

Music Express second edition

a cross-curricular, topic-based approach

Music Express provides a carefully-structured progressive scheme of work for music, integrating singing, playing, listening and composing. The second edition of *Music Express* has been created with a cross-curricular, topic-based approach to music teaching in mind, so that learning about music is developed whilst exploring different topics and is linked with other curriculum subjects.

Topic-based units

Each *Music Express* book is divided into topic-based units. There are twelve units apiece for Ages 5–6, 6–7, 7–8 and 8–9, and six units for ages 9–10 and 10–11.

Musical focus

Each unit has a musical focus, eg exploring sounds, beat, pitch, performance. The musical development progresses through each age group, providing a comprehensive scheme of work.

Unit topic heading

Each unit has been given a cross-curricular topic heading to show at a glance how it might fit in with your own themes.

Subject link

Each unit has been linked to one specific non-music subject and provides support for children's learning of that subject through music. The units are cross-curricular in nature and so also touch on many other subjects (see summary for each age group).

Activity headings and summary

Each lesson is divided into three activities. Each activity has a heading and an activity summary to provide a quick-reference overview of the content.

Cross-curricular summary for each age group

The following pages provide an overview of cross-curricular themes and ideas covered in each unit for each age group as a quick reference to assist with your planning of other subjects. The musical and content progression is shown throughout the resource, both within the activity summaries in the book and in the lesson plans on the DVD-ROM.

Musical focus for the unit **Subject link for the unit** **Lesson number within the unit**

Unit topic heading **Activity heading** **Activity summary**

Building Musical focus: Beat Subject link: DT LESSON 1

Building site WB 13

Watch, listen to and discuss the sights and sounds of a building site

- Display *Building site* and watch the movie. Focus on the jobs being done and the tools being used. Make a class list of these and any others the children may know, which might be used to complete a building.
- Watch again, this time listening to the sounds which the jobs and tools make.

Hard hat zone LYRICS CD 1/134 WB 145

Learn a cumulative song with vocal rhythms and actions

Working on a building site, hard hats must be worn,
Working on a building site, break of day.
Building high-rise offices, house or shop,
Gotta keep on working from the bottom to the top,
Cutting with a tenon saw ~ zh zh, zh zh,
Gotta keep on working till the boss says, 'Stop!'

...Gotta keep on working from the bottom to the top,
Nails and a hammer ~ rat-a tat-a tat-a tat,
Cutting with a tenon saw ~ zh zh, zh zh...

- Display and listen to *Hard hat zone*. All join in with the line: 'Gotta keep on working from the bottom to the top' followed by the tools and their vocal rhythm.
- What do the children notice about the way the song develops? (The words of the verse are always the same; a new tool and rhythm is added each time; the list grows.)
- Learn to sing the whole verse, then all sing the song, adding actions for each rhythm.
- When confident, perform the song with actions with the backing audio.

Hard hat performance CD 1/14 WB 15

Perform the song *Hard hat zone* in four groups

 zh zh zh zh
  rat-a tat-a tat-a tat

 zzzzzzz zzzzzzz
  swish swishy swash

- Divide the class into four groups – saw, hammer, drill and trowel to perform *Hard hat zone* like this:
 - everyone sings the verse;
 - each group performs the vocal rhythm for their tool.
- How many times did each group perform their rhythm? (Saw – four times; hammer – three; drill – twice; trowel – once.)
- Swap groups so children can try a different rhythm.

Teaching tip: practise the tool section of each verse to help the children become confident at starting their rhythm in the correct order and in time with the beat.

LESSON LEARNING **EXTENDED LEARNING**

- Understanding how music can be organised in sequences
- Using voices and actions to perform simple rhythms within a steady beat

Small groups of children can devise rhythmical movement sequences to accompany the verse of Hard hat zone.

