

Music for curriculum letters

Year 1

In music this half term, we will be focusing on the musical dimension of pitch. We will be exploring high, low and middle sounds using our voices and tuned percussion instruments. We will also create our own compositions inspired by the story of The Three Bears.

Year 2

Our music this half term will centre on the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We will focus on the musical dimension of pitch by exploring steps, leaps and slides on tuned percussion instruments. We will learn songs to depict different parts of the story and add instruments to accompany our own singing. Later in the term, we will focus on singing and learning songs about Florence Nightingale.

Year 3

This term, year 3 will be beginning to learn to play the ukulele! We will listen to the timbres (sounds) of the different instruments in the string family. We will learn the parts of a ukulele, how to strum the ukulele and how to play a few chords and songs. We will also begin to read rhythmic notation to strum some basic rhythm patterns.

(There is absolutely no obligation to purchase a ukulele to practice at home. However, if your child is particularly keen, it is worth buying a good, affordable beginner brand as opposed to a 'toy' ukulele as these can be quite demoralising for beginners when they don't sound 'right'. We would recommend purchasing from 'The Music Postbox' – an independent ukulele-specialist shop in West End where they will also tune your ukulele. Alternatively, if you'd find it easier to buy online, Amazon stocks the same ukuleles that we have in school – Octopus Soprano Ukuleles – in lots of different colours for around £30. I am happy to tune instruments at school if that is helpful.)

Year 4

Our music unit for this half term will focus on the musical dimension of duration. We will explore music in different metres (2, 3 and 4) and practice playing along to a steady beat. Taking inspiration from the song, 'Top-Notcher', we will compose our own songs using kennings, accompanied by tuned and untuned percussion and also a return to our lovely ukuleles! We will also create our own arrangements of a song called, 'Friendships', using 3 metre for our compositions.

Year 5

In music this half term, Year 5 will be participating in the Beyond the Beat project. All children will have the opportunity to learn either a woodwind or brass instrument and take this home to borrow until Christmas. In our lessons, we will learn to make a sound on our instruments and then learn our first few notes. We will read formal musical notation and work on performance skills when playing as part of an ensemble. We look forward to performing a concert at the end of this term (date tbc).

Year 6

This half term, our music unit will investigate the roles of music in times of conflict. We will focus on a song called, 'Hey Mister Miller'. This will involve singing in parts and varying the texture of the music. We will also listen to patriotic music, war songs, drum calls and other music written and performed around times of conflict. We will then explore the purpose, intention and audience of the music. Using a mixture of tuned and un-tuned percussion as well as ukuleles, we will rehearse war-time/war-inspired songs and drumming commands.