

19th September 2014

Dear Parents,

As you are already aware, your child is receiving tuition through the Wider Opportunities lessons, which take place in the school day; pupils learn to play their instrument as a class together.

Wider Opportunities evolved following the government's Wider Entitlement pledge that '...over time, all pupils in primary schools who wish to, will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument'.

The Wider Opportunities instruments are provided by Solihull Music Service, which are funded by the government initiative, for all children to have and are free to borrow for the whole academic year. The specialist tuition is paid for by the school allowing the child the opportunity to learn an instrument for a whole year.

All musical skills developed over the duration of the year are transferable to other instruments (e.g. development of aural skills, understanding of musical terms, playing in an ensemble etc). At the end of the year, pupils will be able to make an informed choice about whether they wish to continue to learn a musical instrument.

Solihull Music Service has no capacity to provide instruments to pupils on the Wider Opportunities scheme if the instruments get broken or stolen. Their recommendation is that, if a child takes an instrument home, it is put down on their parent's household insurance so if the worst happens the instrument could be replaced like for like. An alternative, suggested by the Solihull Music Service, is to use an "excellent insurance company called Endsleigh", specialising in musical instruments, who provide this cover cheaply.

The general break down cost of instruments are:

Stentor	2	Violin	£ 80.00
Stentor	2	Viola	£ 100.00
Stentor	2	Cello	£ 400.00
Stentor	2	Double bass	£ 700.00
Guitar			£ 50.00
Clarinet			£ 150.00

Cont'd ...

The Wider Opportunities scheme has been successfully delivered to our children in year 4 over the past four years. We are excited that this can continue to be delivered to the current year 4 children. During the year, you will be able to watch how the children progress not only in their individual playing at home but also via concerts at school and the Town Hall or Warwick Arts Centre.

Now that the children have had a basic introduction to their instrument, they will be allowed to bring it home to practice. This is obviously the best option so that they can make the most of their tuition. The children will need to remember to bring their instrument back in on the day of their lesson. In order to do this, however, you will need to complete and return the slip below as soon as possible.

If you feel that you do not want your child to bring their instrument home and would prefer for it to remain in school, please indicate so and return the form to school.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Ferguson
Acting Headteacher

Name of child _____ Class _____

Please tick, complete and return to school a.s.a.p.

- I am happy for my child to bring his/her instrument home and am aware that I need to take full responsibility for the instrument while it is on loan to my child.
- I am aware that the best option is to put the instrument on my house insurance or to take out separate insurance as suggested by Solihull Music Service.
- I will ensure that the instrument is taken home and also brought to school for the lesson each week.
- I will ensure that the instrument is stored in a safe and secure place at home.
- I would prefer the instrument to remain in school.

Signed _____ Dated _____