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Music Express Age 5-6: A cross-curricular summary

OURSELVES

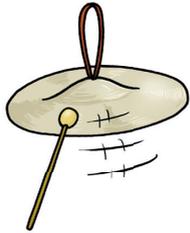
Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Making vocal sounds
- Playing at the park
- *Glad to be me* - a happy song
- Using parts of the body to make sounds

Links to English:

- Explore and make vocal sounds
- Perform a poem using the voice expressively
- Follow a storyboard
- Develop a story, exploring different endings



NUMBER

Subject Link: Maths

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Weather – counting raindrops
- Performing sequences of actions

Links to Maths:

- Count to eight and back
- Sequence patterns



ANIMALS

Subject Link: PE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Day and night
- Comparing animals: size, sounds, movements, habitats

Links to PE:

- Invent travelling body movements to represent different animals
- Move as different animals

WEATHER

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Use expressive words to describe different weather, eg pitter patter, rumble

Link to Geography:

- Explore different types of weather, eg wind, rain, thunder

MACHINES

Subject Link: PSHE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Explore words to describe sounds, eg whirr, beep, and create word rhythms
- Look at invented machines – robots and factories; steam trains
- Speed and measurement of speed

Link to PSHE:

- Discuss living in the wider world

SEASONS

Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Dressing for the weather and different seasons
- Planting seeds
- What a plant needs to grow
- The cuckoo

Links to Science:

- Weather in different seasons
- Changes across the four seasons



Music Express Age 5–6: A cross-curricular summary

OUR SCHOOL

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Classifying objects
- The world around us

Links to Geography:

- Follow and create a map of a classroom
- Follow a map of a school
- Learn simple compass directions
- Study the geography of your school inside and out



PATTERN

Subject Link: Maths

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Animal sounds
- Sounds around us
- Different numbers of syllables in words

Links to Maths:

- Counting and grouping in two, three, and four
- Number patterns
- Two times table



STORYTIME

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Our feelings

Links to English:

- Traditional tales – The three little pigs; The magic porridge pot
- The sequence of a story
- Broadening vocabulary

OUR BODIES

Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Copying actions, developing coordination
- Our feelings and moods
- Sound words, eg *glug*, *bump*, *scratch*
- Performing a poem

Links to Science:

- Parts of the body
- Listening and moving

TRAVEL

Subject Link: PE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Copying actions, developing coordination
- Our feelings and moods
- Sound words, eg *glug*, *bump*, *scratch*
- Performing a poem

To link to PE:

- Parts of the body
- Listening and moving

WATER

Subject Link: Art

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Water sports
- Waves
- Different types of boat
- Life in an aquarium
- Following a storyboard

Links to Art:

- Discussing paintings by famous artists:
Great wave off Kanagawa by Katsushika Hokusai;
Girl with fish bell by August Macke;
Flatford Mill (Scene on a Navigable River) by John Constable;
The sea with a sailing ship by Arkhip Kuindzhi;
On the boat, Abramtsevo by Vasily Polenov

Music Express Age 6-7: A cross-curricular summary

OURSELVES

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Our feelings, including feeling 'blue'
- Likes and dislikes
- How pets communicate their feelings without words

Links to English:

- Vocal sounds, eg yummmm, ahhhh
- Discussing the poem *I like*, by Maureen Hanke
- Building expressive vocabulary, relating to mood and feelings



TOYS

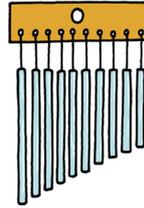
Subject Link: PSHE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Toys that move
- Counting four beats
- Using descriptive words and inventing actions to describe what toys do, eg bounce, stomp, splat
- Slowing down and speeding up with changes in gradient – uphill and downhill

Links to PSHE:

- Riding a scooter
- The world around us – toys and games



OUR LAND

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Myths from Great Britain and Northern Ireland: The Loch Ness monster (Scotland); Giant's Causeway (Northern Ireland); King Arthur's Knights (Wales); Robin Hood (England)
- Water and ice
- Creating artwork relating to the myths and countries

Links to Geography:

- Locating Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a map
- Different landscapes: sea, lake, forest, mountains

OUR BODIES

Subject Link: PE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Birthdays and birthday parties
- Miming actions, eg eating cake, blowing out candles
- Growing old

Links to PE:

- Responding to music with whole body actions and dance
- Moving as a child, parent, and grandparent
- Throwing, bouncing, and twisting a ball

ANIMALS

Subject Link: PE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Animal sounds and movements
- In the jungle
- Interacting with others
- Representing travelling motions graphically

Links to PE:

- Warming up the body to music
- Moving as different animals

NUMBER

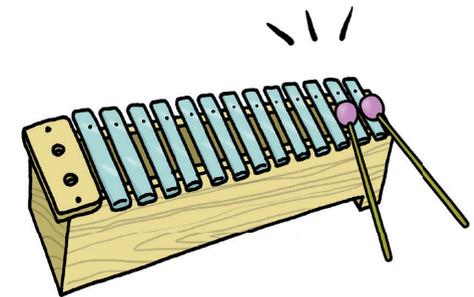
Subject Link: Maths

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Performing actions in a song
- Performing a sequence of movements

Links to Maths:

- Patterns of three, four, and eight
- Odd numbers
- Counting items (snowballs) in a piece of music



Music Express Age 6-7: A cross-curricular summary

STORYTIME

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Feeling scared
- Telling the time – 12 o'clock midnight
- Interpreting a picture

Links to English:

- Following a storyboard (a section of *The Nutcracker*)
- Narrating a poem expressively
- Building vocabulary
- Using words and sounds expressively to convey the mood of characters in a picture



SEASONS

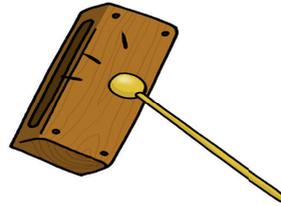
Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- The seasons and months of the year
- How seasons vary in different parts of the world
- The Makaton signs for the seasons
- The number of days in each month of the year
- Sakura (Cherry blossom) in Japan
- The painting *Almond tree in blossom*, by Van Gogh

Links to Science:

- Changes in the four seasons
- Plants at different times of the year



WEATHER

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Winter weather and feeling cold
- Rainy weather
- Daily life and weather
- Aesop's fable *The wind and the sun*
- Moral: gentle persuasion is stronger than force
- Following a storyboard

Link to Geography:

- Seasonal weather patterns

PATTERN

Subject Link: Maths

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Insects: spiders, butterflies, grasshoppers, bees, dragonflies, beetles
- Frogs and the habitat of a pond

Links to Maths:

- Dividing eight into smaller numbers
- Dividing six into smaller numbers
- Counting in three and four

WATER

Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Making whole body movements to depict different animals

Links to Science:

- Food chains in the sea and the pond
- Animals of the sea
- Plants and animals of the pond (habitats)

TRAVEL

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Learning an action song with lyrics in Swahili
- Going to town on a bus
- Different modes of transport
- Speed
- Rollercoasters and theme parks

Links to English:

- Rhyming words
- Using your imagination
- Describing a journey in a fast machine

Music Express Age 7-8: A cross-curricular summary

ENVIRONMENT

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- The poem *The Sound collector*, by Roger McGough
- Sounds of the world around us
- Writing lyrics for a chant about your local area

Links to Geography:

- Identifying features of your local area
- The contrast between towns and cities and the countryside
- Human and physical characteristics of your local area



BUILDING

Subject Link: DT

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Working on a building site – understanding the jobs and tools used and thinking about health and safety, eg wearing hard hats and taking breaks
- Different job roles, eg boss, apprentice

Links to DT:

- Thinking about tasks involved in constructing a building
- How different tools are used

SOUNDS

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- How sounds are made and how different notes are produced, eg longer tubes for low notes
- How steel pans are made



Links to Geography:

- Learning about music from around the world: The Solomon Islands; Trinidad and Tobago; India
- Learning in more detail about Trinidad and Tobago – human and physical geography

POETRY

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Playing at a park or playground
- How things move
- Making comparisons
- Bugs

Links to English:

- The poem *Playground* song by Paul Cookson
- The poem *Sounds* by Irene Rowsley
- Superlatives, eg noisiest, tiniest
- The poem *Bug chant* by Tony Mitton
- Building vocabulary

CHINA

Subject Link: Maths

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Learning about China
- The Great Wall of China
- Chinese New Year and customs

Links to Maths:

- Exploring patterns
- 'Pent' = five

TIME

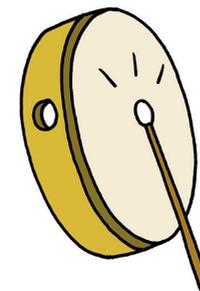
Subject Link: Maths

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- A carillon (set of chiming bells)
- Performing actions in a song
- Soldiers and marching

Links to Maths:

