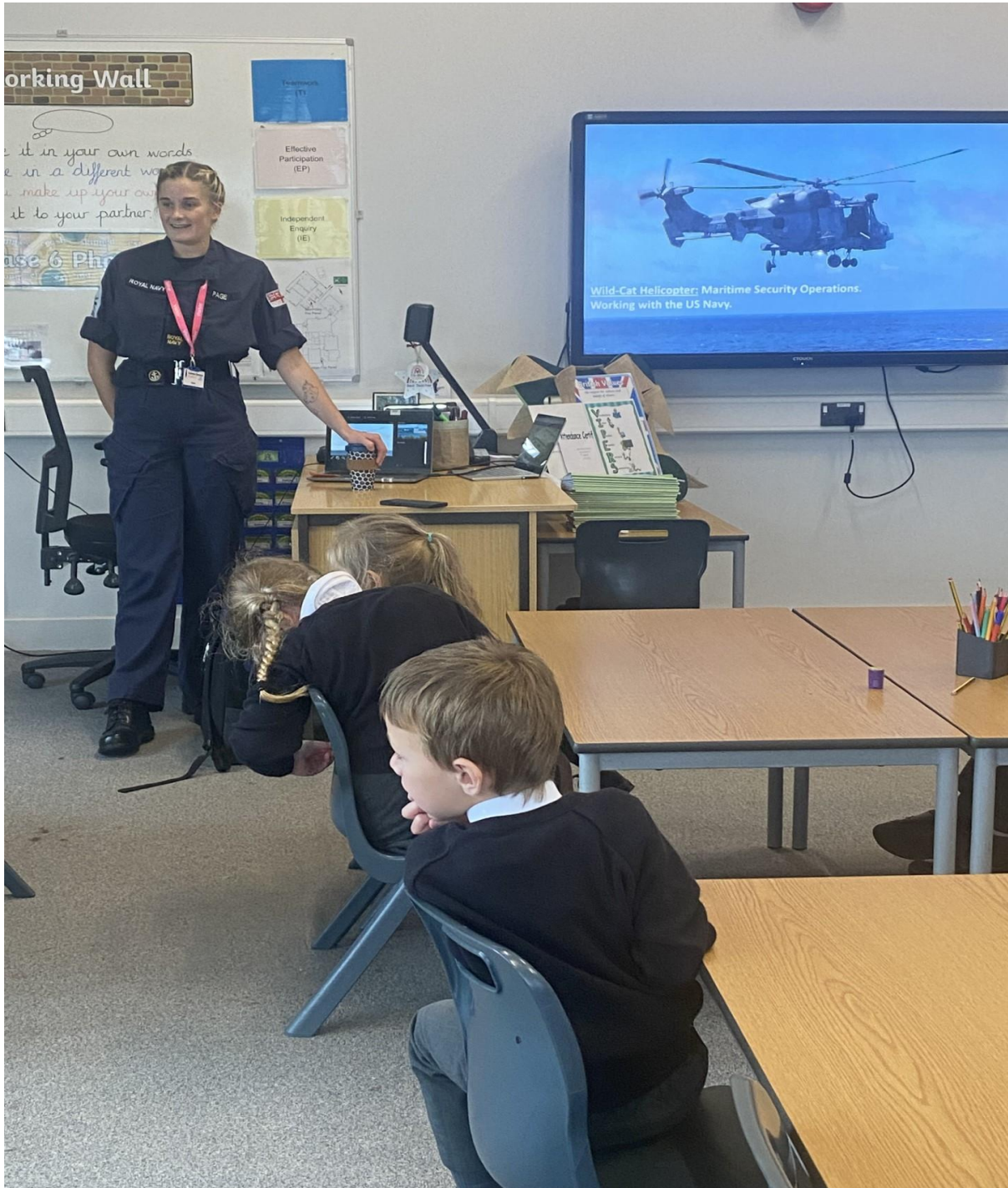




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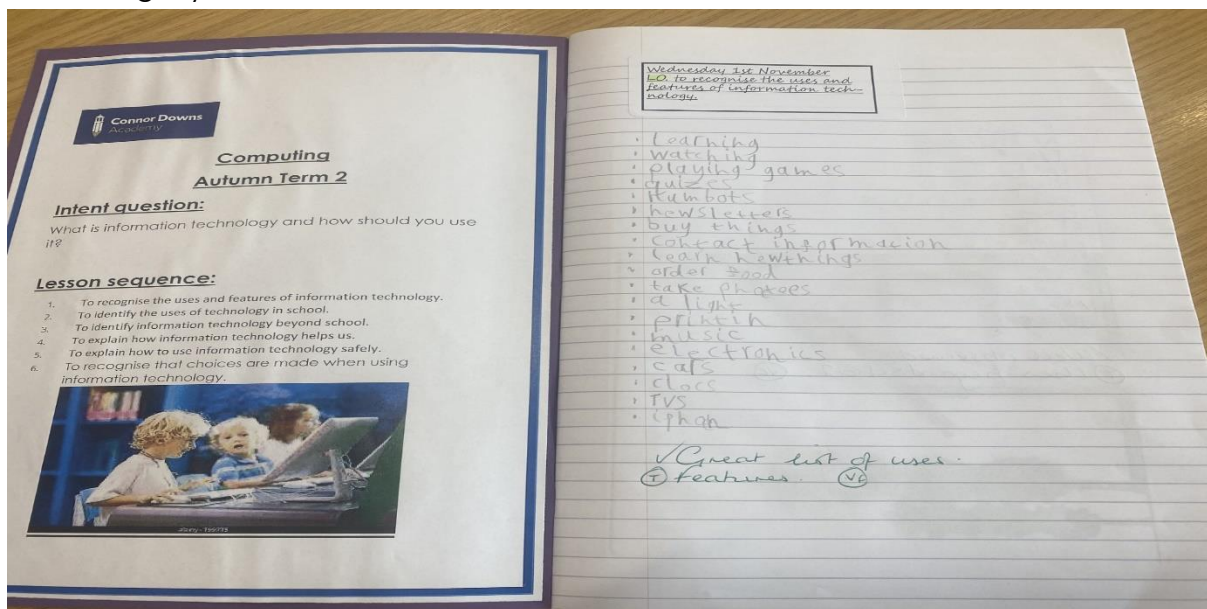
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Computing:

In computing, the children have been exploring IT networks and systems whilst using technology purposely to create and store content. The children have written Bonfire Night acrostic poems and added images. They have presented their work to their friends and peer assessed each other's work (National Curriculum KS1 to use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content). Alongside this we have been focusing on online safety, communication and collaboration. The children have written and sent a thank you letter to Lanhydrock House for the support and resources they sent us so that we could fully access our study of a famous local house. We focussed on sending suitable and purposeful emails and developing awareness of appropriate language (National Curriculum Computing KS1 to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies).



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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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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.

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.

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A Company Limited by Guarantee. An Exempt Charity
Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD



**Connor Downs
Academy**

Connor Downs Academy

Head of School: Mrs J Eddy



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For our school fundraising the children designed and made printed cards and produced impressive products to sell to family and friends.

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.

We listened to The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky and how the music matches various toys. The children then created a graphic score of a journey from the front door to the nursery at Lanhydrock House (the venue for our school trip).



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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 2024!

Very best wishes,

Mrs C Kitching.

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