

Oxbridge Lane Primary School

Music Newsletter May—July 2025

July 2025

Dear Families,

Here at Oxbridge Lane, we pride ourselves in offering a rich and varied music curriculum. This term, the main focus has been performance on instruments. As always, we have continued to read notation, play musical games, listen to and talk about music from different eras and cultures and also develop instrumental skills on the glockenspiel. It's been a creative term with lots of challenges and new learning.



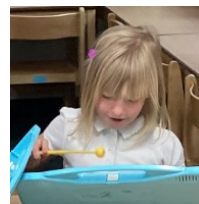
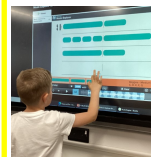
Reception have been busy learning a song called Big Bear Funk. They have practised keeping in time and adding actions. They even learnt a glockenspiel part to go with it, trying to play the riff 'DDC D' in the correct place. They listened to lots of pieces of music, dancing along and talking about what they liked or didn't like. Lastly, they practised copying rhythms and learning the names of different instruments, listening carefully to the sounds that they make. They even made up their own rhythms and musical patterns of sounds and silences.



Year 1 started to learn about musical notation, creating rhythms of sounds and silences using dot notation. They then tried to clap back the rhythms that they had made, keeping in time with their chosen backing track. They continued to revise the names of classroom percussion instruments, playing games to identify them from their sound. They learnt how to play B, A and G on the glockenspiel, keeping to the beat and playing different melodies and lastly, they listened to Scottish folk music, learning about some key instruments like bagpipes, accordions and fiddles.



The children in Y2 learnt about more orchestral instruments this term and played games to identify them from their timbres. They also listened to Bhangra music, learning about its origin. They created rhythms using block notation to represent 1, 2 and 4 beat notes with blanks to show rests. They worked hard to clap back the rhythms that they had created, keeping in time. Like Y1, they learnt a few pieces on the glockenspiels, using bouncy beaters to achieve a nice ringing sound.



In Y3, the children listened to Brit Pop music then Indonesian Gamelan. They learnt about several features of each style of music and talked about their opinions. They continued to learn about musical notation, introducing the staff (musical ladder) to show pitch. They learnt 3 notes: middle C, D and E. Lastly, they have been working hard to play the ukulele. They have learnt 3 chords and played a few pieces of music. It's been great fun! In Y4, the children have revised all their notation skills and listened to some music from the Caribbean, listening out for the steel drums. They have spent a lot of their time learning how to play rhythms on Djembe drums using tone, bass and slap pitches.



Music club put the finishing touches to the pieces that they had been working on and performed for their families. What an amazing job they did! Goodbye to our Y6 members, many of whom have shown dedicated commitment to the club for several years. The small instrumental groups (ukulele, recorder and keyboard) have continued to make fabulous progress and enjoyed playing for their classmates.

Year 5 and 6 have worked hard revising their notation skills, playing melodies on glockenspiels by sight (with very little practise). Y5 listened to orchestral music from the romantic era and then to some pieces from Africa. They talked about the textures, timbres, dynamics, tempo and their opinions of the pieces. Both year groups have learnt the recorder, learning the notes B, A and G. They have worked hard to get a nice sound from their instruments and play in time with each other.

