



## St. Nicolas' CE Combined School Taplow

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### Music Curriculum News Summer 2025

"This country has a proud history of musicmaking. Down the generations, music has enriched our national identity, our community and our economy. Music education is essential to safeguarding and extending the musical life of our country for generations to come. Excellent music education opens opportunities, but it is not simply a means to an end: it is also an end in itself. It gives children and young people an opportunity to express themselves, to explore their creativity, to work hard at something, persevere and shine. These experiences and achievements stay with them and shape their lives."

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#### What will we be learning this term?

These are the opening words of the National Plan for Music Education published in June 2022 and I think they aptly reflect how important music is in St Nicolas' School. As the specialist music teacher, I teach music to all classes each week and I aim to not only teach the necessary curriculum but also link music to the topics that the children are learning about in other subjects. Our aim is to learn through music as well as learn about music and we want to give every child the opportunity to develop their own unique musical potential.

**Reception: Chestnut class** will continue to make music to complement their topic work, I will be supporting their class teacher with resources to help them to make music to support their learning. We will be doing some English country dancing and learning some traditional songs. They will be focusing on moving in time to the music, playing simple percussion instruments and singing tunefully.

**Year 1: Elm class** will be making soundscapes about the beach and learning songs related to the sea and the beach to complement their geography work. They will also be learning songs about their bodies and using body percussion to create rhythms. When learning about Nelson Mandela they will learn some more African songs.

**Year 2: Ash class** will be learning how to play the recorder. We are fortunate that we have enough recorders to loan each child one this year. We will be learning 3 basic notes and look forward to performing as a whole class at our end of term KS1 concert. Children will learn about music notation and pitch as they learn to play their instrument. If you already have a recorder at home, please send it in with your child, clearly named, these will stay in school until the half term break.

**Year 3: Oak class** will be learning about Egyptian music and will be using instruments and songs to supplement their history project. After half term we will be looking at music about different sorts of weather and the children will be creating their own weather music thinking about all the different elements of music but essentially dynamics and tempo.

**Year 4: Pine class** will be exploring music of Scandinavia to complement their work on the Vikings. We will be listening to music by composers such as Grieg and Sibelius as well as Abba and the children will be using this music to learn more about rhythm, tempo and notation. We will also be singing lots of songs to help with learning their times tables.

**Year 5:** Willow class will start the term looking at Victorian music and will then be looking at musical rivers and composing their own music inspired by Philip Glass's river music. They will be singing songs about rivers and will also spend a couple of weeks making music inspired by space. A group of 5 or 6 children will learn the trumpet each half term.

**Year 6: Fir class** will be looking at how music is adapted for different situations by looking at how they can change rhythm, timbre, dynamics, lyrics etc to make it sound different. After half term all our efforts will be going into their end of year show.

**All classes** will be learning a song for the singing competition at the end of the first half term.

### **Music in Assembly**

We listen to music in assembly each day and this term we are continuing with a different genre of music every week. The children are really enjoying experiencing different music each week.

### **Instrumental lessons**

We offer a wide variety of instrumental lessons across all year groups. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument, please do not hesitate to get in touch to discuss the options available. We have vacancies for woodwind, string and brass lessons. I will be sending out details of lessons for September 2025 onwards toward the end of term.

### **Choir and ukulele clubs**

These clubs will be continuing for different age groups. Please look out for details of these clubs as appropriate to your child's year group.

**Summer concerts** Keep your eyes open on the website and in the newsletter for KS1 & KS2 concerts this term, we look forward to showing you some of the exciting things we have been doing in music this year.