



Hollybrook Junior School

Seagarth Lane, Southampton, SO16 6RL
Telephone: 023 8077 2781 Fax: 023 8052 8820
Email: info@hj.jetrust.org
www.hollybrookjunior.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Wood NPQH
Deputy Head: Miss Clare Alderson

Tuesday 25th April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Instrumental Lessons at Hollybrook Junior School for pupils moving into Year Three for children receiving Pupil Premium funding

As the Music Leader at Hollybrook Junior School, I am in charge of organising instrumental lessons in the school. We have a variety of visiting instrumental teachers from Southampton Music Services who offer teaching in string, woodwind and brass instruments. We have run a successful String Project in Year Three for a number of years and we usually start this in November. This year however we would like to start the project in September so I am inviting current Year Two pupils to apply for places.

Our String Project allows children to start small group lessons in violin and cello.

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.

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

The cost for a year's tuition is usually £160 but as your child receives Pupil Premium funding we are able to reduce this to £75 (£25 per term). This charge is reviewed annually, and is heavily subsidised to reflect the importance we place on offering quality music provision at the school. The instruments are loaned out from our school stock or from Southampton Music Services which cost £25 per year or you can provide your own instrument. The total price of a year's tuition will therefore be £100.

How are the groups organised?

For the String Project the children will be taught in groups of between 6 and 8 for 30 minutes. This time will be reduced if there are a smaller number of children in the group.

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 Literacy 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.





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What expectations will there be for participating in the project?

Children will be expected to practise their instrument between lessons and to complete tasks set by the instrumental teachers. Early on it is very useful for parents to be involved in practice sessions in order to help your child to make progress.

Which instrument will my child play for the String Project?

Next year if there is enough interest we will be running a violin group and a cello group. Your child will be allocated one of these instruments for the year. On the slip overleaf, please circle your first choice of instrument, but please bear in mind that you may be not be allocated this choice as we need to have balanced numbers in the groups.

Once the groups have been organised, you will receive a letter confirming the instrument that your child has been allocated. You will be asked to send back a slip with a non-returnable deposit of £10. This will form an agreement to starting lessons in September and you will be liable for a full year's worth of fees (an additional £65) even if your child gives up part way through the year.

What if my child wants to learn a different instrument?

We offer additional instrument choices to start in Year Four. Children on the String Project are encouraged to stick with their instrument if they are enjoying it, but are able to swap at this point.

Please return the slip below to school at your earliest convenience, but no later than **Wednesday 3rd May**. 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 Leader)





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To Mrs A. Thompsett (Music Leader, Hollybrook Junior School)

String Project for current Year 2 pupils for 2017/2018 provision

To be returned no later than **Wednesday 3rd May**

Pupil name: Class

My child would like to join the String Project when he/she starts at Hollybrook Junior School. I understand that either a violin or cello will be allocated to my child. Please circle your first choice of instrument.



Violin



Cello

Parent/Guardian name:

Signature:

