



Music



What have we been learning about?

Nursery:

Nursery have enjoyed a wonderful term of singing, moving and making music through their On the Farm and Fairy Tales topics. Children learnt a wide range of traditional songs, developing their confidence in singing together, matching pitch and keeping a steady beat. They also explored rhythm by using claves to accompany familiar songs and enjoyed responding to music through movement and actions. It has been fantastic to see the children becoming increasingly confident performers who love to join in with music-making.

Reception:

This term, Reception explored music through Animals and their Habitats before moving on to Once Upon a Time. Children developed their listening skills by exploring tempo, dynamics and musical storytelling through singing, movement and percussion. They enjoyed performing call-and-response songs, creating buzzing insect soundscapes, improvising with instruments and experimenting with loud and quiet sounds to bring stories and characters to life. Their confidence in performing together has grown enormously throughout the term.

Year 1:

Year 1 have had a fantastic term developing their rhythm and performance skills through their Football music unit. Pupils learnt to keep a steady beat, perform rhythmic chants with clear diction and accompany songs using untuned percussion. They also began composing simple rhythm and pitch patterns using the notes mi, re and do, before performing melodies on boomwhackers and following simple musical notation. It has been wonderful to watch their confidence as musicians continue to grow.

Year 2:

Year 2 explored the lively action song Tony Chestnut, developing their singing, listening and instrumental skills. Pupils improved their pitch matching and diction while learning the melody before progressing to playing it on tuned percussion instruments. They also created their own call-and-response performances, improvised rhythmic patterns and explored how melody and rhythm work together. Their enthusiasm for composing and performing has been a real highlight this term.



Year 3:

Year 3 embarked on their recorder journey through the imaginative Enchanted Forest unit. They learnt how to hold and play the recorder correctly, developing breath control and articulation while performing the notes B, A and G. Alongside learning to read simple musical notation, pupils explored improvisation, ensemble performance and how music can create atmosphere and tell a story. It has been fantastic to hear the children developing both their musical confidence and recorder technique.



Year 4:

Year 4 continued to develop their recorder skills through the exciting Monsters, Monsters! unit. Building on previous learning, pupils improved their fluency by performing increasingly challenging melodies, exploring legato and staccato articulation, and extending their note range. They also created imaginative monster soundscapes using graphic notation and experimented with different recorder techniques to represent characters and moods. Their ensemble playing has become increasingly accurate, expressive and confident.

Year 5:

Inspired by Shakespeare's Macbeth, Year 5 explored how music can help tell a dramatic story. Pupils learnt songs from the musical, developing their singing in unison, rhythmic accuracy and expressive performance skills. They performed chants, body percussion and instrumental accompaniments while exploring dynamics, musical structure and ensemble performance. Throughout the unit, children demonstrated excellent teamwork as they combined singing, movement and percussion to bring scenes from Macbeth to life.

Year 6:

Year 6 explored the beautiful three-part round Dona Nobis Pacem, developing their understanding of harmony, texture and musical structure. Pupils learnt to sing in parts, identifying the difference between monophonic, homophonic and polyphonic textures while performing confidently in small groups and as a whole class. They also composed rhythmic accompaniments in 3/4 time and deepened their understanding of how music can communicate powerful messages of peace. Their maturity, musicianship and collaborative performance skills have been outstanding throughout the term.

Greenland:

This term, Greenland have been exploring rhythm, pitch and timbre through a range of engaging musical activities. They have developed their singing skills, added actions and movement to performances, and enjoyed playing both percussion instruments and glockenspiels. Through these experiences, the children have grown in confidence as performers while developing their understanding of key musical elements.



What do the children think?

Nursery:

"I loved singing all of our songs because we could clap the beat, play the claves and join in with the actions. My favourite part was making music together with my friends."

Reception:

"I liked using the instruments to make loud and quiet sounds and changing the volume to match the story. We also listened carefully to the tempo and beat so we could move and play our instruments at the right time."

Year 1:

"My favourite part was playing the boomwhackers because I learned the difference between beat, rhythm and melody. I also enjoyed keeping in time with the tempo and listening carefully to the pitch of each note so our performance sounded really good together."

Year 2:

"I really enjoyed playing the melody on the glockenspiel because I had to listen carefully to the pitch of the notes and keep a steady beat. Making up our own call-and-response rhythms helped me understand how rhythm, tempo and melody all work together in music."

Year 3:

"Learning the recorder was my favourite because I learned how to control my breathing and use my tongue to make each note sound clear. I enjoyed keeping a steady pulse, playing different durations, listening to the rhythm and melody, and performing as part of an ensemble so our music had a strong structure."

Year 4:

"I really enjoyed playing the recorder because we learned new notes and different ways of playing, like legato and staccato. Creating our monster soundscapes helped me explore timbre, texture and dynamics, while keeping a steady pulse and thinking carefully about the structure of our performance."

Year 5:

"I loved performing the songs from Macbeth because we had to think carefully about rhythm, tempo, dynamics and singing together as an ensemble. Adding body percussion and instruments helped us create different textures, and performing in groups taught me how important structure, pulse and teamwork are in music."

Year 6:

"My favourite part was singing Dona Nobis Pacem as a round because I learned how harmony creates different textures in music. Performing in parts helped me keep a steady pulse, follow the structure of the piece and think about dynamics, duration and timbre so our performance was expressive and balanced."

Greenland:

"My favourite part was playing the glockenspiels. I enjoyed learning the different notes and playing in the same rhythm as everyone else. I felt happy when we made music together. It made me smile"