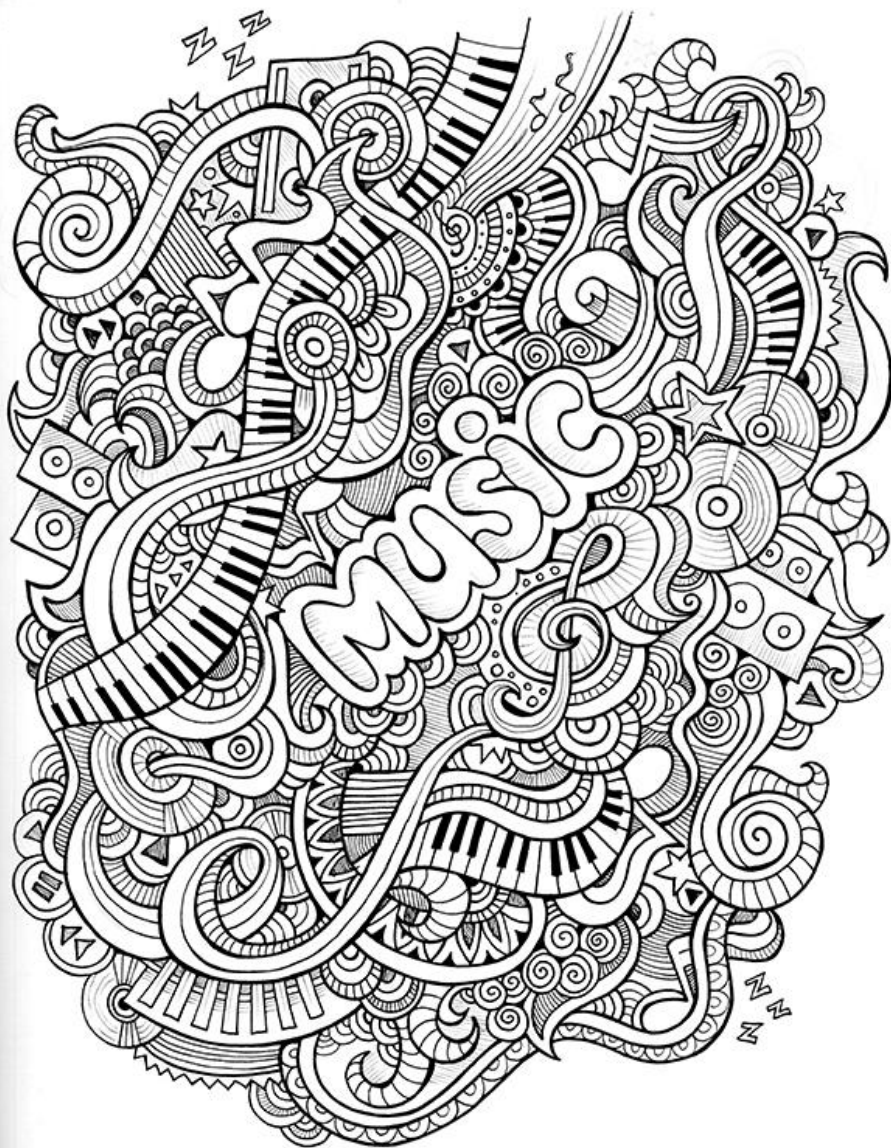




LEARNING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

A Guide for the families of
Gordon Primary School

THIS WORKSHOP IS SUITABLE FOR...

The parents of any children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 who have expressed an interest in learning an instrument

The parents of any children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who would like ideas for how to support those children who are already learning an instrument

If your child is currently learning an instrument in school, please do not apply for them to take up another instrument; discuss this with Mr Albert



Welcome

- Learning to play an instrument is difficult! Sorry, but it is!
- Your child will need as much help and support as you can give them. You may think that you can't help much, but there are many ways you can and your support is a vital part of the learning process.
- These tips will help you to help your child.



COST OF LESSONS

When and where do the lessons take place?

In school. The Music Service staff teach the children during the school day. The teachers will often teach the children in small groups of 3 or 4, according to their standard.

Does my child need to play in the school orchestra? How much practice should my child do?

Once your child is ready (the music teacher will decide), your child should join the school orchestra that rehearses after school. This will be available when the after-school clubs re-start. Your child should practise **every day for at least 10-15 minutes**. Your encouragement and support will be an essential part of your child's music studies.

COMMITMENT & RESILIENCE

Can my child give up if they don't like it?

Learning an instrument is very challenging! Most children will want to give up once the initial excitement has worn off. Parents need to keep their children going during the first years of learning, so we expect all pupils to play for at least **2 academic years**. Children who give up will often regret this in later life.

Considering the COVID challenges we are facing, is my child going to be safe?

The children take music lessons with children that are in the same bubbles. Between groups, the space is sanitised and the children will be asked to wash their hands before and after the lessons.



Parental Commitment

- In Cleveland Road Primary School we are committed to ensuring that pupils have a wide range of music experiences. As a result, the fee for lessons is greatly subsidised by the school.
- This is a considerable financial commitment and, therefore, we ask any parent who considers requesting tuition for their child, to think carefully about the level of commitment required for learning to be successful.
- **Please read the agreement carefully and only sign and return it to school if you are prepared to meet the expectations outlined below. Failure to meet these expectations may result in the withdrawal of music lessons.**

Music...
GIVES A **SOUL** TO THE
UNIVERSE
WINGS TO THE MIND
-FLIGHT TO THE-
IMAGINATION
(and life to
Everything
-Plato



Expectations

- ✓ Regular, daily practice
- ✓ Support of family – encouragement and practical support; organisation
- ✓ Commitment for 2 years
- ✓ Ensure that my child's instrument is in school on the day of the lesson
- ✓ Ensure that any music books or equipment required (such as new reeds for a clarinet) will be purchased promptly
- ✓ School orchestra (depending on Covid)
- ✓ Hiring of an instrument/instrument collection and repair



Meet the Music Team

- Curriculum Lead
- Head of Music and Choir
- Strings (Violin and 'cello)
- Orchestra
- Guitar
- Brass
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe)

Mrs Bhesania

Mr Albert

Mr Goddard

Mr Goddard

Mr Legarrea

Mr Miller

Ms Gorham

Why teach Music?

Music is a unique form of communication; a universal language that can enrich our lives: music can inspire and motivate; it is capable of raising the spirits, reducing stress and building imagination and empathy.

Music is a unique form of personal expression and it can play an important part in the personal development of an individual. It reflects our culture and society and, as such, the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in.

Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, Music can be a highly academic and demanding subject with many acknowledged benefits...





The Benefits of Learning an Instrument

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0JKCYZ8hng>

The benefits include...

- The development of **language** and **reasoning**
- Improved **coordination**, **memory** and fine-tuned auditory (**listening**) skills
- **Emotional** development
- Improved **mathematical skills** such as pattern recognition
- The building of **intellectual** curiosity and **imagination**
- Increased **engagement** and sense of achievement
- Improved levels of **creativity** and **self-confidence**
- The development of risk-taking, **teamwork**, spatial intelligence and discipline



What
instruments
can I learn?



The Stringed instruments

The string section is made of instruments that you **pluck** or **strum** or which you play with a **bow**.

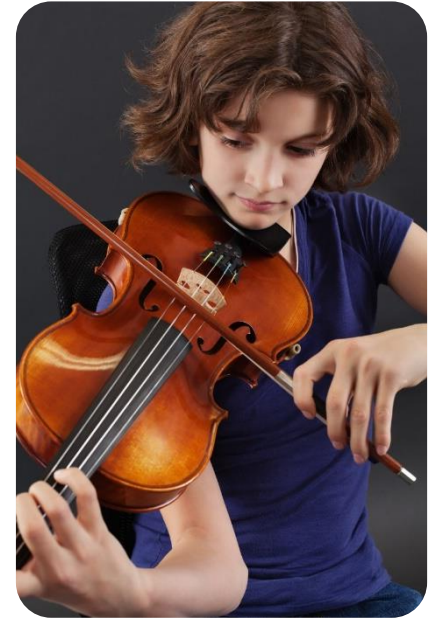
*Click on the **photos** to watch an introduction to these instruments and click on the **names** to watch a performance by each of these instruments.*



[Guitar](#)



[Cello](#)



