

Cunningham Hill Junior School

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Dear Parents

MUSIC ADAPTED FOR COVID

We know that music-making is an important part of our children's education as well as having a huge positive benefit on their well-being. Whilst it is essential to follow the social distancing and general guidance given at school, authority and country level it is still possible to adhere to this advice and offer safe and practical music-making opportunities for all students. Please find below some of the adaptations we have made to our Music curriculum and extra curricula clubs.

Singing

Because of the risks of passing on infection when singing, we will be adapting the way we use songs in Music lessons. Singing will be done outside, whenever possible, or in the hall, all facing the same way and at a distance from each other. Songs will be used indoors for reflection, creating our own actions and lyrics, signing and accompanying with instruments.

Instead of whole school singing assemblies, we hope to continue using a Song of the Week in class assemblies as listening and reflecting opportunities.

Our choirs will not be meeting until we receive guidance that it is safe to do so. However, Year 5 and 6 children who wish to take part in *Young Voices*, in whatever form that may take, may learn all the songs and actions at home, using resources on the *Young Voices* website.

Instruments

Again, due to the risk of passing on infection when blowing an instrument, Year 3 will not learn the recorder in the classroom this term, but there will be a fantastic resource available to them to learn from home using *Yumu*, part of the *Charanga Musical School*. Log in details for this will follow shortly. Current Year 4's who would like to continue playing may also like to use this resource. **All children in the school will receive these log in details as *Yumu* will be used to continue our music education in the event of a local lockdown.**

We hope that one Year 4 class will begin ukulele lessons after half term, in groups of 15. The other class will have their turn beginning sometime in the Spring term. Instruments will be thoroughly cleaned before and after each lesson and the children will be spread out in a well ventilated room.

When djembe drums and classroom percussion are used in Music lessons, children will keep the same instrument and beaters throughout the lesson and these will be thoroughly cleaned before and after use.

Individual instrumental lessons, taught by visiting peripatetic teachers, will resume in school, after stringent risk assessments and with staff adhering strictly to safety guidelines. We are hoping that the school orchestra will be able to resume after half term, meeting in the school hall on Wednesdays at 8.15 am.

Please be assured that the safety of our children is our highest priority and that we will continue to offer them a broad and balanced musical curriculum, whilst keeping them safe and well. Do contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you for your understanding in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Jo Clifford *Music Subject Lead*