

Subject Leader Report 2021/22 - Music

Music is a valued part of the curriculum at Forefield Junior School. It allows all learners to be creative and express themselves through a form of art, and allows many to flourish and enjoy opportunities to perform and grow in confidence and self-esteem. It is an integral part of our curriculum, and we aim for all children to enjoy and achieve.



The music curriculum during the school year 2021-22 was planned and delivered by the Junior Jam team. The topics taught were similar in all year groups but adapted to suit the age and ability of each year group, so all children took part in similar opportunities and all experienced a wide range of instruments and musical styles throughout the year, at a level appropriate for their stage of learning.

The curriculum covered all elements of music, including music theory, familiarising children with stave notation, performing, improvising and composing, alongside listening and appraising activities, through the teaching of boomwhackers, African djembe drums, glockenspiels and more.



Singing returned to Forefield, like all schools, as a much-needed and welcomed part of school life after the restrictions of previous years, and extra-curricular clubs began to run once more. I ran a Makaton signing club which included singing, where groups of year five and year six learned to sing and sign a range of songs, including performances in assembly. The year three recorder group began which

was a great success, with a number of those children continuing right through the year, making great progress and now are a year four recorder group. Many children resumed their music lessons with the peripatetic teacher from Musical Minds, who teaches a very full timetable of 1:1 and small group lessons, enabling children to learn piano, guitar or drums. These lessons continue to be a great success and are highly subscribed.



This year's Arts Week was a great success! The theme was the animal kingdom, and the Performing Arts played a large part in the week's activities. I worked closely with Mrs Schwartz to establish a focused topic area for each year group, with specific pieces of music to use for listening and appraising activities, along with the opportunities for singing and playing, composing and evaluating music work alongside the other arts within the wider Arts Week. Dance was incorporated into the week's timetable too, with links being forged between expressive and performance arts.



We were delighted to be able to re-institute the Year Six Leavers' Celebration at the end of the school year, culminating in a celebration of singing, dance and drama, showcasing the talents of our fabulous leaving pupils. Dance lessons as part of the PE curriculum began to be re-introduced in the summer term, as restrictions allowed it, and have now returned to full strength across the school.



As a school we continue to strive to ensure our Pupil Guarantee aims are achieved, making sure our pupils have regular experiences of the arts, on stage, as an audience and as an artist/musician, enjoying a range of styles and influences.



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