

Music Express Units linked to Year Group Themes

Year Group	Theme	Music Express Unit	Main Music Coverage	
Y1	Autumn 1 Welcome to Y1	Ourselves	Exploring sounds: explore ways of using voices expressively; develop skills of singing while performing actions, and create an expressive story.	
		Our School	Exploring sounds: explore sounds found in school environment; investigate ways to produce and record sounds, using IT to stimulate musical ideas.	
	Autumn 2 Are We There Yet	Travel	Performance: develop performance skills and learn songs about travel and transport from around the world.	
		Number	Beat: develop a sense of steady beat through movement, body percussion and instruments.	
	Spring 1 Land Before Time	Animals	Pitch: develop an understanding of pitch through movement, voices and instruments; identify contrasts of high and low pitches, create animal chant sounds and sequences.	
		Our Bodies	Beat: respond with bodies to steady beat and rhythm; experience combining rhythm patterns with steady beat, using body percussion.	
	Spring 2 Y1 Saves the World	Machines	Beat: explore beat through movement, body percussion and instruments; combine steady beat with word rhythms and explore changes in tempo.	
		Story Time	Exploring sounds: learn how music can tell a story; identify contrasts of fast and slow, loud and quiet, leading to a performance.	
	Summer 1 Garden of England	Pattern	Beat: develop an understanding of metre – groups of steady beat – through counting, body percussion and reading scores.	
		Water	Pitch: use voices, movement and instruments to explore changes of pitch; develop a performance with different vocal pitch shapes and tuned percussion.	
	Summer 2 Walking on Sunshine	Seasons	Pitch: develop vocabulary and understanding of pitch movements, exploring pitch through singing, tuned percussion and listening games.	
		Weather	Exploring sounds: use voices, movement and instruments to explore different ways music can be used to describe the weather.	
	Y2	Autumn 1 In Our Pride	Animals	Pitch: link animal movement with pitch movement to help develop understanding and recognition of changing pitch; interpret pitch line notation using voices and tuned instruments.
			Ourselves	Exploring sounds: discover ways to use voices to describe feelings and moods; create and notate vocal sounds, building to a performance.
Autumn 2 In a Dark, Dark House		Seasons	Pitch: develop understanding of pitch through movement, songs and listening games; become familiar with pitch shapes and perform them in a variety of musical arrangements.	
		Toys	Beat: move and play to a steady beat and to sound sequences; learn to control changing tempo as they take a scooter ride.	
Spring 1 What Did You Say		Number	Beat: explore steady beat and rhythm patterns; play beats and patterns from other cultures and	

			create body percussion, use voices and instruments.	
		Pattern	Beat: using simple notations, play, create and combine minibeast rhythms using body percussion and instruments.	
	Spring 2 Seaside Rescue	Water	Pitch: sing and play variety of pitch shapes, use movement and read from scores; create class composition which describes sounds and creatures of a pond.	
		Travel	Performance: learn a Tanzanian game song and accompany a travelling song using voices and instruments; listen to an orchestral piece and improvise their own descriptive 'theme park' music.	
	Summer 1 Down at the Bottom of the Garden	Land	Exploring sounds: explore timbre and texture and descriptive sounds; listen to, and perform, music inspired by myths.	
		Weather	Exploring sounds: create descriptive sounds and word rhythms with raps and songs about weather; create a descriptive class composition using voices and instruments.	
	Summer 2 Food Glorious Food	Our Bodies	Beat: develop a sense of steady beat through using bodies; respond to music and play rhythm patterns on body percussion and instruments.	
		Story Time	Exploring sounds: introduce famous pieces to stimulate composition; interpret a storyboard with sound effects, and develop their own ideas using voices and percussion.	
	Y3	Autumn Go Explore	Ancient Worlds	Structure: explore ancient Greece with music inspired by Orpheus, Echo and Theseus; perform a song cycle and a round, compose their own ostinati.
			Singing French	Pitch: enhance language learning through songs; introduce French greetings, vocabulary and numbers as they play lively singing games
Communication			Composition: learn to make music inspired by technology and computing; explore and compose sounds for earcons, emoticons, mobile phone ringtones, computer games and apps.	
Time			Beat: develop understanding of beat, metre and rhythm; combine melodic and rhythmic patterns, and use staff notation as part of a final performance.	
Spring Egypt		Sounds	Exploring sounds: how are sounds produced and classified? Explore timbre and structure through musical conversations in music from around the world.	
		China	Pitch: explore the pentatonic scale and ways of notating pitch; listen to traditional Chinese music, sing, read and compose music, ending in a musical celebration of Chinese New Year.	
		Ancient Worlds* Swapped from Y4	Structure: celebrate achievements of the 'Amazing Egyptians' and explore 20th century minimalist music inspired by the age of Akhenaten; arrange and perform a layered pyramid structure.	
		Building	Beat: sights and sounds of a building site provide inspiration for exploring and creating rhythms; play games, sing and compose music to build into a performance.	

