

# ST MONICA'S MUSIC NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016.

Dear Parents/Carers,

## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AND INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS.

Firstly many thanks for all your kind wishes and gifts and cards at the end of term. They were very much appreciated. I hope you enjoyed the music at all the Christmas performances, and I'd like to especially congratulate all the key stage 2 children for their singing and playing at the church. The standard of singing is improving every year, and the instrumentalists are raising the bar! With this in mind I'd like to encourage those of you considering instrumental lessons to help to keep our orchestra thriving! We are particularly keen to see more cellos, violin/violas, flutes, and clarinets. If you are looking for a more unusual choice, maybe consider the viola, oboe, or double bass. Do contact me if you wish to discuss this.

## MUSICAL PERFORMANCES THIS TERM.

On 29<sup>th</sup> January, we are very excited to be taking over 40 children to the O2 to sing in a Young Voices concert. This has taken months of preparation, but the day is almost here, so good luck to all the singers taking part!

We are planning to support the Nightingale Trust again in their "Gift of Music" concert on March 4<sup>th</sup>. This year the theme is "Musicals".

I hope to reschedule the Music Concert which we had to postpone when I was ill last term. More details to follow.

## MUSIC CURRICULUM SPRING TERM.

Just a brief guide to what the children will be doing in their class music lessons this term:-

### Reception.

We will continue to build confidence through singing new and familiar songs such as "Hello Song", "The Weather Song", "People Who Help Us", and the "Postman Song". There will

be opportunities for class and solo singing.

Children will develop their aural memory and sense of pitch through games and songs.

They will also continue to learn the names of classroom percussion instruments and to play them with increased control and an awareness of pulse.

### Year 1.

In year 1 children continue to develop their singing skills through new and familiar songs.

This term songs will support the music topic of Musical Opposites, and also the class topic of "London".

Children will explore pulse (beat) and rhythm through familiar songs and with the help of "Oscar and Friends" puppets. They will be copying/playing/composing rhythms based on names and words.

We will also be learning about musical elements in our Musical Opposites topic, we will look at loud/soft; fast/slow; high/low; and long/short sounds.

### Year 2.

The children will continue to develop singing skills through an increasing repertoire of songs. This will include singing games, and topic-linked songs for the "Under the Sea" topic and songs written by Julia Donaldson.

This term year 2 will be developing their understanding of BEAT and RHYTHM, learning to distinguish between the two things and later to accompany rhythmic patterns with a beat/pulse. They will be playing/copying/composing rhythmic patterns based on words, and also using rhythmic ostinati patterns to accompany songs.

### Year 3.

We will begin this term with a short block of lessons exploring descriptive sounds-listening carefully and identifying and describing sounds and how they are produced. The children will be working on a class composition/performance about winter.

For the rest of the term we will be exploring African music- the children will learn a range of traditional songs from different parts of Africa and explore structures such as "call and response". They will also have opportunities for part-singing.

Instrument work will include continuing to develop skills in pulse/rhythm and the children will be composing their own rhythmic patterns and using notation.

They will also be learning to sing and play instrumental parts to "Circle of Life" from the

Lion King.

#### Year 4.

Year 4 will be exploring descriptive sounds this term, listening to and identifying sounds and describing the musical effects created. They will also explore the structure of musical compositions and follow a plan for their own pieces.

Initially, the theme will be “Winter” and we will re-visit the piece we looked at in year 3, this time spending more time on developing the children's own versions, writing own words and extending the range of sounds and organisation.

Later in the term we will use a similar idea to compose music about the Rain Forest. We will also learn songs with an environmental theme.

#### Year 5.

This term, our music topic is “Space” and we will be listening to extracts from Holst's “Planet Suite” and the children will be producing their own creative responses. They will also learn a song inspired by Debussy's “Clair de Lune” so we will be listening to this piece and noting some of the musical features.

We will begin the term with some revision of work on pulse/beat exploring how beats can be grouped to follow time signatures. The children will be listening to different music styles as well as they continue to develop their awareness of pulse/beat.

As well as a Healthy eating song, we will be learning some songs about space including some part singing/rounds and extending their vocal range.

#### Year 6.

Year 6 will be developing their skills in beat, rhythm and pitch through an electronic composition called “Time Change”. They will use percussion instruments to demonstrate their understanding, as well as learning about time signatures, structure and rhythmic notation. Later they will use the rhythmic patterns to write their own lyrics about the Vikings and possibly extend this to melody writing.

We will be learning some Viking-themed songs from “Sing Up”.

Also we will be listening to “In the Hall of the Mountain King” by Greig from the BBC 10 Pieces, and composing our own music in response to this piece.

With best wishes for 2016.

Linda Phillips