

Music Overviews

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Cygnets			
Year A 2023/24	Timbre and Rhythmic patterns (Theme: Fairtales) Through fairy tales, children are introduced to the concept of timbre; learning that different sounds can represent characters and key moments in a story. They explore clapping along to the syllables of words and phrases before creating rhythmic patterns to tell a familiar fairy tale.	Pitch and tempo (Theme: Superheroes) Learning how to identify high and low notes and to compose a simple tune, children investigate how tempo changes help tell a story and make music more exciting.	Classical music, dynamics and tempo (Theme: Animals) Children use their bodies and instruments to listen and respond to pieces of classical music that represent animals. They learn and perform a song as a class and compose a short section of music as a group, with a focus on dynamics and tempo.
Year B 2022/23	Pulse and Rhythm (All about me) Children learn to identify the difference between the pulse and rhythm of a song and consolidate their understanding of these concepts through listening and performing activities. Diwali Nativity	Musical Vocabulary (Under the sea) Journey into the unknown and explore under the sea through music, movement, chanting and the playing of tuned percussion instruments.	Vocal and body sounds (Theme: By the sea) Children make links between music, sounds and environments and use percussion, vocal and body sounds to represent calm or stormy seas.
Kingfishers			
Year A 2023/24	On this island: British songs and sounds Creating sounds to represent three contrasting landscapes: seaside, countryside and city (Geography link) Nativity – singing and performance	Myths and legends Developing understanding of musical language and how timbre, dynamics and tempo affect the mood of a song (link Jack and the Beanstalk).	Dynamics, timbre, tempo and motifs (Theme: Space) Developing knowledge and understanding of dynamics, timbre, tempo and instruments. Learning to compose and play motifs.
Year B 2022/23	African call and response song (Animals) Using instruments to represent animals, copying rhythms, learning a traditional Ghanaian call and response song and recognising simple notation, progressing to creating call and response rhythms.	Orchestra Instruments (traditional stories) Children are introduced to the instruments of the orchestra and practice identifying these within a piece of music. They learn how different characters can be represented by timbre, how emotions can be represented by pitch and how	Musical Me Children learn to sing the song 'Once a Man Fell in a Well' and to play it using tuned percussion. Using letter notation to write a melody.

		changes in tempo can convey action.	
Kite			
Year A	Ballads Children learn what ballads are, how to identify their features and how to convey different emotions when performing them. Using an animation as inspiration, children carefully select vocabulary to describe the story, before turning them into lyrics by incorporating rhyming words and following the structure of a traditional ballad. (poetry link)	Pentatonic Melodies and composition (Chinese new year) Revising key musical terminology, playing and creating pentatonic melodies, composing a piece of music using layered melodies.	Traditional instruments and improvisation (India) Children listen to a range of rag and tal music, identifying traditional instruments as well as creating their own improvisations and performing as a class.
Year B 2022/23	Changes in pitch, tempo & dynamics (Rivers) Learning to listen to changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics and relate it to something tangible and familiar. Linking to their geography learning, the pupils represent different stages of the river through vocal and percussive ostinatos, culminating in a final group performance. (Link to rivers taught previous or move)	Adapting and transposing (Link Romans) Drawing upon their understanding of repeating patterns in music, pupils are introduced to the concept of motifs.	Body and tuned percussion (Rainforests – Geography – biomes) A topic of discovery; children will explore the rainforest through music and be introduced to new musical terms. They will also use a mixture of body percussion and tuned percussion instruments as the children create their own rhythms of the rainforest, layer by layer.
Harrier			
	Composition notation (Theme Ancient Egypt) – linking back to previous history Based on the theme of Ancient Egypt, children learn to identify the pitch and rhythm of written notes and experiment with notating their compositions, developing their understanding of staff notation.	Dynamics, Pitch and Texture (Theme: Coasts) – linked to Geography Children appraise the work of a classical composer (Felix Mendelssohn), improvise as a group using pitch and dynamics and create a group composition.	Theme and Variations (pop art) – linked to Art Children explore the musical concept of theme and variations and discover how rhythms can ‘translate’ onto different instruments.

	Songs of World War 2 (Linked to History WW2) Developing greater accuracy in pitch and control; identifying pitches within an octave when singing and using knowledge of pitch to develop confidence when singing in parts.	Composition to represent the festival of colour (Holi festival) - linked to RE Exploring the associations between music, sounds and colour; composing and performing their own musical composition to represent Holi, the Hindu festival of colour that celebrates the beginning of spring and the triumph over good and evil.	Musical Theatre (linked to production) Children are introduced to musical theatre, learning how singing, acting and dancing can be combined to give an overall performance.
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