**MUSIC – ‘Little Lessons’ Year 8**

**All these ideas are linked to Unit 22: The Blues. In this unit you will be carrying out in depth research about the history, culture and features of blues music. You will be listening to a variety of blues music from country blues to rock blues, from Robert Johnson to Amy Winehouse, from the work songs and gospel music of the slaves to modern day blues singers and much in between. You will learn about 12 bar blues structure and how to improvise using the ‘blue scale’. You will compose your own ’12 bar blues’ songs.**

**Reading:-**

**Research the origins of blues music which owes its roots to the slave trade. This research can also include the lives of many early blues singers such as Robert Johnson, ‘Ledbelly’, Muddy Waters, BB King, Bessie Smith and Etta James. Your research could take the form of a project similar to your reggae projects in terms of finding out about the history, culture, musical features and artists.**

**Listening:-**

**Listen to a variety of music in the blues genre including those artists already mentioned. Make some comparisons between country and city blues and listen to how blues has evolved over the years from ‘old school’ blues artists to more modern blues singers like Eric Clapton, Duffy and Amy Winehouse. Create a playlist of your favourite blues songs which includes some song reviews.**

**Performing/composing:-**

**Look at the lyrics to Bessie Smith’s ‘Thinking Blues’ and notice the rhythm and rhyming pattern of each verse ie 3 lines to a verse and lines 1 and 2 are repeated. Have a go at writing your own 12 bar blues song lyrics using the same pattern and rhyming structure. Themes could include school, homework, relationships, friendships etc**