

Music

I've Been to Harlem:

What is a pentatonic song?

Class Tamar

Autumn 1 2023

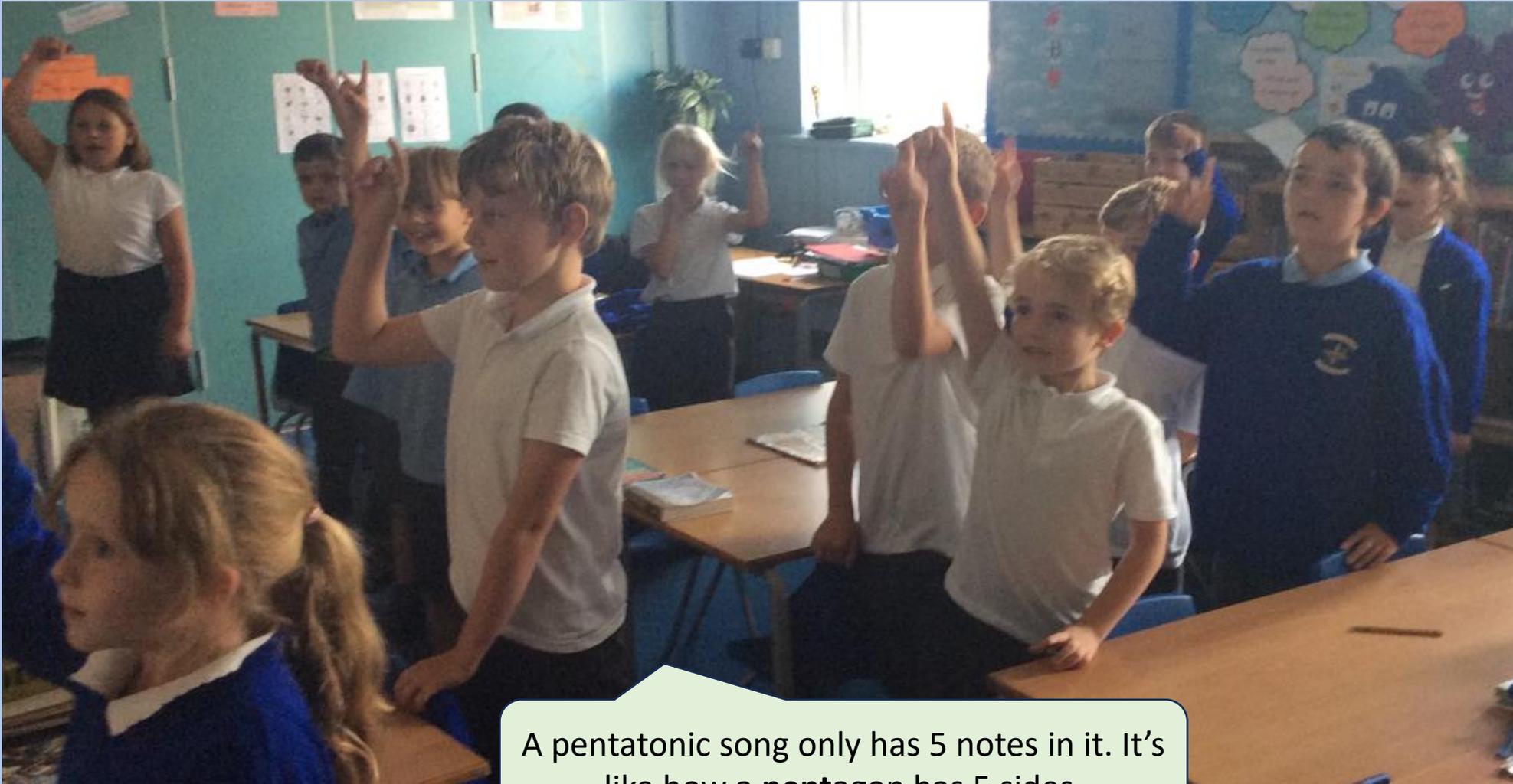
We started off the unit by listening to the song 'I've been to Harlem'. We learnt that Harlem is a place in New York! We then began to practise singing 'I've been to Harlem' as a class. We made sure that we listened carefully to the shape of the melody, representing the pitches using body ladder actions!



The song goes up and down with the pitch!

Harlem is in New York.

We practised singing the song I've been to Harlem as a class and showed the shape of the tune with our voices. We then listened to, and talk about, two pieces that use the pentatonic scale: Tongo and 'Morning mood' from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1.



A pentatonic song only has 5 notes in it. It's like how a **pentagon** has 5 sides.



The warm up helped me with the high bits in 'I've been to Harlem'.

