

Yearly Subject Leader Overview: **Music**

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS	Exploring Sound Exploring how to use our voice and bodies to make sounds, experimenting with tempo and dynamic when playing instruments, and identifying sounds in the environment.	Celebration Music Learning about music from a range of cultural and religious celebrations, including Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas.	Music and Movement Creating simple actions to well-known songs, the children learn how to move to a beat and express feelings and emotions through movement to music.	Musical Stories Moving to music using instructions and changing movements to match the tempo, pitch, or dynamics. The children recognise that music and instruments can convey moods or represent characters and play instruments as part of a group story.	Transport Identifying and copying sounds produced by different vehicles using voices, bodies, and instruments. The children identify tempo changes and understand how symbols can represent sound.	Big Band Exploring what makes a musical instrument and how instruments are grouped into different families. Pupils develop their sense of beat using untuned percussion instruments before performing a song to a small audience.
Year 1	My favourite things: Keeping the Pulse Learning how to keep a steady pulse, pupils take part in music and movement activities inspired by their favourite things. They move to the beat of the music while expressing	Snail and Mouse: Tempo Using voices, bodies, and instruments to listen and respond to different pieces of music, pupils learn and perform a rhyme and song with a focus on tempo. Through the	Seaside: Dynamics Exploring the connection between sound and the environment, pupils work together to create a seaside soundscape using percussion instruments, vocal sounds, and body	Fairytales: Sound Patterns Examining a range of fairytales, pupils identify key moments in each story. They clap and read simple sound patterns linked to different characters, then use these	Superheroes: Pitch Exploring pitch by identifying high and low notes and listening to contrasting musical sounds. Pupils experiment with combining different pitches to compose a simple superhero	Under the Sea: Musical Symbols Exploring the depths of the sea through music, movement, musical symbols and tuned percussion instruments. Pupils interpret musical symbols, translate

	and responding to objects and experiences that are meaningful to them.	adventures of the snail and mouse, they explore how the tempo can help shape a musical story.	percussion. They vary dynamics to create contrasts between loud and soft sounds.	patterns to retell the stories through sound and movement.	melody that reflects the character's personality and actions.	visual cues into sound and use tuned percussion to represent the underwater world.
Year 2	Animals: Call and Response Developing rhythm and pulse through chanting call-and-response sound patterns and performing with untuned percussion instruments. Pupils create and echo rhythmic ideas while responding to each other's chants to build musical communication and performance skills.	Musical Storytelling: Instruments Exploring longer pieces of music, pupils look at how music can tell a story through a variety of instruments. They think creatively, considering how sounds can represent characters, actions and emotions when creating a soundscape to tell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.	On this Island: Singing Identifying how music can represent different environments by singing songs and creating contrasting soundscapes. Pupils use instruments, body percussion, and folk songs to evoke the atmosphere of three different landscapes.	Space: Contrasting Dynamics Developing their understanding of contrasting dynamics, pupils listen to music inspired by planets and use these examples to create their own compositions. They explore how loud and soft sounds can represent the unique characteristics of different planets.	Myths & Legends: Structure Investigating musical structure by listening to, analysing and performing a song based on a well-known myth. Pupils identify sections and sound patterns within the music before using voices and instruments to perform short musical phrases that help tell a story.	Musical Me: Pitch Developing pitch awareness through learning the song 'Once a Man Fell in a Well' and recreating its melody using tuned instruments. Pupils connect sounds to specific pitches and begin to understand how simple symbols can be used to represent musical notation.
Year 3	Ballads Children learn what ballads are, how to identify their features, and how to convey different emotions when performing them. Using an animation as inspiration, children carefully select vocabulary to describe the story, before turning them into lyrics by incorporating	Creating compositions in response to an animation (Theme: Mountains) Learning to tell stories through music. Listening to music and considering the narrative it could represent. Paying close attention to the dynamics, pitch, and tempo and how they change. Creating	Developing Singing Technique (Theme: Vikings) The children develop their singing technique. Learning to keep in time and work on musical notation and rhythm, the unit finishes with a group performance of a song with actions. OR	Pentatonic Melodies and Composition (Theme: Chinese New Year) Revising key musical terminology, playing and creating pentatonic melodies, composing a piece of music using layered melodies. OR	Jazz Learning about ragtime style music, traditional jazz and scat singing. Children create a jazz motif using a swung rhythm. OR Reggae Rhythms: Playing in a Band	Traditional Instruments and Improvisation (Theme: India) Children listen to a range of rag and tal music, identifying traditional instruments as well as creating their own improvisations and performing as a class. OR

