

Spring - 2026 - Music

Year 1:

This half term, our music unit is called 'Vehicles'. We will focus on the musical dimensions of **dynamics** (volume) and **tempo** (speed). The children will learn the definitions of this musical vocabulary and will play instruments and sing songs with varying dynamics and tempo. Children will work as a whole class and in small groups to create compositions to represent different vehicles.

Year 2:

Our music unit this half term is called, 'Stormy Water'. We will take inspiration from our focussed listening of, 'Storm Interludes' from Peter Grimes, by Benjamin Britten. Our musical focus will be the dimensions of **structure** and **pitch**. We will explore the structure of Benjamin Britten's music and use this to compose our own storm music using classroom percussion instruments. We will also consider suitable timbres to make 'sea sounds' and explore notating these sounds using graphic notation.

Year 3:

This half term, our music will be inspired by 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' by Edvard Grieg. We will focus on the musical dimensions of **duration** and **tempo**. To do this, we will explore steady beats using different meters (2, 3 and 4). We will initially use word patterns and then formal rhythm notation to record and compose rhythms using crotchets and quavers. We will practice following a conductor as the tempo and dynamics of the music are altered and then make decisions about how to alter these musical dimensions to create a dramatic effect. We will then learn songs and chants linked to our work on Romans, using drums to further explore duration.

Year 4:

In music this term, we will take inspiration from Holst's, 'Mars - the bringer of War' and 'Venus - the bringer of Peace'. We will consider how Roman Gods are represented in Holst's music and will use this to create our own compositions representing various Viking Gods. We will focus on the dimensions of tempo and dynamics and explore how these can be manipulated to create character and atmosphere. We will also refine our singing skills – focussing on diction, expression and maintaining balanced parts - whilst rehearsing songs for our Viking performance!

Year 5:

Following the Y5 Space topic from the Autumn term, our music for this term will be inspired by a piece of music by Hans Zimmer called, 'Earth'. This music aims to depict a view of our planet, taken from space. Following our focussed listening, we will learn about how the musical dimensions of **texture** and **timbre** are used in this music. We will then use this as inspiration for our own compositions involving shimmering drones, repeating ostinato patterns and motifs to represent life on Earth. We will also experiment with **duration** as we alter the note lengths of our compositions.

Children will use classroom percussion and keyboards and will notate their composition using a combination of graphic and formal musical notation.

Year 6:

This term, we will be looking at music technology and particularly using GarageBand on iPads to create our own compositions and arrangements. The main musical dimensions we will focus on are **texture, timbre** and **duration**. We will experiment with sampling to create our own electronic sounds and then use GarageBand to record multi-layered tracks. We will use body percussion and then electronic drum samples to play and compose complex rhythm patterns.