

## **Music at St. Fidelis**

Music is taught to every child from Nursery to Year 6 by specialist music teachers.

Mr. Robinson, our music leader provides an exciting and varied music curriculum which stimulates the creative nature of our children and ensures that they receive the very best in musical education.

As well as whole school singing, where the children learn a variety of songs from hymns to more complex part singing, children in Nursery to Year 3 receive specialist music lessons from Mr. Robinson focusing on developing the children's understanding and use of the new curriculum's inter-related dimensions of music, namely, pitch, pulse, rhythm, dynamics, texture and tempo, through singing and playing tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.

Year 4 children receive high quality whole class lessons on the recorder from an independent specialist woodwind teacher and Years 5 and 6 are taught by Mr. Robinson the keyboard and steel pans respectively.

Outside of the classroom, there is a thriving Infant and Junior choir who regularly sing at school Masses and end of term concerts and the Junior choir also perform annually at the Royal Festival Hall on London's Southbank as part of the Bird College Summer Festival of Music concerts, as well as having performed on a number of occasions at London's O2 Arena in the world famous 'Young Voices' concerts. We instigated and host the annual Bexley Catholic Schools Choral Festival and have been worthy winners on two occasions – the first school ever to have done this! The choir has also taken part in the Music for Youth Festivals which are the audition stages for the National Schools Prom series at the Royal Albert Hall.

Children from Year 3 upwards have the opportunity to learn a range of orchestral instruments by having individual or small group lessons taught by visiting teachers from Bird College. The children then go on and join the school orchestra and again they perform regularly in concerts, school Masses and assemblies.

The schools orchestra, recorder and ukulele players join the choir to perform at the Royal Festival Hall along with other schools from across Bexley, which gives them yet another wonderful opportunity to showcase their talents.

We are also unique in that we have our very own set of Steel Drums. We currently have 5 steel bands who, like the choirs and orchestra, perform

regularly in school, in the local and wider community as well as in the large festivals already mentioned.

The steel bands are so popular, not only is there a waiting list to join, when the children leave St. Fidelis, they come back and continue playing!!

The pans and junior choir took part in their very first concert tour to Paris 4 years ago, performing at Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower and have toured the North East of England twice giving very successful and well received concerts. In between these trips, children in Years 3 to 6 have auditioned for and performed 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat', the musical 'Smike' based on the Charles Dickens 'Nicholas Nickleby' story and our own 'Songs from the Musicals'. Our next extravaganza is our own version of Disney's 'The Lion King'.