



Wordsworth Primary and Nursery School

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May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Musical instrument choice for academic year 2024/2025 for Year 2 pupils – continuing learners and beginners

At this time of year, we need to plan for our instrumental lessons for the next academic year starting in September.

Why learn a musical instrument?

There are many benefits to learning to play a musical instrument. These range from developing brain power and co-ordination to building confidence and creativity. Children make new friends through musical activities both in school and in the wider community and above all it is fun and a chance to develop a new skill.

What instruments can my child learn to play?

In Year 3 we offer violin, viola, and cello teaching in group lessons. Starting a string instrument in Year 3 is an ideal time to begin learning. The instruments are available in small sizes and children can make quick progress with regular practice and support from home. Children who have learned to play the violin already in Year Two can continue with their lessons and new beginners will have their own groups.

How much does it cost to learn an instrument in school?

The teaching is provided by Southampton Music Service. The cost for a year's tuition will be £185. This works out as a £20 deposit due in the Summer term, then £55 per term for the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. This charge is reviewed annually. The instruments are loaned out from Southampton Music Services which cost £50 per year or you can provide your own instrument. Therefore the total cost for learning an instrument will be £235.

My child receives the Pupil Premium. How much will I need to pay?

If your child receives the Pupil Premium, the charge is £30 for the year. £10 as a deposit in the Summer term 2024 and the remaining £20 in the Autumn term. The school will pay for the rest of the cost of learning and for the instrument hire.



How are the groups organised?

At our school the children will be taught in groups of between 4 and 6. Children in groups of 4 will receive a 20 minute lesson, groups of 5 will have 25 minutes and groups of 6 will have 30 minutes. We have to try to balance the number of instruments that we teach so that no group is overly large and we cannot start a group off with less than 4 players.

When do lessons take place?

Lessons are held during the school day once a week. They are sometimes over a break time or lunchtime and sometimes during lesson times. We try to avoid the children missing English and Maths but occasionally the lessons may be at these times. The timetable is set by Southampton Music Service but they do try to tailor it to our requirements.

How many lessons will my child have over the year?

The music service guarantee 33 lessons over the year which obviously averages out at 11 per term. This allows for staff absence, Music Service Inset days etc.

What do I need to do for my child to be placed in an instrumental group?

To help us to organise the lessons, we ask you to fill in the slip below and return it to school by **Friday 7th June**. I will then look at the numbers of children applying and organise the group sizes. I will contact you later in June with a form to fill in and request the deposit. This will form an agreement to starting lessons later in September and **you will be liable for a full year's worth of fees (an additional £165 or £20 if your child receives the Pupil Premium) even if your child gives up part way through the year.**

Please return the slip below to school at your earliest convenience but no later than **Friday 7th June**. If you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A. Thompsett (Music Teacher)



Music Lesson choices for current Year 2 pupils for 2024/2025 provision

To be returned no later than **Friday 7th June**

Pupil name: Class

Instrument choice (please tick):

Violin/Viola

Cello

Please tick the appropriate statement

I understand that the cost of lessons will be £185 for the year.

My child receives the Pupil Premium and I understand that the cost of lessons will be £30 for the year.



Signed (Parent/Carer)

