

MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

An update for parents

Hello parents, I am the Music Coordinator at St Mary's and I would like to update you as to how well your children are doing with their music in school. We are really proud of our provision at St Mary's and consider the importance of music to your children's education to be of the highest importance. If you would like to contribute in any way to our music (for example coming in to show your musical skills to our children), please get in touch!

Thank you
Miss Thomas

What Music Looks Like at St Mary's

EYFS do their own music through the Early Years curriculum, including nursery rhymes, Stage 1 and 2 phonics, using the outdoor stage and untuned percussion during continuous provision as well as clapping response / body percussion and moving to a piece of music in time. They also have the talented Mr Nash once a week for an explicit Music session.

Year One music is covered by Mr Nash. He has been using Charanga (school's chosen scheme of work). The children learn to move to a piece of music at different tempos, learn to sing together using dynamics and are introduced to the glockenspiel.

Years Two to Six are taught by Mr Doherty from Rochdale Music Service. He has been using elements of the Model Music Curriculum developed by Charanga and Rochdale Music Service. Y2 continue to develop musicianship by using the glockenspiel. This is continued in to Y3, but they are introduced to the ukulele. Y4 continue this journey, as skills progress through the school. Y5 and 6 have their own music books to record their own compositions. Singing and performance skills are also developed across Y2-6.

Musician of the Month work is completed in Y5 and 6; this is also available for Y3 and 4 to complete with class teachers. This is now being extended to music by the artist being played in the hall at lunchtime and in corridors—currently, it's Elvis Presley!

Other music is taught by class teachers through topics, English lessons and the Y6 Manchester Arts Initiative, which school has taken part in for the past twenty years and are the only Rochdale school to have done so.

Other opportunities available to our children beyond the curriculum are:

- *St Mary's Brass Band;*
- *Y6 Chapel Choir;*
- *Y4-6 Wall of Sound Choir (soon to be increased to Y3);*
- *Peripatetic instrumental lessons delivered by Rochdale Music Service;*
- *Y2/3 music club starting in the Summer term.*
- *Opportunities to take part in Rochdale Music Festival.*

*"Music is to our ears
what art is to our
eyes."*

Child in Y4

*"Music always makes
me feel calm. When
I have a bad day, I
feel happy if I know
we are doing music
later on."*

Child in Y3

*"X's confidence has
improved greatly
since he joined the
choir."*

*Child in Y5, comment
from parent.*

*"I love to sing. It
makes me drift
away."*

Child in Y6



Members of our Chapel Choir testing out the new ukuleles.

In the news...

Our choir have been very busy and in high demand!

- Mrs Bollado’s wedding—a roaring success after many hours of practice;
- We were also asked by Canon Tadhg to form a choir for the secondary school confirmations. This was also a massive success. Father provided some funds for us to have a celebration as a thank you for the children giving up a Saturday.
- We were invited by the council to take part in Our Big Day—a day for looked after children of all ages, our children did us proud and got the audience on their feet. We were invited to this after the council had seen our music provision on Twitter and were impressed. We have been invited back again next year.
- We took a small choir to the Norman Weall Sheltered Accommodation before Christmas for their Christmas party.
- We took another choir to Tesco and raised £300 for our music provision at school. This has gone quite some way to helping us to purchase a whole class set of ukuleles, with a third of the price put forward through pupil premium.
- Our larger “Wall of Sound” choir took part in our school Christmas fayre as well.

Before Christmas, we held a Christmas Extravaganza, with Y2-6 performing songs and pieces of classical music connected to their study of Christmas through the ages with Mr Doherty. We had performances from each class and from some of our peri children.

Our choir also led the whole school in worship through song before Christmas and learned the importance of leading worship through song. We will do the same during Holy Week.

School now has, for the first time ever, a **brass band!** With the history surrounding Middleton and tradition of brass bands, when we were given the opportunity to have a brass band for our peri children, we weren’t going to turn down the opportunity. It is hoped this will continue to grow over the years.

Every class in KS2 has taken part in **live music** in different venues across Greater Manchester. Y6 take part in the Manchester Arts programme each year. Our Y5 and Y4 children travelled to the Bridgewater Hall to participate in a Big Sing with a live band in the Summer term. 5T were also given the opportunity to work alongside a talented musician from Chetham’s School of Music over the course of a term, including a return visit in September. Y3 played the ukulele with the Halle orchestra. We are hoping to find more experiences for our children over the next year to continue this journey.

Finally, school will be looking towards achieving a nomination for a Music Mark Award—an accredited national award which shows the strength of our provision for music and is moderated by the Music Service. Wish us luck!

