7 September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

**Music Opportunities 2023-4**

I am very glad to welcome back your children and to already have such excitement among them for the musical opportunities available this year. I would like to outline what is on offer so that you have the chance to encourage your child to take part in our music offer as fully as possible.

We aim to provide a rich, broad and engaging music curriculum; I hope that the information below gives you a good idea of what we offer.

Kind regards,

Mrs Virgo

(Deputy Headteacher and Music Lead)

**Extra-Curricular Activities - Summary:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **KS** | **Timing** | **Provider** | **Cost** | **Enrollment** |
| KS1 Choir | KS1 | TBC – will take place during school day | KWS | Free | Email\* [music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk) |
| KS2 Choir | KS2 | Wednesdays, 3.10 -4pm | KWS | Free | Email\* [music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk) |
| Rocksteady | KS1&2 | Thursday afternoons | Rocksteady | £15 per month | To join waiting list, email\*  [music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk) |
| Windband | Y5/6 | Wednesday lunchtime | KWS | Cost of instrument only | Email\* [music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk) |
| Ukulele club | Y4-6 | Spring term, day TBC; will take place during school day | KWS | Free | Email\* [music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:music@kingswood.bucks.sch.uk) |
| Music lessons (Guitar, violin, Piano) | KS2 | Violin – Tuesdays  Piano – Fridays  Guitar – Fridays  Lessons take place during the school day. | Bucks Music Trust | £35 per term. Please check T’s & C’s on website | Sign up for lessons at  <https://www.bucksmusic.org/book-lessons-2/> |

\* Please be assured that I read all emails and will enroll your children as requested; I will only respond if there is an issue.

**Extra Curricular Opportunities**

**Key Stage 1:**

* Key Stage 1 Choir to begin after half term; this will take place during the school day. Choir is free of charge.
* Rocksteady: Rocksteady is a company who teach children rock instruments in ‘bands’ (bass guitar, electric guitar, drums, keyboard and vocals). The bands are currently full but I am happy to put children on a waiting list as places do become available from time to time. There is a charge for Rocksteady (£15 per month, except August).

**Key Stage 2:**

* Key Stage 2 Choir to begin next week, after school on Wednesdays. We will finish at 4pm. On 2nd February 2024, the choir will be taking part in the Young Voices concert at Wembley Stadium, joining up with other schools to form a choir of about 3,000 children! Parents are able to buy tickets to come and watch. After the Young Voices concert, the choir will focus on learning a repertoire to perform at a school concert. Please note that all choir members are expected to participate in the concerts. Choir is free of charge
* Windband (Y5/6) will start next week on Wednesday. This takes place during lunchtime. Children can choose their instrument from the following options:
  + NUVO DooD\* – a simple instrument with a clarinet style mouthpiece and sound
  + NUVO TooT\* – a simple instrument with a flute style mouthpiece and sound
  + Recorder

Children will need their own instruments but the sessions are free of charge.

\* details of NUVO instruments can be found here:

<https://www.dawkes.co.uk/search?query=dood>

<https://www.dawkes.co.uk/search?query=toot>

Please do not purchase instruments until a windband place is confirmed.

* Ukulele club (Y4-6) will start in the Spring term. This will take place during the school day, details to be confirmed. Instruments are provided and the sessions are free of charge.
* Rocksteady: Rocksteady is a company who teach children rock instruments in ‘bands’ (bass guitar, electric guitar, drums, keyboard and vocals). The bands are currently full but I am happy to put children on a waiting list as places do become available from time to time. Pupils already in Rocksteady bands do not need to re-enroll. There is a charge for this (£15 per month).
* Music lessons: Children can have small group lessons on instruments (usually in 2’s). The lessons take place in the school day and are delivered by specialist teachers from the Buckinghamshire Music Trust. Currently, we have teachers for guitar (Friday), violin (Tuesday) and piano (Friday). Although a higher price is quoted on the Music Trust’s website, we subsidise the cost to £35 per term.

If you would like to enroll your child for these lessons, please follow this link:

<https://www.bucksmusic.org/book-lessons-2/>

Please ensure you have read the terms and conditions on the Music Trust website, particularly the notice period.

Pupils already having music lessons do not need to re-enroll

**School Music Curriculum**

All children have music for 30 minutes per week in class. They have a broad range of musical experiences including singing, listening, learning an instrument and composing. The instruments we learn are as follows:

Early years – Untuned percussion

* Year 1 – Drums
* Year 2 – Violin
* Year 3 – Tuned percussion
* Year 4 – Ukulele
* Year 5 – Recorder
* Year 6 – Keyboard

To supplement this, we have a number of visits and workshops including:

* African Drumming workshop (EYFS and Y1),
* Whole class violin from the Chiltern Music Academy (Y2),
* Steel Pan workshop (Y3),
* The Utterly Butterly Ukulele project (Y4),
* Visit to the London Festival Hall to hear the London Philharmonic Orchestra (Y4),
* Brass and Woodwind workshop (Y5),
* Pipe Organ demonstration at All Saints Church, Marlow (Y6).

We also have KS2 music assemblies every Wednesday which involve learning in depth about key composers and musical pieces which have shaped the development of different musical styles and genres.

In June, we have our Music Week where a number of performers play for our children to inspire them and give them the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about musicianship, and to perform. In 2023, we had:

* Junk Orchestra
* Violin Performance
* Piano and violin duet
* Guitar performance
* Jazz band
* Children’s performances

More detail about our curriculum for music will shortly be added to the school website.