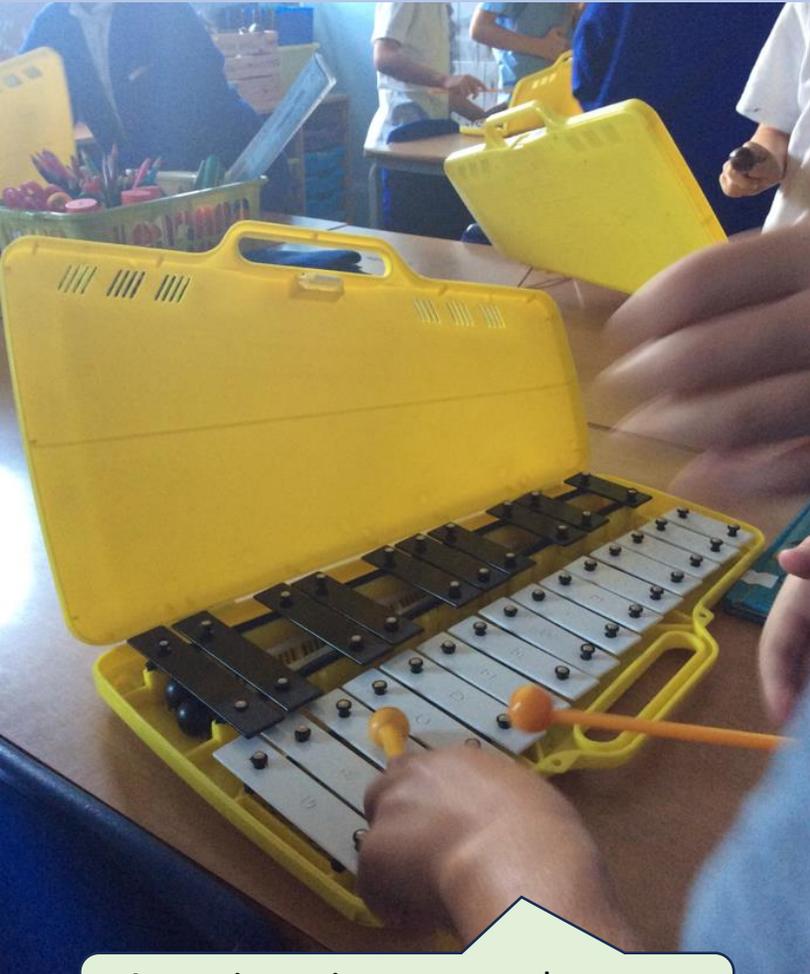
In this lesson we continued to Practise singing *I've been to Harlem* making sure we were keeping a steady beat. We then learnt the melody of *Tongo*. We sang and performed *Tongo* in call-and-response, holding notes at the end of phrases for the full length. Progression snapshot 1.



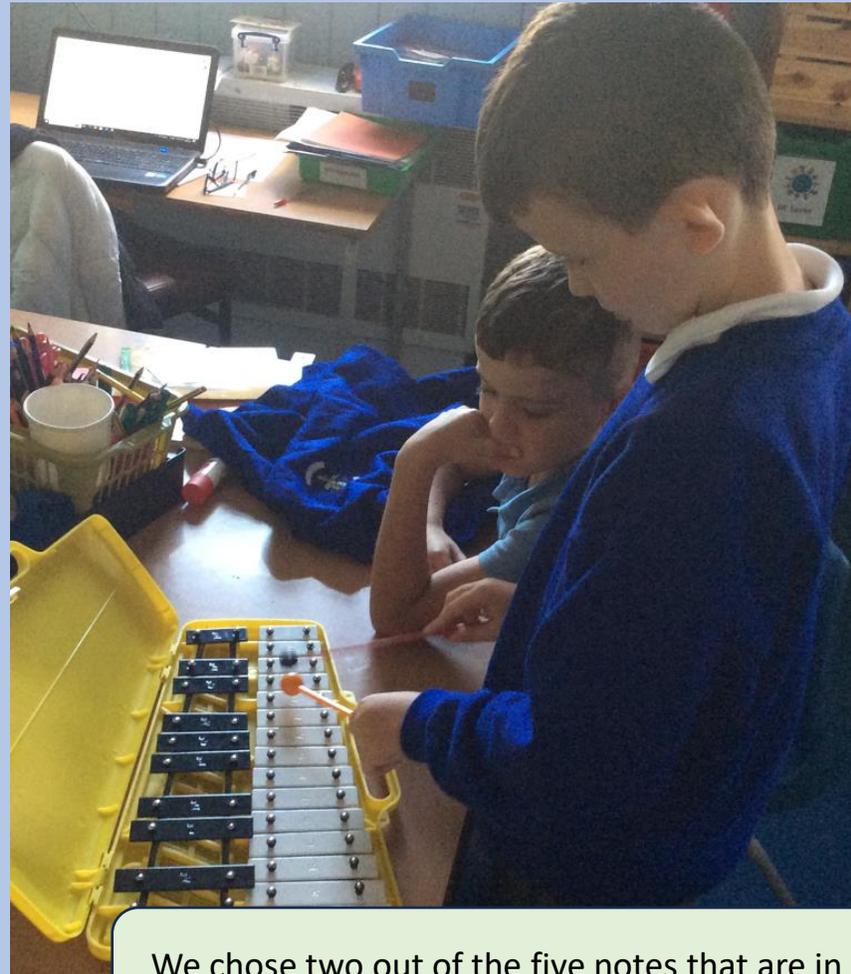
I love singing *Tongo*, the melody makes me feel really happy!