- Combining patterns in two, three and four
- Time
- Division



Music Express Age 7-8: A cross-curricular summary

IN THE PAST

Subject Link: PE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Monasteries and convents
- Medieval times
- Tudor times
- Number patterns

Links to PE:

- Clapping games
- Learning to perform a Tudor dance



COMMUNICATION

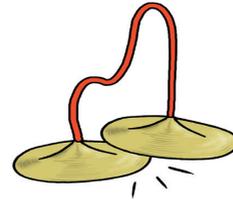
Subject Link: Computing

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Emoticons – the smiley – as a form of communication
- Mood and feelings
- Memory games
- Using telephones and mobile phones
- Sequences

Links to Computing:

- Earcons – computer sounds for particular tasks
- Using computer software to apply digital FX and manipulate sounds
- Game apps and simple programs



HUMAN BODY

Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Improvising a dancing skeleton dance
- Improvising an aerobic body workout routine
- Broadening vocabulary: words to describe feelings
- Imagining an ending to a story
- Watching a dancer telling a story through movement

Links to Science:

- Bones in the human body and our skeleton
- How muscles work and their relationship to bones

SINGING FRENCH

Subject Link: Languages

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Greeting one another and introducing your family
- Hobbies and interests
- Exploring number patterns to 12

Link to Languages:

- Learning French: greetings; hobbies and interests; my family; counting to 12

ANCIENT WORLDS

Subject Link: History

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Myths and legends – the stories of Orpheus with Jason and the Argonauts, Echo and Theseus and the minotaur
- Learning about echoes

Links to History:

- Ancient Greece
- The ancient Greek myths – Orpheus with Jason and the Argonauts, Echo and Theseus, and the Minotaur

FOOD AND DRINK

Subject Link: DT

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Fruit
- Breakfast time
- Health and illness
- Rhyming words

Links to DT:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Ways of preparing food using bananas as an example (peel, chop, mash, blend)
- Recipes, ingredients, and cooking methods

Music Express Age 8-9: A cross-curricular summary

POETRY

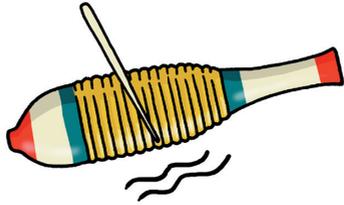
Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Travelling by train
- Poetry

Links to English:

- The poem *Hand on the bridge* by Michael Rosen
- The poem *Write a rap* by Tony Mitton
- The poem *From a railway carriage* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Performing poems rhythmically



ENVIRONMENT

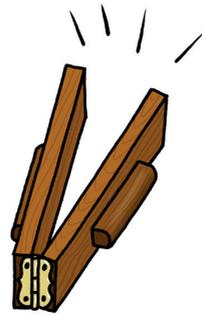
Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- The poem *The tree in season*, by Robert Fisher
- The seasons of the year
- Global warming
- The water cycle
- The Arctic and Antarctic and the effect of global warming on these regions

Links to Science:

- How a tree changes through the seasons
- Parts of a tree
- Seasonal changes
- How water can change state



SOUNDS

Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- The 1940s
- Slavery and spiritual songs

Links to Science:

- How sounds are made and vibration
- Classifying musical instruments as aerophones, membranophones, idiophones, or chordophones

RECYCLING

Subject Link: Art

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- A tree's journey from seed to paper mill
- How paper is made
- How sounds can be made using everyday items
- Recycling

Links to Art:

- Making art using paper and people
- Junk art – making collage and sculptures out of junk
- Indian Rangoli art images

BUILDING

Subject Link: PSHE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Performing dance movements to a song
- Building techniques
- Travelling by train

Links to PSHE:

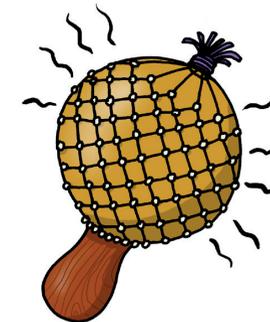
- Housing shortages – the pros and cons of building and development
- The world around us

AROUND THE WORLD

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Slavery and spiritual songs
- Folk music from different countries
- Exploring patterns
- Performing a song from Kenya



Links to Geography:

- Locating different countries on a globe
- The USA, Hungary, Ireland, and Mali

Music Express Age 8-9: A cross-curricular summary

ANCIENT WORLDS

Subject Link: History

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- 3D shapes – the pyramid
- Funerals and burials

Link to History:

- Ancient Egypt, particularly pyramids, funerals, and mummification



SINGING SPANISH

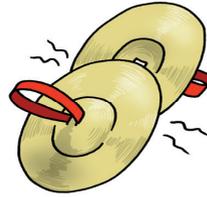
Subject Link: Languages

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Spain – music, food and drink, and customs, in particular using a molinillo to make hot chocolate
- Times of the day

Link to Languages:

- Learning Spanish: greetings and introducing oneself; numbers to ten; drinking hot chocolate



COMMUNICATION

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Issues in or around school, eg bullying, litter, traffic, road safety
- Raising awareness of issues and protesting

Links to English:

- Writing your own news headlines
- Presenting your school news broadcast
- Writing lyrics to raise awareness of local issues

TIME

Subject Link: Maths

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Canterbury cathedral
- Clocks
- Structuring a story

Links to Maths:

- Number patterns
- Clocks and time

IN THE PAST

Subject Link: PE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Mid-sixteenth century
- Weddings and getting married
- The 1960s – dance and culture

Links to PE:

- Learning a simple dance from the mid-sixteenth century
- Learning a simple country dance and maypole dance
- Learning to dance the twist, stomp, and mashed potato and performing them to a 1960s pop song

FOOD AND DRINK

Subject Link: DT

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Tudor times – food and drink
- The painting *Vertumnus* by Guiseppe Arcimboldo
- Patterns
- Being a pizza chef
- Food from around the world: Ghana, India, Peru, China

Links to DT:

- Fruit and vegetables
- A Tudor banquet
- Creating your own pizza – recipe, ingredients, and toppings
- Food from around the world: Vegetable madras (India/Britain); Kuli kuli (Nigeria); Tacu tacu (Peru); Wonton noodles (China); Tortilla de patatas (Spain)

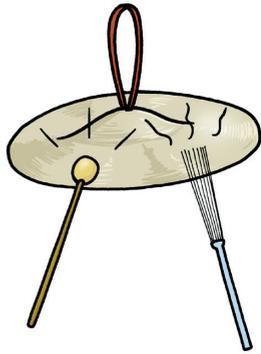
Music Express Age 9-10: A cross-curricular summary

OUR COMMUNITY

Subject Link: History

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- The village Saltaire in West Yorkshire
- The impact of the Industrial Revolution on towns and countryside
- Changes in land use over time, in particular the change from a rural to an industrialised landscape
- Identifying features on a map of the local area
- The human geography of your local community, past and present
- Writing lyrics about your local community
- Discussing the meaning of William Blake's poem, used in the song *Jerusalem*
- Metaphors
- Performing and improvising movement patterns
- Using ICT to produce a slideshow of images from your local area past and present and synchronising them in a performance
- Writing a narration to go with your performance
- Mills and the textile industry



Links to History:

- Learning about the Industrial Revolution, a significant turning point in British history
- Learning about your local community, past and present



SOLAR SYSTEM

Subject Link: Science

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- The first Moon landing
- Discussing the imagery of the words in the poem *Space shot*, by Gareth Owen
- Writing a script to link performances of pieces of music about different aspects of space
- Using ICT to make a slideshow of images

Links to Science:

- The Sun and stars
- The planets in our Solar System
- The planets in orbit and orreries
- Galaxies
- The Moon and its relative position to the Earth
- An Earthrise as seen from the Moon

LIFE CYCLES

Subject Link: PSHE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Babies and sleep
- School, school subjects, and timetables
- Your own school routines, resources, and setting
- Discussing the painting *Deadline*, by Pamela J Crook
- Using words expressively and broadening vocabulary
- Symmetry and number patterns
- Comparing paintings of the composer Franz Liszt as a young and old man
- Our changing bodies as we get older
- The Greek myth Orpheus and Eurydice

Links to PSHE:

- The school day
- Thinking about how individuals have different interests and enjoy different school subjects
- Considering the consequences of leaving food at the bottom of a lunchbox
- Different places of work
- Busy working environments and the concept of a deadline
- From birth to death
- Discussing feelings and emotions



