

July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Would your child like to learn a musical instrument?

All children at Edwinstree Middle School have class music lessons of 1x1 hour period per week. In addition to this we are pleased to be able to offer lessons in a wide range of instruments. The lessons are given by tutors who visit the school and are as follows:

Brass - Trumpet/Trombone/French horn	Mr M Peach
Clarinet/Saxophone/Oboe/Flute	Miss L Tunstill
Drums	Mr B Johnson
Guitar - Acoustic/Electric/Bass	Mr A Skelton
Piano/Keyboard	Mrs V Catton
Singing	Mr D Sheringham
Violin	Mrs C Ball

Choosing an instrument

Your child may already have an idea of the instrument that they wish to play. If not, you may wish to visit the Hertfordshire Music Service Website for further guidance:

<http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk>

Lesson format and fees

As instrumental tuition is additional to, and outside the school curriculum, fees are charged as follows:

Individual 15 minute lesson	£112.75	per term
Individual 20 minute lesson	£150.75	per term
Individual 30 minute lesson	£225.50	per term
Shared 30 minute lesson (2 pupils)	£112.75	per term
Group 30 minute lessons (3 pupils)	£ 77.00	per term

Peripatetic lessons are contracted at 33 per year and payment is divided equally over the academic year.

Some pupils are eligible for financial support. To be eligible, parents/carers need to be receiving one of the following benefits:

Income Support or income based Jobseekers Allowance
Child Tax Credit
Working Tax Credit
Housing Benefit
Council Tax Benefit
Pension Credit

Although you may have received notification of eligibility for financial support, you will need to contact the school to confirm that the funding has been allocated before lessons can proceed. If you are allocated full entitlement you will be required to pay a nominal fee of £20 per term.

Further details regarding eligibility can be found on the Herts direct website at:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/canhel> or you can telephone 01438 737370 for advice.

We encourage Year 5 pupils to initially begin with 15 or 20 minute lessons on one instrument. At the end of Year 5 the situation can be reviewed, subsequently increasing their lessons to 30 minutes should the music teacher and parents so wish.

I would ask you to note the County Regulations as follows:

- A deposit of half a term's fee will be required with the initial invoice and will be deducted from the final invoice upon termination of contract.

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- b) Fees must be paid in advance on receipt of an invoice. **Payment must be prompt – failure to pay by the start of a new term will result in your child being removed from the Music timetable and the debt being sent to Hertfordshire County Council debt collection department.**
- c) **A full half term's notice must** be given of an intention to cancel lessons by completing the attached 'Request to terminate agreement' that is located on your contract. (Please note that informing your child's tutor or a note in the ROA will not be acceptable as notice of termination). **Failure to do so will render the signed liable for the fees for an additional half term.**
- d) **IMPORTANT:- Cheque payments no longer accepted from 1st September 2015.**
Please note that from **1st September 2015** the school will no longer accept cheque payments. In view of this we have introduced a new service to enable parents to make payments to the school online. The service is called 'School Gateway' and you are now able to view school meal balances and make payments at any time. You can also pay for school visits, music fees, uniform, etc. online. We will continue to accept cash payments

If your child begins lessons in September we would expect them to continue at least until Christmas. Teachers are not employed on a day to day basis and they are entitled to a reasonable amount of notice of a change in their hours.

Obtaining an instrument

Pupils are expected to provide their own instruments; however, there are good hire schemes available from local instrument retailers so you may wish to have a term or so of lessons before deciding to buy. Hertfordshire Music Service also have an Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme with instruments at special educational prices that compare well with shops. Further details are available at: <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk>

Please ask your instrumental teacher for advice when deciding what to buy.

Making the most of the lessons

During lessons pupils will be taught the basic skills required to play their instrument; however, in order for your child to make the greatest progress it is essential that they are committed to regular practice.

Many pupils opt to take and are very successful in Associated Board and Guildhall School of Music examinations in all instruments and theory.

The Music Department runs a number of free lunchtime and after school music clubs. These provide an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop both their individual and ensemble skills and enable them to perform in a number of concerts throughout the year in front of their fellow pupils and parents. It is expected that if a child is in receipt of school instrumental lessons and they are of the appropriated standard, then they will contribute to at least one of Edwinstree's ensembles, as listed below:

Choir	Young Voices
Orchestra	Music Multi-Skills
Brass Band	

If you are interested in obtaining lessons for your child, please complete the attached Instrumental Request Form. A contract will be issued on the availability of lessons and lessons will commence once the **signed contract and invoiced payment** has been received.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rowlands
Head of Expressive Arts

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