At first it was tricky to know when to do the responding part of the song but I got there in the end!

In this lesson we continued to practise singing *I've been to Harlem*, but this time it was from memory and unaccompanied. We then created a three-note melodic ostinatos to accompany *I've been to Harlem* using the glockenspiels. We finished off the lesson by playing an ostinato, note cluster chord together with singing.



An ostinato is a repeated pattern in music.



We chose two out of the five notes that are in the pentatonic song.



In this lesson we were introduced to playing rhythms using cups! We learnt a series of rhythms using the cups to play along with *I've been to Harlem*. We had to try and make sure we kept a beat using our cups.



I like how you can make different sounds with different parts of the cup.

We made sure that our ostinatos weren't too tricky. They sound better when we keep it simple!



In this lesson we invented our own rhythmic ostinatos to accompany *I've been to Harlem*. We performed our compositions to the class and then sang the song in unison, as a round, and with accompaniment.

I didn't get in a muddle with my hands this time!

I think we are all really good at staying in time with each other when we sing 'I've been to Harlem'.



Personal development: music will engage and inspire us to develop a love of music and our talent as musicians. It will increase our self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. Jobs it may lead to are: Entertainer, musician, music teacher.

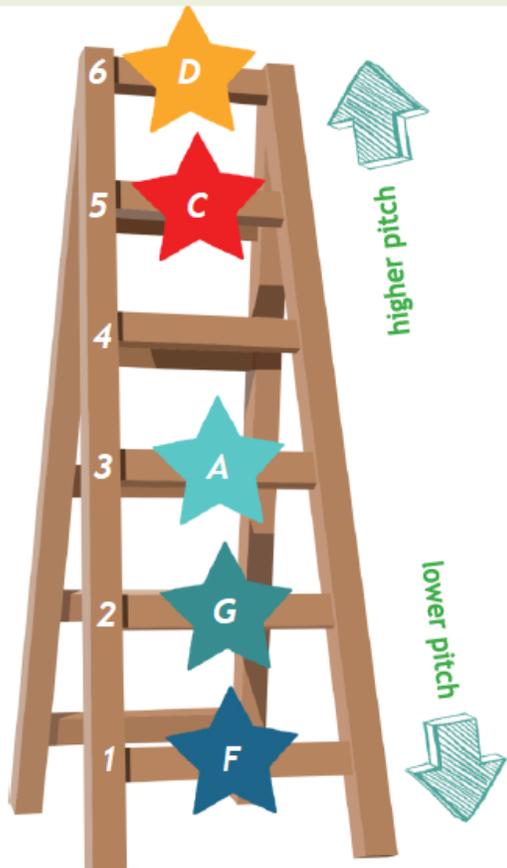
What is a Pentatonic song?

Harlem is in North America. It is a part of New York city.



Our Endpoint

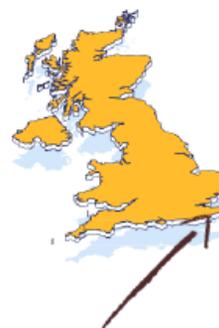
To perform 'I've been to Harlem' with an ostinato accompaniment.



A **pentatonic scale** uses the notes 1,2,3,5,6. In this song this means you need the notes F,G,A,C,D.

Use these 5 notes to compose a **pentatonic ostinato** (repeating) pattern.

Play your **ostinato** pattern as an **accompaniment** to the singing.



Dover is a town in the south of England.



Call-and-response = 'I sing' 'You sing'.

Notation	Name
	crotchet
	quavers
	semiquavers

Unison = sing together.
Round = sing in 2 or more groups starting after each other.

Phrase = a musical sentence.

Two or more notes played together is called a **chord**.