	Summer Moorland Environment	Environment	Composition: explore songs and poems about places; create accompaniments and sound pictures to reflect sounds in local environment.
		In the Past	Pitch: origins of pitch notations introduced as they make hand signals and compose three-note melodies; learn basic dance steps and prepare a performance.
		Poetry	Performance: three contrasting poems are explored and developed; use voices, body percussion, instruments and movement to create expressive performances.
		Food and Drink	Performance: feast of chants, songs and performances; composing word rhythms, singing a round, and creating musical recipes to develop performance.
Y4	Autumn Island Invaders	Human Body **swapped from Year 3	Structure: skeleton dances and songs teach them about the human body; percussion instruments are used to improvise, create word rhythms, and build a final skeleton dance.
		In the Past	Notation: use a variety of notations to build performances from different periods and styles; learn a Renaissance dance, walk down the aisle to Wagner's Bridal march and dance the mashed potato!
		Singing Spanish	Pitch: sights and sounds of the Spanish-speaking world, including greetings, counting to twelve and playing a singing game; explore part-singing and accompaniments in four contrasting songs.
		Around the World	Pitch: explore pentatonic melodies and syncopated rhythms, learning that the fundamental dimensions of music are the same all over the world.
	Spring Who Cares	Food and Drink	Performance: cook up a musical feast; enjoy a varied diet of healthy beans, exotic Tudor banquets and DIY pizzas before celebrating in a song performance.
		Communication	Composition: create news programme, complete with theme music and school news headlines; using songs and raps to create musical news bulletin.
		Time	Beat: music featuring bells and clocks helps them understand rhythm and syncopation; learn to sing and play bell patterns, listen to an orchestral clock piece, and create descriptive music.
		Building	Beat: building-themed songs allow them to explore how music can be structured to provide different textures; use layers and rondo structure to combine ostinati played on body percussion and tuned instruments.
	Summer Endangered Environments	Environment	Composition: seasons and the environment provide the stimuli for compositions; make descriptive accompaniments and discover how environment has inspired composers throughout history.
		Recycling	Structure: make instruments from junk and use them to improvise, compose and play junk jazz music in a variety of different musical styles.
		Poetry	Performance: develop performances of continuing poems; use voices to speak

			expressively and rhythmically, and discover ways to create ostinato accompaniments to enhance performances.
		Sounds	Exploring sounds: after exploring how sounds are produced and classified, use voices to make beatbox sounds, sing four-part songs, and perform a jazzy round.
Y5	Autumn Voyage of Discovery	Solar System	Listening: embark on musical journey through solar system, exploring how universe inspired composers including Claude Debussy, Gustav Holst and George Crumb; learn a song, and compose pieces linked to space.
		Movies	Composition: explore music from 1920s animated films to present day movies; learn techniques for creating soundtracks and film scores, and compose their own movie music
	Spring Expanding Empires	Keeping Healthy	Beat: from body-popping and gospel-singing to swimming and cycling, they are taken through their paces, and they put together an invigorating performance using new musical techniques.
		Community	Performance: song Jerusalem provides basis for looking at changes through time; opportunities to compose and perform music inspired by local community, both past and present.
	Summer Mediterranean Life	Life Cycles	Structure: explore human life cycle with music by Johannes Brahms, Luciano Berio, Franz Liszt and Claudio Monteverdi; variety of musical moods, styles and genres inspires singing, performing and composing using new techniques and structures.
		Celebration	Performance: lively celebration in song for to perform at a class assembly, a school concert or fete; celebratory, upbeat mood will soon have the audience joining in.
Y6	Autumn 1 Healthy Habits	Growth	Street dance performance: the street is setting for unit of buskers and flash mobs; explore Ravel's Bolero through rhythmical mime, learn songs with instrumental accompaniments, and create a dance to build into a street performance.
	Autumn 2 Arabian Nights	Journeys	Song cycle performance: theme of challenging journeys in life resonates through selection of songs with thoughts of change and transition, and binds them in optimistic and uplifting song cycle performance.
	Spring Powerful Planet	World Unite	Step dance performance: explore rhythm and melody in singing, movement and dance; learn about beat, syncopation, pitch and harmony, and take a trip around the world to celebrate the universal language of music.
		Roots	Mini musical performance: musical performance about the effects of slave trade on a West African village; integrated music features traditional Ghanaian songs and percussion rhythms, and the infamous spider- man Anansi, who saves the day.
	Summer Fortress Plymouth	Class Awards	Awards show performance: celebrate their achievements with a musical awards show customised for your class; individual awards are presented along with fanfare, rap, song and famous music in a final grand ceremony.

		<i>Moving On</i>	Leavers' assembly performance: <i>two songs, one looking back, one looking forward, and a musical device for linking them provide a celebration of their memories and their hopes for the future.</i>
--	--	------------------	--