



# Music Newsletter



Welcome to the first Birley Primary Academy Newsletter of this academic year. Here at Birley, we believe that all children have the right to a robust music curriculum. Exploring music gives children the opportunity to express themselves; to be creative; to develop teamwork skills; to develop resilience and to feel proud of their achievements. In addition, taking part in musical activities supports your child's language and mathematical development, listening skills and fine and gross-motor skills. As well as that, it is just good fun! With this in mind, we would like to ensure that you are aware of the music learning that takes place across school and the many extra-curricular activities available. We hope that you enjoy our termly updates.

## Our Music Curriculum

At Birley, all children from reception to year 6 participate in four active music making units each year. In addition, they explore a range of different music from medieval music to modern music and engage in a number of composition opportunities.

This term, our active music foci have been **rhythm** and **pulse** and **pitch**. The children learn through games, songs, chants and playing instruments. Here are some of the skills that your child will have practised by the end of the Autumn term:

**FS2:** using songs, games and movement to begin to feel of the pulse in music; playing to the words of a given rhyme on un-tuned percussion instruments

**Y1:** consolidating subconscious understanding of pulse through practical activities such as clapping games with partners; to copy back 4 beat rhythms including rests ; to sing and play patterns using the notes so, and mi .

**Y2:** to keep the pulse through actions while singing a song; consolidating the difference between rhythm and pulse; singing and playing simple songs and patterns using so, mi and la notes.

**Y3:** to chant and perform increasingly complex actions to a steady pulse; to recall rhythm patterns through voice and body percussion including Ta (1 beat), Te-te (half beat) and rests. To continue sing songs using so, mi, la

**Y4:** to internalise and recall more complex rhythm patterns; to sing and play simple tunes on tuned percussion using the pentatonic scale (do, re, mi, so, la)

**Y5:** to recall and copy back a 16 beat rhythm pattern including including Ta –a (2 beat), Ta (1 beat), Te-te (half beat) and rests; to perform rhythms and simple melodies in time with the pulse using basketballs and a PBuzz instrument

**Y6:** to recognise syncopated rhythms (rhythms which emphasise the off beats)



### **I Wanna Play in a Band!**

Our Rocksteady sessions continue to be extremely popular. Despite our fabulous Y6 band members leaving in July, we still have 32 children taking part each week. The children have just performed their first concert of the year. They displayed skill, talent and enthusiasm throughout!



### **First Access to playing an instrument**

In Year 5, all pupils participate in lessons delivered by a specialist teacher from the Sheffield Music Hub. In these sessions they develop their musicality and begin to learn to play a brass instrument. This half term they are developing breath and lip control in order to produce different pitches on a plastic instrument called a PBuzz, which works in a similar way to a trombone.



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Our Y6 children who have continued to have lessons provided by the Music Hub are currently enjoying currently practising Jingle Bells!

### **Guitar lessons:**

We currently have 20 students from Y3 to Y6 receiving weekly guitar lessons with our visiting guitar tutor

### **Young Voices**

This year, once again, around 40 children will be taking part in the Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena. They are already enjoying meeting regularly to practise the songs. Further information from: Mrs Lewin, Miss Heath, Miss Slater or Mrs Else

### **Other exciting events to look forward to...**

- In January our Y5 and 6 pupils will have be visited by a musician from the Halle orchestra. He will demonstrate and talk about his instrument and answer questions about his life as a musician so far. More details will follow.

- We are busy organising a day of workshops for the year 3 and 4 pupils, when they will learn about West African drumming and learn to play the Djembe drum.



### **Extra Curricular Opportunities**

If you would like any more information about the musical opportunities in school, please contact Miss Ellis (Music Subject Leader)