

Music Long Term Plan

Year Group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Keeping the Pulse: My favourite things Children explore keeping the pulse together through music and movement, by exploring their favourite things. 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 adventures of the snail and mouse, they explore how tempo can help shape a musical story. Learn and perform nativity songs as part of Nativity Play performance	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 percussion. They vary dynamics to create contrasts between loud and soft sounds. Sound patterns (Fairy tales) Examining a range of fairy tales, pupils identify key moments in each story. They clap and read simple sound patterns linked to different characters, then use these patterns to retell the stories through sound and movement.	Pitch: Superheroes 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 melody that reflects the character's personality and actions. Musical Symbols: Under the sea Exploring the depths of the sea through music, movement, musical symbols and tuned percussion instruments. Pupils interpret musical symbols, translate 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.	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. 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.	Myths and 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	Unit 1: South Africa (Instrumental lessons) Whole-class instrumental lessons on tuned percussion. This South Africa-themed unit develops pupils' rhythmic, singing and notation skills. 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 before experimenting with dynamics and movement to bring their musical landscapes to life.	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. Unit 2: The Caribbean (Instrumental lessons) Learning about the history and features of calypso music, performing a calypso-style song with voices and tuned percussion in multiple parts and playing from staff notation.	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. Using music technology, they edit audio samples, experiment with looping and layering and develop their own digital compositions Reggae rhythms: Playing in a band 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.
Year 4	South America (Instrumental lessons) Learning about the history and features of Latin America music, performing a salsa style song and playing from staff notation; performing a mini carnival using a range of performance techniques including song, dance, tuned and untuned musical instruments.	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	Indonesia (Instrumental lessons) Discovering the features of gamelan music including the Slendro scale and cyclical rhythmic patterns, identifying traditional gamelan instruments, learning about the concept of an octave, exploring how different timbres are used in gamelan music

	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.	characters and performing compositions using stave notation. 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.	Musical technology: Loop -based composition Developing digital literacy through music technology, pupils create and manipulate musical loops. They turn simple motifs into catchy loops using music software, then layer sounds and compose complementary parts to create their own digital compositions
Year 5	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. India (Instrumental lessons) Learning and understanding the history and key features of Bollywood films, how ambient sounds can be used to enhance a film score, practising staff notation and performing a film sequence using instruments and movement.	West African Rhythms: Create, play and 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. North America (Instrumental lessons) Exploring minimalism and the music of composers like Philip Glass and Steve Reich, children learn to identify music features such as interlocking patterns and layered textures. They learn to sing and play the piece 'Interlocking patterns' as they apply their skills reading staff notation and playing tuned percussion.	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. 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	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. 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 Technology: Film soundtracks 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. Themes 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.	Y6 Leavers performance