	rhyming words and following the structure of a traditional ballad OR Mountain Melodies: Steps and Leaps Investigating melody and pitch through using graphic scores to identify changes in pitch by step, leap or repeated note. Pupils compose short melodic pieces inspired by mountain drawings, then experiment with dynamics and movement to bring their musical landscapes to life.	original compositions to match an animation, building up layers of texture. OR Reading Rhythms: Patterns and Layers Exploring pulse, rhythm and body percussion while developing confidence in reading, creating and performing rhythmic patterns. Pupils build their understanding of note values and rests before composing, notating and performing their own four-beat rhythms as part of an ensemble.	Inspired by India: Musical Improvisations Exploring traditional Indian music and the art of improvisation by using the pentatonic scale and simple musical techniques. Pupils create short improvisations and experiment with pitch, dynamics and tempo to express different moods and musical ideas.	Music Technology: Introduction to Music Technology Studying sampling as a modern compositional technique, pupils discover how existing sounds can be transformed into new musical ideas. Pupils use Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform to edit audio samples, experiment with looping and layering and develop their own digital compositions.	Discovering reggae through some of Bob Marley's most iconic songs, pupils learn simplified bass lines, basic chords and the concept of the offbeat. Pupils combine these musical elements to rehearse and perform collaboratively in their own reggae bands.	Baroque Meets Pop: Building Harmony Discovering how Baroque music's bold musical ideas continue to inspire modern pop songs. Pupils identify key features of the Baroque style before learning and performing patterns and motifs in their own Baroque-inspired piece.
Year 4	Rock and Roll Learning about the origin and features of rock and roll music, pupils learn how to play the Hand Jive and Rock Around the Clock, looking specifically at a walking bass line, before performing a piece as a class.	Change in Pitch, Tempo and Dynamics (Theme: Rivers) Learning to listen to changes in pitch, tempo, and dynamics and relate it to something tangible and familiar. Linking to their geography learning, the pupils represent different stages of the river	Body and Tuned Percussion (Theme: Rainforests) A topic of discovery; children will explore the rainforest through music and be introduced to new musical terms. They will also use a mixture of body percussion and tuned percussion	Haiku Music and Performance (Theme: Hanami Festival) This Japanese inspired topic looks at the springtime festival of Hanami, which celebrates the fleeting beauty of spring flowers. Children use descriptive vocabulary	Adapting and Transposing Motifs (Theme: Romans) Drawing upon their understanding of repeating patterns in music, pupils are introduced to the concept of motifs. OR	Samba and Carnival Sounds and Instruments (Theme: South America) Getting a feel for the music and culture of South America, children are introduced to samba and the sights and sounds of the carnival.

	OR Singing in Parts: Loops and Layers Developing vocal technique, confidence and control by singing in rounds and performing musical loops. Pupils build independence, timing, and listening skills while collaborating to create layered group performances.	through vocal and percussive ostinatos, culminating in a final group performance. OR Musical Motifs: Reading the Stave Developing an understanding of musical notation by learning how notes move higher and lower on the stave through reading, playing and composing short musical motifs. Pupils apply their understanding by recognising patterns within musical phrases, creating motifs for characters, and performing compositions using stave notation.	instruments as the children create their own rhythms of the rainforest, layer by layer. OR Sounds of China: Scales and Structure Examining traditional Chinese music through listening, improvising and performing, pupils deepen their understanding of the pentatonic scale. They create their own improvisations with a focus on structure and contrast, while developing collaborative and creative thinking skills through group performance.	to create a Haiku, put it to music, and finally add percussion sound effects to bring all elements together before a final, group performance. OR Music Technology: Loop Based Composition Developing digital literacy through music technology, pupils create and manipulate musical loops. They turn simple motifs into catchy loops using Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform. Pupils layer sounds and compose complementary parts to create their own digital compositions.	12 Bar Blues: Playing in a Band Exploring the history of blues music through listening, singing and playing, pupils recognise key features of the genre. They play bass lines and chords, sing simple blues melodies and experiment with improvisation to understand how these elements create the distinctive sound of the blues.	OR Minimalist Melodies: Developing Patterns Exploring minimalist music, pupils recognise how simple musical ideas can develop into engaging compositions. By listening to key minimalist works, they identify how recurring motifs and subtle musical changes create interest, before using minimalist techniques to compose their own pieces.
Year 5	Composition Notation (Theme: Ancient Egypt) Based on the theme of Ancient Egypt, children learn to identify the pitch and rhythm of written notes and	Blues Children are introduced to this famous genre of music and its history and learn to identify the key features and mood of Blues music and its	South and West Africa Children learn 'Shosholoza', a traditional South African song, play the accompanying chords using tuned percussion	Composition to Represent the Festival of Colour (Theme: Holi Festival) Exploring the associations between music, sounds and	Looping and Remixing In this engaging topic, children learn about how dance music is created, focusing particularly on the use of loops.	Musical Theatre Children learn how singing, acting, and dancing combine to create an overall performance.

