

In Spring 1 our learning curriculum in Year 3 and 4 has focused on the big question:

## How can we use electricity and sound?

How does Lucy hear sounds?

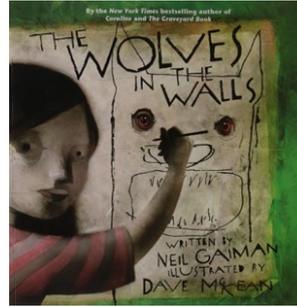
How can we change sounds?

How can Lucy measure sound of the wolves?

How could Lucy light up the house?

How could Lucy use electricity to scare the wolves?

What makes a good switch?



We started our topic exploring how sound is made and had a very noisy time trying out different wind, percussion and string instruments. Then we found out how sound reaches our ears and we learnt the meaning of some new words such as 'cochlear', 'malleus' and 'auditory nerve'.

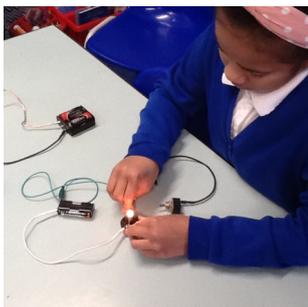


Our first investigation was to find out how sound travels through solids, liquids and gases. We explored musical instruments further and discovered how to make high and low pitched sounds. We even made our own set of pipes. We learnt that the volume of sound is measured



in decibels and we used a sound meter to discover that the noisiest part of our school was the Nursery and Reception classes—just as we had predicted! Our final experiment took us onto the school field to record how far we needed to be away from a sound source in order to hear the sound. We discovered that Mrs Boucke could clap very loudly!

We began our work on electricity by discussing appliances that use electricity and whether they ran on mains or battery. We designed our own useful appliance and had lots of creative ideas, from heated chairs, to automated toilet cleaners and extending arms! We all enjoyed investigating how electrical circuits work and we were able to make bulbs light, buzzers buzz and motors turn.



We were able to predict whether a bulb would light up by recognising when a circuit was complete or incomplete. Next, we learnt about conductors and insulators. We made predictions about whether different materials would conduct electricity and tested our predictions in a simple circuit. We discovered that silver, copper, steel and brass all conducted electricity, and that they are all types of metal. We found out that wood, plastic, fabric, rubber (and fingers and chocolates!) were insulators, and we realised why plugs and switches were usually

made from plastic. Finally we were able to add switches to our circuits so that we could switch off the lights, turn off the buzzers, and say a sad farewell to our exciting topic on electricity.

In English we read 'The Wolves in the Walls,' which took us into the realm of dreams. We wrote our own dream stories involving animals that came into our house—Snakes in the Ceiling, Dogs in the Floorboards, Bears in the Cupboards... any many more! We focused on using our senses and developing a rich descriptive vocabulary.

