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Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Wider Opportunities Whole Class Instrumental Teaching Programme

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Following on from the success of introducing instrumental lessons last year we are once again able to provide weekly lessons for every child in Year 4 for a whole year. The project is called 'Wider Opportunities' and provides an important enhancement to our music curriculum. We are delighted to inform you that all children in Year 4 will begin to learn to play a musical instrument over this academic year. The children will all receive a weekly, whole class, lesson taught by a member of Solihull's music service alongside their class teacher. Each class will learn to play a different type of instrument, which will be as follows:

Class	Instrument	When
Mrs McClair	Clarinet	Wednesday afternoon
Mrs Wint	Clarinet	Wednesday afternoon
Mrs Hussain	Guitar	Friday afternoon

Each child will be issued with an instrument supplied by the Solihull Music Service; this instrument will be loaned free of charge for the rest of the academic year.

#### What is Wider Opportunities?

The wider opportunities programme allows children the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in curriculum time in a whole class setting for a full academic year. By engaging children in making and responding to music *wider opportunities* programmes allows pupils to:

- develop their understanding and appreciation of a wide range of different kinds of music, developing and extending their own interests and increasing their ability to make judgements of musical quality;
- acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to engage in high quality music making experiences
- develop skills, attitudes and attributes that can support learning in other subject areas and that are needed for life and work, for example listening skills, the ability to concentrate, creativity, intuition, aesthetic sensitivity, perseverance, self-confidence and sensitivity towards others.

At the end of the first year, all pupils are able to make an informed choice and to genuinely decide if they wish to continue to learn a musical instrument. Working closely in partnership with the music service, schools are then able to arrange for parents to buy in instrumental provision for those pupils who wish to continue learning the instrument of their choice during school time.

After the first few lessons in school, children will be required to take the instruments home to practice; the instruments must be back in school for every lesson (Wednesday for Mrs McClair's and Mrs Wint's classes, Friday for Mrs Hussain's class). Instruments are not sent home at the start of the year as pupils will need to gain essential knowledge and skills on how best to keep them instrument safe and in good condition. Whilst the instruments are at home and in transit they will be the responsibility of the parent. We hope you will encourage your child in this opportunity by readily accepting this responsibility.

Please complete the slip below accepting responsibility for the instrument and return it to school by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at the latest.

Thank you for you co-operation in this excellent opportunity for your child to participate in learning a musical instrument. We very much look forward to hearing the children's music making over the year.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr D. Wild  
Deputy Head Teacher

Year 4 Wider Opportunities Whole Class Instrumental Teaching Programme

Name of Child.....

Class.....

- I confirm that I accept responsibility for the above instrument whilst in transit and at home between lessons.
- I will ensure that the my child's instrument will be taken home and returned to school each Wednesday (Mrs McClair's/ Mrs Wint's class) or Friday (Mrs Hussain's class) for the duration of this academic year.

Signed.....

Date .....