	experiment with notating their compositions, developing their understanding of staff notation. OR Music in Nature: Chords and Melodies Drawing inspiration from the power of nature, pupils compose short melodies to reflect different moods of the sky. They experiment with pitch, dynamics and harmony, using simple chords to add depth and atmosphere to their performances.	importance and purpose. They also get to grips with the 12-bar Blues and the Blues scale, and combine these to create an improvised piece with a familiar, repetitive backing. OR Three Chord Pop: Playing in a Band Learning about the features of pop music while singing and performing as a band. Pupils learn a bass line, chords and melody for a well-known pop song, develop singing and rehearsal techniques and use musical elements to create an energetic and confident final performance.	and learn to play the djembe. They will also learn a traditional West African drum and add some dance moves ready to perform the song in its entirety. OR West African Rhythms: Create, play & perform Exploring the rhythms of West Africa, pupils experience the energy of traditional ensemble music. They learn how rhythmic patterns fit together and take responsibility for different parts, combining rhythms collaboratively to create layered textures.	colour; composing and performing their own musical composition to represent Holi, the Hindu festival of colour that celebrates the beginning of spring and the triumph over good and evil. OR Music Technology: Podcasts and Jingles Exploring the world of podcast production through music and audio technology, pupils use Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform, to produce their own podcasts. They record and edit spoken audio, create original jingles, and develop their mixing skills by balancing, arranging, and enhancing recordings.	OR Stage and Song: Storytelling through Music Exploring musical theatre and how music helps to tell stories through solos, duets and ensemble performances. Pupils explore how composers use musical elements to create mood and develop narrative before extending their vocal skills through singing in 3/4 time and performing across a wider vocal range.	OR Samba Sounds: Rhythm and Groove Discovering the energy and traditions of Brazilian samba and its role in Carnival celebrations. Pupils learn about samba instruments and rhythmic patterns before working collaboratively to rehearse and perform as part of their own samba band.
Year 6	Dynamics, Pitch and Texture (Theme: Coast)	Baroque Exploring the music and composers of the Baroque Period and	Film Music Exploring and identifying the characteristics of film	Theme and Variations (Theme: Pop Art) Children explore the musical concept of	Songs of World War 2 Developing greater accuracy in pitch and control; identifying	Composing and Performing a Leavers' Song

	Exploring 'Fingal's Cave' by Felix Mendelssohn and further developing improvisation and composition skills. OR Four Chord Pop: Playing in a Band Exploring the key features of pop music, including harmony, rhythm, and ensemble performance, and how music can express shared feelings and experiences. Pupils develop vocal and instrumental skills before combining bass lines, chords, rhythms and harmonies to perform confidently as a pop band.	investigating the structural and stylistic features of their work. OR Songs that speak: Lyrics and messages Exploring how songs communicate messages through lyrics, musical elements and performance, using the song 'Hall of Fame' as a context for learning. Pupils analyse song lyrics, write and perform their own verses, accompany them with chords, and refine their performances to communicate a clear message to an audience.	music; creating a composition and graphic score to perform alongside a film. OR Bhangra Beats: Global Grooves Discovering the rhythms, melodies and cultural traditions of Punjabi music and dance by listening, performing and experimenting with musical ideas. Pupils develop their understanding of rhythm and melody before composing and performing their own Bhangra-inspired piece.	theme and variations and discover how rhythms can 'translate' onto different instruments. OR Music Technology: Film Soundtracks Exploring how music and film work together to create mood, atmosphere and meaning, pupils use Kapow Music Maker, a bespoke browser-based platform, to synchronise sound with video. They identify key musical features in film and enhance film clips with sound effects, loops, and original musical ideas.	pitches within an octave when singing and using knowledge of pitch to develop confidence when singing in parts. OR Theme and Variations: Developing Melodies Investigating the musical form of theme and variations through combining a range of composition techniques. Pupils experiment with changing rhythm, pitch, dynamics and texture to transform a simple theme and compose their own contrasting variations.	Children spend the topic creating their very own leavers' song personal to their experiences as a class. OR Leavers: Our story in a song Composing and performing an original leavers' song in pop bands. Pupils combine bass lines, chords, melody and song structure while crafting lyrics using rhythm and rhyme to create a collaborative performance reflecting their time at school.
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