

'Let the music play!' – Music based home learning opportunities



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Whilst at home, you may like to take the time to further enjoy musical learning opportunities. We recognise and appreciate the physical, mental, social and emotional benefits of engaging in musical experiences and wish to share some ideas with you. This is not an exhaustive list. Some of these ideas may or may not be appropriate for your child, but do feel free to use, adapt, or share any of these ideas and suggestions. They may just provide a starting point to explore musical ideas such as rhythm, tempo and melody.

Rhythm, tempo and dynamics

- Clap or tap the syllables to words of different lengths. E.g – caterpillar would be four syllables (cater-pil-lar).
- Make a home-made drum kit! Find household objects which create a range of different sounds when struck with a hand or home-made beater (a spoon works too!). Can you play slowly? Can you play quickly? Can you play loudly? Can you play quietly?
- Use body percussion (different parts of the body) to perform a pattern (e.g. – hand clap, hand clap, knee slap, click) to well-known songs. Try performing using body percussions to songs of different speeds (tempos).

Melody

- Melody is just a fancy word for the 'tune' of a piece of music. Can you hum a melody? Can you whistle a melody? See if a family member can guess the melody you are performing!
- Don't forget to sing! Do sing along with the songs you love. Can you use a high, middle and low voice?
- If you have an instrument at home such as a keyboard or xylophone – have a go at creating your own melodic patterns. What notes did you use? How could you write your pattern down to share with others?

Dance

- Try out some new dance moves! Dance is a great expression of how music makes us feel. Try dancing to some different types and styles of music. Notice how you move differently and respond to the music you hear...
- Create a dance routine! Can you put dance moves together in sequence to create a routine? There are also some classic routines already out there should you wish to learn one! (E.g – Saturday Night by Whigfield, Cha Cha slide by Mr C to name but a few!). Stay active!
- Get inspiration from others. YouTube contains some excellent examples of dancers in action. My personal recommendations would always contain the dance performances of the street dance act 'Diversity' (inspirational!), but there have been some amazing acts on TV shows such as 'The Greatest Dancer' and 'Strictly Come Dancing'. *Please do consider internet safety when online.*

Research

- Create a fact-file of information about a musical act or artist you enjoy and appreciate. This could be created in Powerpoint, Publisher or Word – or even on paper.
- Create an album cover for an artist of your choice. What kind of pictures might you draw/include? What other information might an audience need to know? You could even create an album cover for yourself! If this was *your* album, what might it be called? What might it sound like? What might the album artwork look like? Be creative!

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."
Plato (CLASSICAL GREEK PHILOSOPHER, MATHEMATICIAN)

I hope music continues to enrich your lives over the upcoming weeks – let the music play on!

With kindest regards,

Miss Swarbrick
Music and Media Teacher