



Scientist-in-Residence



Sound Workshops

Year 4

June 2022



This term Year 4 have been working with Mercedes, our new Scientist-in-Residence, exploring the world of sound and how vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear.

The students were shown footage of the percussionist Evelyn Glennie who cannot hear but works through vibrations to make music. They saw vibrations using rice on top of drums and experimented with how the rice moved when they hit the drums in different places. Next, they made telephone cups to feel the vibrations move as sound travels.



They also used Slinkys to demonstrate sound vibrations moving further apart and closer together to see how sound changes.



They watched footage of vortex cannons – giant guns that can shoot blasts of air - and saw that by adding smoke they could see vibrations travel through the air. They studied a picture of the ear and talked about how sound travels through air before considering what else sound could travel through. They made vibrations move through water using spoons and tapping the table to see the effect. Finally, they used the telephone cups again to see how well sound travelled through different types of solids (metal, plastic, foam, rubber).



What the children thought of the Science sessions in their own words:

"It was fun how there are so many different things sound can travel through". Eliza
"I liked that we could use different experiments to find out how sound travels to our ear." Micah
"Just because you can't hear it doesn't mean that you can't play instruments." Danita
"I loved the hands on experiments." Mia

Kind regards, Miss Kelly & Mrs Wordsworth - Science Co-ordinators

