

Music in the Curriculum

At Oughtibridge Primary School Music is a real strength. Music is an integral part of the primary curriculum and is taught to all children in exciting lessons designed to meet the National Curriculum needs of each year group.

At Oughtibridge we also pride ourselves in bringing music to life through strong cross curricular links. Each phase carefully designs the music curriculum to enhance the topic work being covered each term.

For instance, in a recent topic on WWII, Y5/6 children learnt several songs from this era, which they then performed for parents in their tea dance.



Years 3 and 4 had great fun in a topic titled 'Dungeons and Dragons'. Musical activities included learning an updated version of the local poem 'The Dragon of Wantley.' They then composed music to accompany and enhance various parts of the poem. Within this unit they also composed their own rap style music with a dragon theme!

In KS1 music is taught through the 'Music Express' Scheme of Work. Teachers match the topics in the scheme to their own class topics. In the Autumn Term, the music in KS1 was based around the singing for the ever popular Christmas Play.



In FS2 music is taught in the Expressive Arts and Design part of the Early Learning Goals. As well as discreet music lessons, teacher's plan continuous provision both indoors and in outdoor areas. The singing by our youngest pupils, for the Christmas play, is always eagerly anticipated by pupils, staff and parents alike.

Curriculum Enhancement

Music and Performance Poetry.

In October 2015 we held our 'Off by Heart - Pocket full of Poems' day. Each class in school learnt a different poem off by heart. In all classes children composed music or dances to accompany the poetry and the poems were performed for the whole school in a special poetry recital. Themes included WWII evacuees, a rewritten version of Beowulf, in the style of rap music and the poems about the Plague.



Music and ICT

Children use recording equipment, easi-speak microphones and Dictaphones and i-pads to record their own music, play it back and edit it.



Music in the Playground

At Oughtibridge Primary School we are very lucky to have excellent teaching assistants and midday supervisors who value enhancement of the curriculum at playtimes and lunchtimes. In KS1 the music and dance element of lunchtime play is always a popular choice with the children. To celebrate occasions such as Fit for Life Week, children have performed themed whole school dance routines set to popular music.



Extra Curricular Music

Children at Oughtibridge Primary School are given excellent scope to engage in music through a broad programme of extra curricular musical opportunities.

Wider Opportunities

All children in Y3 are given the opportunity to take part in the Sheffield Music Service Wider Opportunities programme. Mr Richard Smith, an outstanding violin teacher from the music service, teaches 24 children in a group to play the violin. He is supported in this by Mrs J. Allen, a teaching assistant in school. Throughout the year children learn and practise the violin and perform for their peers in assemblies.

Pathways

We have been very lucky this year to be able to offer children a place in the 'Pathways' programme also run by Mr Smith from Sheffield Music Service. Pathways is for children in Y4, Y5 or Y6 who have taken part in the Wider Opportunities in previous years. In 'Pathways' children continue to learn the violin in a smaller group. They also perform for their families at the end of the year. We have 13 children currently in the Pathways group.

The Orchestra

Mr Smith welcomes all instrument players into the school orchestra. The orchestra is run on Wednesday lunchtimes and Mr Smith is kindly helped by Mrs N Ward, a teaching assistant. We currently have flutes, violins and pianists in the orchestra. Children work towards performances in assemblies as well as a performance for their families in the summer term.

Specialist Tuition

Children from Y1 upwards are able to learn a musical instrument in school. Children are taught by specialist teachers from the Sheffield Music Service. As children progress they are able to take music exams in their chosen instrument.

We currently have children learning :



Violin

Children are taught in pairs or individually by Mr R Smith. We currently have 19 children learning to play the violin.

Guitar

Steve is our teacher from Ace Music. We currently have more than 20 children learning to play the guitar. Children are taught in pairs or individually.

Piano/Keyboard

Children are taught in pairs or individually by Mr A Dressler from the Sheffield Music Service. We currently have 9 children learning to play the piano.

Singing at Oughtibridge Primary School

Assemblies

At Oughtibridge a great emphasis is placed on quality singing. All children in school are involved in singing in many ways.

Children sing together on Mondays and Fridays in our whole school assembly. Every Thursday morning the assembly for FS1 and KS1 is a singing assembly. Our youngest children have fun learning a variety of songs and begin to learn how different musical elements can be used to create different moods and effects. The KS1 singing assembly was observed and highly praised in the Ofsted Inspection in 2013.

In assembly on Tuesdays it is the turn of KS2. All children in KS2 join in singing a variety of songs in different styles and from different eras. They build on the work in KS1 and begin to recognise how the different musical elements are combined to create mood and effect.

All for Fun

In addition to singing assemblies children in FS2 and KS1 have an extra chance to sing with their key stage. In the infants Friday afternoons include a 'Friday Fun' singing lesson. In these sessions children build on the skills taught in assemblies whilst singing fun songs in a large group.

The KS2 Choir

Any child in KS2 who enjoys singing is welcome in the KS2 choir on Mondays after school, which is run by Miss Holt and Mrs Allen and very kindly helped by Mrs Reid. The Autumn Term is very busy for the choir. The children learn approximately 10 songs and medleys by heart, which are then performed at the famous 'Young Voices Concert' at the Sheffield Arena. This year our children joined another 5,000 children from schools in Yorkshire to create quite literally a choir of thousands! Many of our children have never seen anything like it!



The Concert is an extremely rewarding day for our children. They arrive at the Arena for 1.30pm. The afternoon is then spent in rehearsals with a professional conductor and choir master. The children have a great deal of fun whilst learning new techniques and skills in singing. In the evening children perform for their families alongside a host of guest singers and performers. It is truly a night to remember.

Once the excitement of the Arena is over there is no time for our choir to take a break. Children are straight away involved in choosing, then learning songs to perform in the Musical Showcase at school.

Performances

An extremely important part of the music curriculum is performance. At Oughtibridge Primary School children are encouraged to perform in a safe, supportive environment in as many ways as possible.

Assemblies

Children in KS2 have the opportunity to perform in the KS2 singing assembly on Tuesdays. If children wish to perform as soloists or in groups they first practise their chosen piece (singing or another musical instrument) then approach the KS2 music teachers. Once children have performed their piece to the music teachers they can perform in Tuesday singing assemblies.

To date we have been entertained by performers playing clarinet, violin, flute, guitar and piano as well as vocalists and drummers. Children have performed many styles of music, from rock and pop, to classical and jazz.

Springtime Musical Showcase

For the last four years Oughtibridge has played host to their very own musical showcase. Children who learn instruments or sing, either in school or out of school, are kept busy during the spring term practising pieces for the showcase. As there are such a large number of children wishing to take part, children must audition for a place in the showcase. This creates a lovely, relaxed atmosphere in which children can perform their pieces and share their talents with the wider community. This annual event has proved very popular with children and parents alike and we are looking forward to another successful event this year.



Christmas at Oughtibridge Primary School

The Christmas Plays

All children in FS2, KS1 and lower KS2 perform at Christmas. Our Christmas plays promise a cast of thousands and the amazing and uplifting singing is always the "icing on the cake."

'Christmas is coming'

Each year, in the last week of the Autumn Term, the choir delight us with a variety of Christmas songs and carols and the promise that Christmas is most definitely on its way.