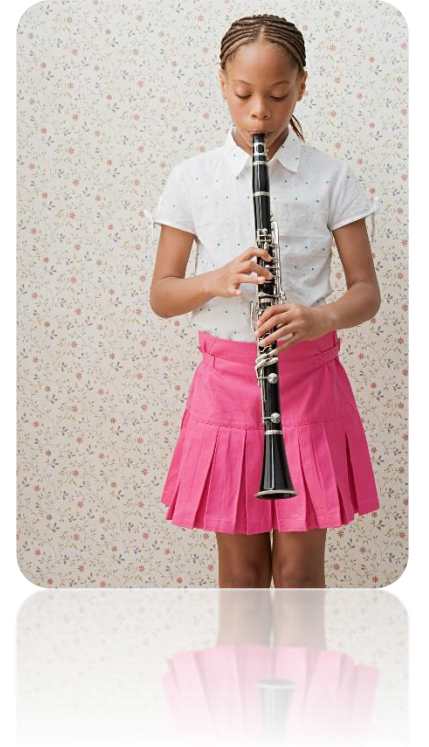
[Violin](#)

The woodwind instruments

The woodwind section is made of instruments that you **blow**. Most woodwind instruments have a reed in the mouthpiece (except the flute).

*Click on the **photos** to watch an introduction to these instruments and click on the **names** to watch a performance by each of these instruments.*

[Flute](#)



[Clarinet](#)

[Oboe](#)



The Brass Instruments

The brass section is made of instruments that you **blow**. They are all based on lengths of metal tubing with a mouthpiece for your lips.

*Click on the **photos** to watch an introduction to these instruments and click on the **names** to watch a performance by each of these instruments.*



[Cornet](#)



[French Horn](#)



[Trumpet](#)



“

Music is life
itself.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG

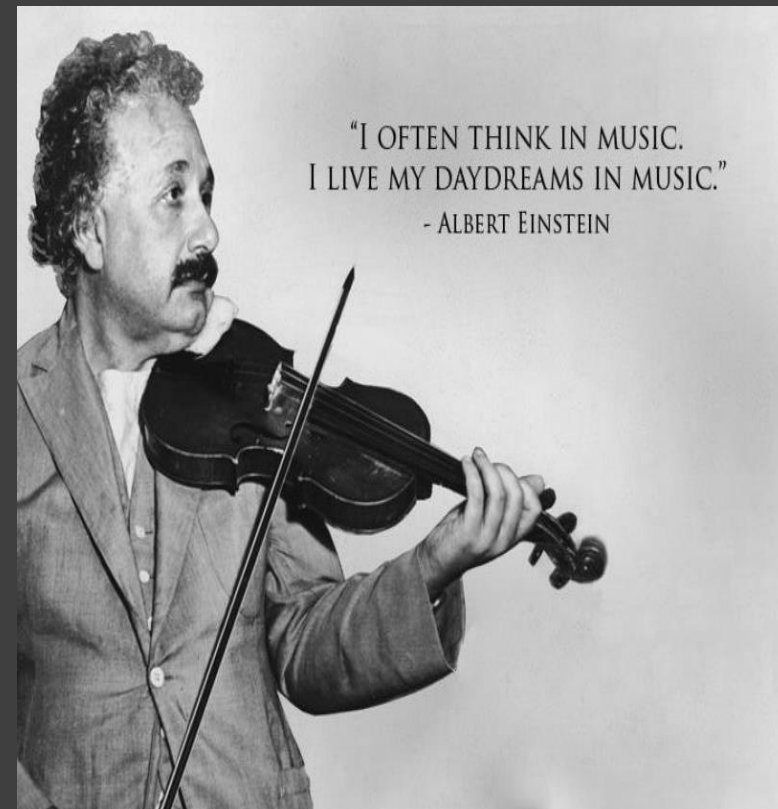


I WOULD TEACH CHILDREN MUSIC,
PHYSICS, AND PHILOSOPHY;
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY

Music

FOR THE PATTERNS
IN MUSIC AND ALL
THE ARTS ARE THE
KEYS TO LEARNING

- PLATO -



“I OFTEN THINK IN MUSIC.
I LIVE MY DAYDREAMS IN MUSIC.”

