

How can parents and carers help?

There are lots of things you can do to help your child learn their instrument:

- Praise effort and offer encouragement (even when the instrument doesn't sound quite right!).
- Give a gentle reminder when there is practice to be done.
- Encourage your child to expect high standards of him or herself.
- Teach them to look after and respect their instrument, handling it carefully.
- **Make sure your child brings their instrument to school on Wednesdays and Thursdays so they have it with them for their lesson.**

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's music lessons and their instrument, please speak to your child's teacher – remember, they will be learning to play the instrument too!



September 2014

Learning A Musical Instrument



Fairholme School

Free musical instrument lessons for all children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

At Fairholme, we are committed to providing children with a rich and varied education. As part of this, we offer children learning opportunities which they might not have access to outside school. This includes loaning every child a musical instrument in Key Stage 2, and providing free, weekly lessons, with an expectation that the children will take the instrument home and practice during the week. Our class teachers also learn a musical instrument alongside the children with our specialist music teachers! Teachers from Hounslow Music Service, who are skilled in teaching instruments to children, come into school on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Why?

Learning an instrument develops musical skills, self-discipline and a love of a wide variety of different music. It also, coincidentally, improves maths and literacy skills, and teaches children about cooperation, team work and performance.

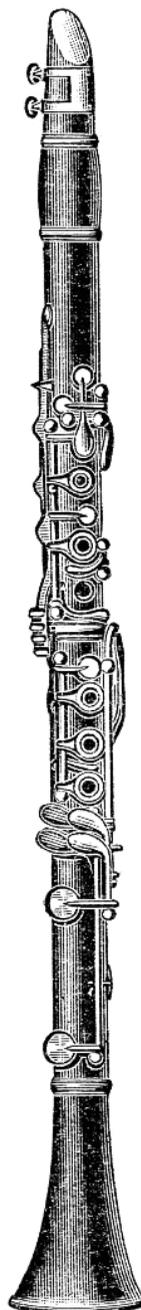
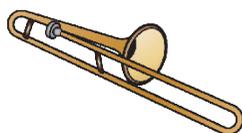
Our school motto is “We believe we can achieve”, and we believe that every child in the Fairholme Family has the ability to achieve, and the right to a broad and balanced curriculum. We promote all aspects of the curriculum, foster in children a love of reading and writing from an early age, and encourage everyone to become involved in the arts, whether that is through drama, singing, dancing, music making or practical art.

Which instrument?

Year 3 – Recorder

Year 4 and Year 5 – Clarinet, trombone and tenor horn (Eb)

Year 6 – Clarinet, trombone, euphonium and trumpet (Bb)



How to get the best out of your instrument

Learning an instrument is not always easy – in fact, quite the opposite! It requires perseverance (trying again and again even if it is difficult or doesn't sound right), discipline, practice, listening and cooperation and team work with others.

- Try and practise for 10 minutes every day in a quiet place at home (if you can't find somewhere at home, we may be able to find a place in school for you to practise).
- You won't be able to play perfectly immediately! Start with the basics and learn one step at a time.
- Your practising will sound terrible at first! ... But it will improve. Everyone wants to sound amazing from the moment they pick up a new instrument, but practice is hard. It requires effort and dedication.
- Keep your instrument in 'tip-top' condition – look after it! Always keep it in its case when you are not using it.
- Keep your music book(s) with your instrument so that you have everything together.
- Visit the Hounslow Music Service web site at <http://www.hounslowmusic.org.uk> If you scroll to the bottom of the page, you will find music and backing tracks which you can play along to. If you are in Year 3, click on Recorder (<http://www.hounslowmusic.org.uk/music/book.php?bookid=1>). For Year 4 and Year 5, use the 'Rubber Band' link and choose the Eb backing tracks (<http://www.hounslowmusic.org.uk/music/book.php?bookid=2>). For Year 6, click on 'Bigger Bounce' and use the Bb backing tracks (<http://www.hounslowmusic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/TheBiggerBounce.pdf>) or use the 'Rubber Band' link above. There are lots of songs and different pieces of music to choose from.
- **Remember to bring your instrument to school for your lesson on Wednesdays and Thursdays.**

