



## St. Nicolas' CE Combined School Taplow

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## Music Curriculum News Autumn 2026

At St Nicolas we believe that music is at the heart of our school, it helps to make it the special place that it is. 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. This year, apart from the music curriculum laid out below I will be focussing on times table songs relevant to the needs of each year group and also take time for reflection and using music to boost our mental and spiritual well being.

### What will we be learning this term?

**Reception: Chestnut class** will be playing a variety of percussion instruments, learning lots of songs and laying the foundations to enjoy and appreciate music. We will be making music and singing songs to correspond with all their topics before moving on to Christmas play preparations after half term.

**Year 1: Elm class** will be listening to and making music about Autumn and creation to go alongside their RE work. We will also be listening to music from different continents and will focus especially on African music. After half term we will be enjoying music for Diwali, bonfire night and Christmas.

**Year 2: Ash class** will be using music to tell stories and will be using a variety of instruments, body percussion and songs to be creative. We will be studying the story and music of 'Peter and the Wolf' by Prokofiev to hear how music is used to tell a story. We will also learn some songs about London and the fire of London to go alongside their history and geography topics. After half term we will be concentrating on Christmas music and the Christmas play.

**Year 3: Oak class** will be travelling around Europe musically and meeting some of the great composers to learn about their music. After half term we will learn some Christmas songs from European countries.

**Year 4: Pine class** will be learning to play the Djembe drum. Through this instrument they will be developing their knowledge of music notation, learning to read and compose rhythms to play on their drums as well as learn a lot of African songs. After half term they will be using other percussion instruments to produce some firework music and enjoy some Christmas music.

**Year 5: Willow class** will spend most of the term looking at music of the Ancient Greeks and will be making music relating to Greek Gods as well as making musical sound pictures to retell ancient myths and legends. After half term they will also listen to and take part in a variety of Christmas music including playing some carols on hand bells. Each half term a small group of children will learn the trumpet and will be bringing a school trumpet home with them each week.

**Year 6: Fir class** will then be learning about and singing songs from the two world wars as well as studying music composed during the war years including Grazyna Bacewicz's Overture and Carl Davis' Last train to tomorrow. This will lead us into Christmas music and a performance for the carol service. We will be playing a range of percussion and tuned instruments during this term and developing their singing skills as well as consolidating all the musical learning they have enjoyed over previous years.

### **Music in Assembly**

We listen to music in assembly each day and each week will have a different focus. We hope the children will engage with all the different sorts of music that they hear and be able to articulate their own thoughts and opinions.

### **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.

### **Choir and ukulele clubs**

These free clubs will be continuing for different age groups. Please look out for details of these clubs as appropriate to your child's year group. Children are invited to join at the beginning of term as we then progress and practise ready for performances toward the end of each term.

Mrs Dobson     Music teacher