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

Something to think about...

Tip Number 1: MUSIC Practice

A little practice every day makes all the difference.

Just 10 – 15 minutes at a time will be fine, as long as it's done regularly.

Try to find time to sit with your child as they practise and help them to develop a routine. It doesn't have to be a burden.

Show an interest; make time with a cup of tea, to hear what your child is doing and help establish good habits.

A young girl with curly hair is shown in profile, focused on playing a piano. She is wearing a white sleeveless top with a ruffled neckline. The piano keyboard is visible in the foreground, and the background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with warm lighting. A large white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Tip Number 2: Lessons

- Your child's lessons will usually take place on the same day each week unless the teacher needs to change it, in which case he/she will notify you in advance.
- You need to ensure that your child has everything ready in school for the lesson – instrument, music books etc...
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for remembering, too!

Tip Number 3:

PRACTICE DIARIES

- The Music Service will provide your child with a yellow practice diary. This is so the teacher can make a note of what they need to practise – sometimes the teacher writes this information directly onto the music.
- Please take note of what your child needs to do and feel free to write to the teacher about how your child did.
- If you have any questions for the teacher, a note or letter is the best way of communicating with him/her.



A young girl with dark skin and dreadlocks is shown in profile, playing a violin. She is wearing a light blue patterned dress. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor setting. A large white circle on the left side of the image contains text.

Tip Number 4: Encouragement

- Learning an instrument is hard work and takes a lot of dedication. You need to keep your child motivated – particularly after the glow of excitement wears off!
- You might find that the sound your child makes at first isn't wonderful on the ears, but it will get better with practice!
- Commitment and dedication are key!



Tip Number 5: Get in Touch with your child's music teacher

- If you have questions about your child's instrumental lessons, please get in touch with the teacher.
- A short note in the practice diary or a letter delivered with your child is the best way to make contact.



Tip Number 6: look for performance opportunities for your child

- The school runs an orchestra on Monday nights after school. Once your child has learnt a few notes and can play them well, your child should attend this ensemble.
- Additionally, the *Redbridge Music Service* runs a range of clubs including Flute Club, Brass Club, choirs, orchestras and ensembles for all ages and standards from beginners to experienced players. Get your child involved – the more your child plays with others, the more your child will be motivated to keep playing.



Tip Number 7: Redbridge Music Service

- John Savage Centre, Fencepiece Road, Hainault, Ilford, IG6 2NB
- **Telephone:**
020 8501 3944
- Information on everything the *Redbridge Music Service* has to offer is on their website:
- <http://www.redbridgemusic.org.uk/>

Tip Number 8: Exams

Most music exams, such as those provided by the *Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music* (ABRSM) or Trinity Collage, involve a fee.

Redbridge Music Service has its own (free!) examination system designed to encourage an early interest so that, by the time pupils get to the equivalent of Grades 3 or 4, they have the commitment to continue onto the ABRSM exams which come at a cost.

We strongly recommend that pupils take exams when they are ready – it gives the children something to work towards and provides some extrinsic motivation. Certificates can be presented in assembly and celebrated by the whole school.

The exams aren't compulsory but they do give children and parents a good guide for how much progress is being made.

Tip Number 9: Performances

The school regularly puts on Music Showcase assemblies in the Autumn and Summer terms, so that the children can share what they have been learning.

Please try to come to these events. The dates will be published in the school newsletter. Put them in your diary. It makes a HUGE difference if pupils feel that their parents are taking an interest in their Music studies.

Tip Number 10: The School Orchestra

As your child is learning an instrument in our school, there is an obligation to contribute to the school's musical life by:

Showing commitment to learning the instrument and practising every day

Making sure you are prepared for the lesson and have all your equipment, instrument and music in school

Attending the school orchestra rehearsals on Mondays

If your child gets in invitation to attend orchestra, you need to ensure their regular attendance

What Happens Next

1. Request an application form today (if you are certain) or via the home-school book, if you need time to think and to talk with your child



2. Auditions take place; confirmation letters will be sent to those who secure a place



3. If your child does not secure a place, they will be placed on the waiting list



4. The music service will contact you regarding the hire of the instrument and will notify you when it is ready for collection.