

Whole Class Instrumental Tuition – Year 4

Pupils from Year 4 take part in the Whole Class Instrumental Tuition programme which is delivered once a week during term time. The WCIT programme has two integrated threads, **foundation activities** in which general musicianship skills are explored, practised and developed, and specialist **instrumental tuition** in which the children are taught how to play the flute or clarinet leading to experiences of ensemble playing, improvisation and performance. These two strands complement each other so that the instrumental learning takes place in the context of other musical activities. This ensures a richer, holistic approach that leads to the acquisition of broader skills and understanding whilst offering children a taste of what is involved in learning to play an instrument. Through taking part in the WCIT Programme the children gain a nationally recognised award which is the Arts Award – Discover. To achieve Discover, the children discover the arts around them, find out about artists and their work and share their experiences with others, gaining a certificate at the end.

Most lessons begin with warm-ups designed to prepare pupils for holding and playing the instruments and to link with other work, both to consolidate understanding and introduce new ideas.

During the first term pupils are expected to;

- understand slower, faster, louder, quieter, higher, lower, start, stop
- play singing games with actions to develop their sense of rhythm and pulse
- play rhythm games including imitating and improvising
- discuss expressive qualities and how music affects how they feel
- have experience of physical responses – tapping, clapping, moving to music

Naturally, all children develop at different rates and these areas should continue to be reinforced throughout the WCIT year.

During the WCIT programme the children should learn:

- to value the experience of playing an instrument in an ensemble and to develop independent learning skills and develop their social skills
- to develop aural discrimination and aural memory skills
- to develop an inner musical “thinking” voice
- to develop technical control of the voice and instrument
- to explore and play rhythmic and melodic patterns
- to create and develop musical ideas
- to play simple pieces, developing individual and ensemble skills and linking sound to visual signals/ written symbols
- to reflect on and evaluate their own performances and those of others
- how music reflects the time and place in which it is created and in particular the musical context of the instrument they are learning
- to develop an awareness of performance and non-performance situations, to rehearse and to perform