



Lydgate Junior School

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June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION – September 2018 Start

We are again pleased to be able to offer instrumental tuition to children **who are not already receiving** tuition from a peripatetic music teacher.

At Lydgate we have a long tradition of instrumental music making which, for many years, has enabled children to participate as members of the School Orchestra. This group meets weekly and, in their rehearsals, children are taught a whole range of skills which they need in order to participate successfully in ensemble music. Governors have agreed that those who seek instrumental tuition in school are, therefore, expected to progress to the orchestra as soon as the music coordinators consider it appropriate for them to do so.

We must emphasise, however, that as instrumental tuition is not an entitlement under the National Curriculum, we need the active support of parents to assure the future of the very strong music tradition in our school. This support takes many forms, including encouraging children to practise on a regular basis and to remember their instrument and music for lessons and ensemble practices. There is a further understanding that needs to be established even before children are allocated an instrument. Instrument lessons take place during normal school session time and it is inevitable that there will be occasions when children will miss some teaching. Whilst reasonable efforts will be made to reduce this to a minimum, we can give no undertaking that what is missed can be made up in class. Instrumental tuition usually means a child missing about 20 minutes of curriculum time per week.

Therefore, we want parents and children to understand that in accepting any offer of instrumental tuition one of the outcomes will be missed class lesson time (or play time). The school uses a mix of private peripatetic music teachers and those provided by Sheffield Music Hub.

There are two requirements of music making which require funding. They are **instruments** (their purchase and maintenance), **tuition** (the net cost to the school in “buying in” teaching time) and **books and sheet music** – we have a vast library but this requires replacements and new scores. The way in which these components are funded is as follows:

- 1. An instrumental loan charge of £40 per academic year if a School Instrument is provided or an instrumental loan charge of £13 per term should the Sheffield Music Hub provide an instrument.** This covers routine maintenance but does not include accidental damage through misuse. **Please also note that there is a refundable deposit of £40.00 for all instruments hired through the school.**
- 2. A termly tuition fee.** Payments for tuition are made to the school using ParentPay. At the time of writing, costs are **£70** per term for shared lessons or **£134** per term for individual lessons. There will be 33 lessons per school year.



We are a Rights Respecting School that delivers an engaging and exciting education for all.

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It has been suggested to us that we should indicate to parents the cost of private tuition outside school. You could expect to pay at least £15-£20 per half-hour lesson as well as having to purchase and maintain an instrument. We believe that the total package on offer through school is excellent value for those who really wish to be involved in instrumental music making.

Musical instrument tuition is an 'optional extra' as defined in the school's Charging and Remissions Policy and charges are applied. However, the inability to pay would not necessarily exclude any pupil who wished to learn an instrument. Nevertheless, instrumental music provision in school can now only be sustained with parental support and the extent to which support is available for those unable to pay is, of course, limited.

Parents may seek financial support from the school through the terms of the Charging and Remissions Policy. This is available from our website or on request from the school office. Additionally, the Sheffield Music Hub offers a bursary scheme, details of which are available from <https://www.sheffieldmusic.org> Both give details of qualification criteria and the application process.

Children who wish to begin learning will be allocated an instrument as soon as possible. In most cases, we aim to offer children their first choice of instrument but this cannot be guaranteed. Younger children may be offered an alternative instrument or encouraged to wait if the size of fingers or teeth problems would make it too difficult for them to learn their chosen instrument. In these cases, children will always have another opportunity later in their school life. **Please note that children must have their adult front teeth before they can learn a wind instrument (e.g. cornet, tenor horn, euphonium, flute or clarinet).**

We will notify each child of their allotted instrument as soon as possible. However, this cannot be done until all applications have been received so please bear with us if there appears to be a delay. Once each child has been allotted an instrument, the instrumental teacher will give them all the paperwork regarding payment and instrument hire. All pupils must have their instruments and the payments made as soon as possible before lessons can commence. All beginners will be allocated lessons together (a shared lesson). If there is a problem with a parent/carer not collecting an instrument or making a payment, this will delay the lessons for all the beginners. The first tuition fee **must be paid before lessons can begin** and failure to pay in advance may result in the school instrument being removed and lessons to cease.

Places for instrumental tuition are limited and we now operate a waiting list so that any available places can be filled by children who wish to start learning later in the year. If an instrumental teacher feels that a child is not making sufficient progress or putting in the required practice, they may recommend that the child ceases lessons in order to make way for another child on the waiting list.

We must emphasise the following points, should your child express an interest in playing:

- a) A commitment to daily practice of approximately 15 minutes is essential. Without this, progress will be minimal.
- b) Parental interest and support is vital. (You don't have to be musical, just prepared to listen and encourage).
- c) If a child uses a school instrument, it will be relinquished at the end of his/her stay in school. A replacement instrument may be provided on transfer to a comprehensive school but in the present financial climate, there is no guarantee.
- d) Larger instruments, e.g. cello, may need to be transported on lesson and orchestra days.

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- e) Instrumental tuition takes place in school session time and it is inevitable that children will miss some curriculum teaching. Lesson may also take place during break or over the lunch period and children may therefore miss their play time.
- f) Should your child choose to stop taking lessons; half a term's notice period is required. You will be liable for the cost of all lessons until the end of the notice period.

Please study the list of instruments on the attached slip carefully and indicate your choices in order of preference, with a maximum of three choices. **It is important that you number your choices in order of preference.** We do urge you to discuss with your child the responsibilities involved in having a musical instrument and do think carefully about which instrument he/she wishes to learn.

Please return the reply slip by **Wednesday 27 June** so that the selection process may begin as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr S Jones
Headteacher

To: Mrs Cooke - **BY WEDNESDAY 27 June 2018**

INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

My child would like to learn one of the following instruments:
(**IMPORTANT** Please mark 1st, 2nd or 3rd choice)

Instrument	Please tick	Order of preference
Violin	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cello	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Flute	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clarinet	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oboe	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tenor Horn	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cornet	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Euphonium	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If my child is selected, I note that fees will be payable and, on the basis of the illustrative charges, would undertake to meet the costs termly in advance. I also note that a half term's notice is required in order to cease lessons. I understand that I will be liable for the cost of all lessons until the end of the half term's notice period.

Signed (Parent/Carer)

Child's **Full Name**: **Class**.....