

## Making the most of practice

### (How can I keep my child motivated to practise?)

- Regular short bursts of, ideally, daily practice is the best way to make steady progress. We recommend that beginners start with 15/20 mins daily where possible.
- Endeavour to provide a 'Practice Environment' where your child can concentrate and ignore any distractions
- Encourage your child: sit with them and show an interest in what they are doing. This is especially important with younger students.
- Suggest that they should record part of their practice on a phone or tablet, so that they can listen to what they are playing. Play this back to them in a few weeks and let them see the progress they have made.
- Have a strategy for practising:
  - tackle short sections at a time
  - work on the tricky bits, not the bits that are easier to play.
  - Practise slowly at first, only speed up when 'note perfect'
  - Use a metronome to help you practise at the correct tempo.
  - then... practise the pieces right through and keep going even if a mistake is made.
  - PRACTISE YOUR SCALES!
- Encourage your child to play their favourite 'fun' pieces as well as the more serious 'tricky' ones.
- Encourage your child to make up music on their instrument. It may be best to stick to two or three notes to begin with, but enjoy playing around with rhythms, loud and quiet (dynamics) and fast and slow (tempo).
- Encourage your child to have mini concerts: not at all formal, where family and friends can listen to new pieces that your child has learned.
- If you feel like it's all becoming a chore - back off for a while and contact their music tutor or Mr Parton to devise a strategy to re-energise their commitment.

**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!**

## Frequently Asked Questions

I just signed up for music lessons and paid my fees to the school, why am I being billed again by the teacher?

The money you pay to the school when you first sign up for lessons is a refundable deposit that is returned to you once you leave the school or have stopped lessons by giving the required one term's notice. Tutors will then invoice directly at the beginning of each term.

My child missed their lesson as they were absent from school, will the lesson be re-scheduled?

No, with over 175 music lessons a week avoiding core subjects, timetabling arrangements are incredibly complex. If a child misses a lesson due to the absence of their teacher then this lesson will be carried forward to the following term or credited to the student. Occasionally and with enough notice we are able to re-schedule lessons when we are made aware of other school trips or activities that coincide

Can my child take a music exam at Papplewick?

Each term we host an ABRSM exam visit in school during the school day. The entry deadline and provisional exam dates are published in the calendar. Boys are entered at the discretion of their instrumental tutors. Many of our guitarists and drummers prefer to study the Trinity Syllabus. These exams take place externally at a local centre and should be arranged with the instrumental tutors.

**For further information about music at Papplewick please contact:**

**Mr Parton**  
Director of Music  
[partorob@papplewick.org.uk](mailto:partorob@papplewick.org.uk)  
[www.papplewick.org.uk](http://www.papplewick.org.uk)

# Papplewick School



*Supporting Your Child's  
Instrumental Tuition at  
School*

*A practical guide for parents and  
guardians*

# Congratulations!

Your child has chosen to learn an instrument with one of our specialist instrumental teachers at Papplewick. We hope that this will be just the beginning of an enjoyable experience that will contribute towards a life-long love of music.



Support and encouragement is essential from both school and an adult at home who is involved with practice to enable our 'budding' young musicians to make steady progress.

As they improve your child will value what they are achieving and have a strong sense of the positive effect that their music creates around them.

We hope that this leaflet will be a useful guide to you as parents and carers in supporting your child's early stages of learning a musical instrument.



## How does it work?

- Your child will receive their weekly 35 minute instrumental lesson from one of our peripatetic team in one of our purpose built practice rooms.
- Lessons are timetabled on a rota system to avoid missing the same curriculum lesson twice. No music lessons are timetabled during English and Maths lessons and from Year 6 upwards we also avoid Science too.
- Timetables will be emailed to you by your child's instrumental teacher at the beginning of each term. Copies of the timetables are displayed on the notice board in the music school and are available in miniature for the boys to stick in their planners.



- It is ultimately the child's responsibility to get themselves to their music lesson on time, however, all staff members will support children if they ask for help in working out their lesson time.
- It is particularly helpful for younger children if you can check the timetable at home the night before, or before you come to school in the morning, so that they can be prepared.
- It is essential that your child remembers to bring their instrument, blue practice book and music to every lesson. Lessons cannot be re-scheduled.

## Communicating with your child's instrumental teacher:

All boys are given a blue practice diary during their first lesson. Instrumental teachers will record brief notes each week specifying what is to be practised between lessons.

We would encourage you to record your child's daily practice in the practice diary and sign to let the teacher know that you have read it.

The tutor may also write in this book any music that needs to be purchased or instrument requirements. Please use this book for brief questions or queries you may have for the tutor.

You may also wish to keep regular contact with the tutors by email. This is strongly encouraged and you can find emails for the music staff on the music tuition page of our website.

Short instructional videos of students lessons maybe recorded and shared with parents as a practise tool. Consent must be given by email before recordings can happen. Recordings can be a great help to parents and students wishing to make more of their practice time.

