

Music lessons at Blackhorse

Here at Blackhorse we want every child to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument alongside their whole class music lessons. Research has shown there are many benefits of learning music, including:

- Builds concentration: developing motor skills, reading, listening and working to improve your practice all need concentration
- Better memory and reading skills: Learning to read music and learn a piece of music builds these skills
- Improved co-ordination: You need to use both hands (and sometimes feet) to do different things when you are playing
- Better listening skills: you need to be able to follow instructions carefully and listen to your own playing
- A sense of achievement when a piece is learnt or performed

Most importantly, playing music is something you can do with others and is great fun! Where we can, we encourage the children to play and perform together as this gives them a joint sense of achievement. In the past few years musicians at Blackhorse have played in the School Orchestra (including a performance to the then Education Secretary!), performed on our charity single and joined the band at the Nexus concert at St George's Hall Bristol, as well as showing their musical achievements at regular school concerts.

If your child is interested in playing an instrument but isn't sure which one, this website has lots of information about the different instruments available to learn and you can see them all being played:

<https://www.encore-enterprises.com/choosinganinstrument>

At Blackhorse we currently offer lessons in:

- Strings: Violin, viola, cello, double bass
- Woodwind: Flute, recorder, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone
- Brass: Cornet, trumpet, trombone, tenor horn, French horn, tuba
- Piano
- Guitar and ukulele
- Drum kit and percussion

How are lessons arranged?

Some lessons are booked via the South Gloucestershire Music Hub and others are arranged directly with the instrumental teacher. We usually offer lessons from Year 3 upwards. It's best to be guided by what your child has showed an interest in, but if you're not sure whether a particular instrument would be suitable for your child, please speak to Miss Phillips. Alternatively, there is more information on this website:

<https://www.creativesoulmusic.com/news/what-instrument-should-your-child-play-based-on-their-personality>

When do lessons take place?

Lessons take place on the same day each week, depending on when the instrumental teacher is available. Most lessons are 20 minutes long and your child can have an individual lesson or share their lesson in a group of 2 or 3. We will make sure that your child does not miss out on their learning in the classroom during this time.

How much do lessons cost?

The cost of having lessons will depend on whether the lesson is shared with another child or is an individual one; individual lessons are more expensive but your child will have more specific tuition tailored to their playing. A group lesson will cost around £6-7 per lesson.

Should we buy or hire an instrument for our child?

It's best to hire an instrument initially until your child is sure that they are comfortable with it and want to continue their playing after the first couple of terms. Instruments can be hired from the South Gloucestershire Music Hub. If your child has been playing for a while and is enthusiastic about progressing then new and second-hand instruments are both available. Instrumental teachers will be able to advise on the best one to buy for your child.

If you would like to find out more, please email the school office:
office@blackhorsepri.org.uk