



Music



What have we been learning about?

Nursery:

During the summer term, our pupils enjoyed learning songs and rhythms through a unit called Travel and Movement. This unit was all about different ways that they can move and travel from one place to another using songs and tempos to inspire them.



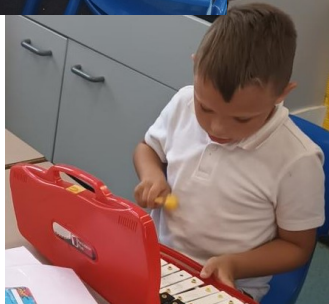
Reception:

In Reception the children had a lot of fun with the traditional song Row, row, row your boat. In this unit, our pupils explored a range of ways in which to experience the beat, identifying and singing notes that moved in steps and leaps, composed their own lyrics, and played a range of percussion instruments.

Year 1:

This term, Year 1 explored the song Come Dance with Me. Using this song as their inspiration, our pupils explored how to add movement to a song and then used it as a springboard into composing their own new lyrics and actions. The call-and-response nature of the song then allowed our pupils to translate into instrumental work, where they created their own percussive responses and played simple rhythm patterns on tuned instruments.





Year 2:

Year 2 have explored a unit called Tańczymy labada. This unit is based around a welcoming Polish circle game with increasingly tricky actions, which helped to develop our pupils sense of beat and encouraged cooperative play. As well as learning to sing confidently in another language, our pupils learnt to play singing games, play an accompaniment, and invent a 4-beat body percussion pattern. Additionally, they learnt about and explored traditional dances from Poland and planned and rehearsed a performance to share with others.

Year 3:

Year 3 continued their learning of the ukulele from the spring term. This term, their learning was based around the song 'Fly with the stars' which is a song in an electronic dance style, based on a verse/chorus structure using two chords – A minor and C major. During the unit, pupils developed listening skills in recognising a song's structure and changing chords, practised identifying crotchet and quaver durations, and developed composing skills using these durations and chords to create an accompaniment for the song.



Year 4:

Year 4 have also continued their ukulele learning from the spring term. This term their learning was based around the song 'Favourite song' which is in a fast, folk-rock style with a driving rhythm, reminiscent of the style of Mumford & Sons. With a simple verse/chorus structure and easy to follow chord pattern, the song built on from their spring term unit 'The doot doot song', introducing G major to the previously learnt chords C, F, and A minor. During the unit, pupils learnt to sing and play the song, developed technical skills on tuned percussion, and experienced playing in a class band. Both playing and singing activities were supported by listening to range of music in a folk and folk-rock style, comparing and contrasting different artists' styles.





Year 5:

Year 5 have explored a unit called Kisne banaaya.

This song from India and Pakistan explored how our world, and the different creatures that inhabit it, came into existence. Pupils will learnt choreography to support the learning and understanding of the song (in Hindi), learnt to sing the song comparing different performances and played an instrumental accompaniment on the electric key boards.

Year 6:

Year 6 learnt how it is extremely common for songwriters to use the creative process to explore difficult and personal experiences and feelings, especially those that contribute to their sense of identity. Their unit this term, explored the two songs (Smalltown boy by Bronski Beat and Say my name by Destiny's Child) and used them as a starting point for exploring themes around identity, as well as aspects of lyric writing and expressive singing to convey mood and emotion. This term also allowed the pupils to develop their choral singing for a performance as they worked together to perfect their songs for both their end of year production (Shrek the musical) and their Leavers Assembly.



Greenland:

This term, Greenland have been exploring rhythm, pitch and timbre through their musical learning. They have sung songs, played instruments and added movements to their songs.



What do the children think?

Nursery:

"We sing our favourite songs all the time."

"I like it when we get to dance to the music and sing at the same time."

Reception:

"Music is calming and it can make you want to dance."

"It is something we can share with our families."

Year 1:

"We learn about the world through music."

"Music is fun. I really like it when we learn and sing a new song and we can put a dance to it."

Year 2:

"I love to sing and we all do it together all the time."

"Singing in another language is challenging and fun. I also like it when we get to use our high and low singing voices."

Year 3:

"Music is calming and relaxing. It helps me to concentrate and think."

"Learning the Ukulele has been interesting and challenging but also fun. I really like it when all get to play and sing together."

Year 4:

"Music can be listened to whenever you want and it is calming. Music gives you the chance to experience other cultures which allows you to hear about the world in a different way."

"Everyone can enjoy music and anyone can join in or be anything they want with music. It is for all."

Year 5:

"Music is fun. It is creative and we have fun learning songs and how to play instruments."

"Music is phenomenal! It is challenging but fun as well. We always learn a lot and have fun."

Year 6:

"Music allows you to be creative and it is a new way of discovering things in the world. You can learn about new cultures through music and you can share your culture with others as well."

"I like how we do warm-ups in music to get our vocal chords ready to sing in different pitches. This also helps us to blend harmonies."

Greenland:

"I love music that is linked to History (especially the Greek Myths). You can really feel the rhythm and the drums make it feel like you are there."

"I liked using the instruments to make sounds that were loud and quiet, fast and slow."