

## Music

At St Mary's, music is a subject which continues to grow and develop. We take great pride in the fact that children are given many opportunities to enjoy musical experiences and build upon their creativity and social skills. Whether they are singing, dancing, listening, playing percussion instruments or being taught by a specialist teacher, children are increasing their knowledge and skills within this area of the curriculum.

St Mary's are thrilled to be a part of a Manchester-based programme called 'The Singing School', which supports and develops singing in the primary classroom. With a wealth of resources made available, as well as in-school training, the quality of singing and the increase in children's self-esteem and confidence has been remarkable. St Mary's takes pleasure in organising half-termly 'Singing Squares', where year groups are given the chance to perform a number of songs, which they have enjoyed singing within their classroom environment. These are not only a great way to build up an extensive song bank but also a wonderful way to celebrate children's success.

Music is embedded within the Foundation Stage and Key Stage one curriculum and the younger children enjoy singing the register, greeting each other in the morning and singing themselves to the carpet. They know a range of songs, which link with their everyday topics and are continually developing listening, rhythmical and counting skills. They also follow the 'Music In The Classroom' Scheme, which supports the use of tuned and non-tuned percussion instruments.

In Key Stage two, children receive weekly tuition from specialist teachers in the areas of African drumming and Steel pans. These are very interactive sessions, where the children have the hands-on expertise of a skilled musician and are encouraged to play in small groups and as a whole class. These sessions are valued greatly by all of the children and there are often opportunities to develop higher levels of responsibility and also peer teaching skills.