Music Express Age 9-10: A cross-curricular summary

KEEPING HEALTHY

Subject Link: PE

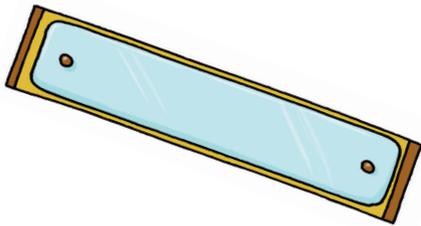
Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- How the heart works
- The human skeleton and our muscles
- Exercising to keep healthy
- Different sports
- Travelling by bike to cut down on pollution



Links to PE:

- How we use our bodies in exercise
- Synchronised swimming and different swimming strokes
- Riding a bike
- Circuit training
- Planning a circuit training circuit



AT THE MOVIES

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Early animated movies
- Learning about animation film key words and techniques: Mickey Mousing; spotting; hit points; Foley artist; clichés
- Acting out scenes and tableaux through mime
- Following the digital time format, noting time codes, and matching time codes with events on screen

Links to English:

- Expressing opinions and your own interpretations of action in movies
- Writing a script to accompany a movie
- Storyboards and sequencing a storyline

CELEBRATION

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Greetings in different languages
- People of the world coming together in celebration
- Compass directions
- Using ICT to present a slideshow of images
- Working together to build a performance
- Performing body movements with a song
- Positive feelings



Links to English:

- Reading and discussing song lyrics
- Identifying words that express the concept of celebration

Music Express Age 10-11: A cross-curricular summary

WORLD UNITE

Subject Link: PE

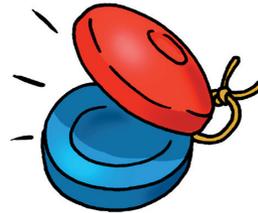
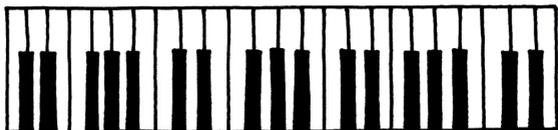
Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Points of the compass
- People of the world uniting
- The Earth: lines of latitude; North and South poles; Equator; Northern and Southern hemispheres
- A united world



Links to PE:

- Developing coordination in a cup passing game
- Performing whole body movements in time with a song
- Learning and performing a step dance to music
- Improvising movements to add to a dance
- Performing a complex dance routine in groups



JOURNEYS

Subject Link: PSHE

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Animal journeys, survival, and migration
- The use of metaphors in songs
- Creating a multi-media performance, including options to:
 - » find or write poems or narrative
 - » find or create artwork to fit with the themes of the songs in the song cycle
 - » add movement to capture a mood and create a visual performance
 - » use ICT to display images, artwork, or photographs

Links to PSHE:

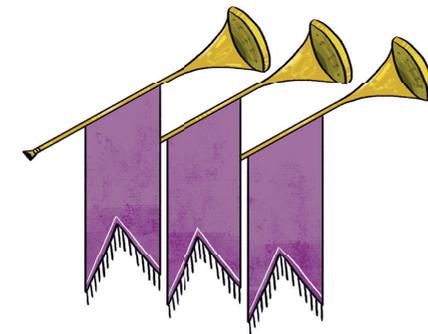
- Feelings associated with moving house, changing school, moving to a new country
- Human migration – causes and impact
- Looking out for other people
- Apartheid and associated issues
- Finding inner strength in the face of adversity
- Outlook: Life is what you make it
- Coping with change

GROWTH

Subject Link: Geography

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Performing short, mimed sequences
- Inventing and performing street calls
- Learning about the world around us – urban street scene with market sellers, buskers, mime artist, shoppers, flash mob dance
- Learning about the relatively modern phenomenon of flash mobs
- Learning a street dance and improvising ideas to add to the performance



Link to Geography:

- Human geography, looking at towns, markets, railway stations, and shopping centres

Music Express Age 10-11: A cross-curricular summary

ROOTS

Subject Link: English

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Traditional village life in Ghana, West Africa
- Miming actions associated with everyday life in a traditional village in West Africa
- Devising simple West African dance steps
- The slave trade
- African fabric



Links to English:

- Reading the script of a play
- Reading a traditional Anansi tale from West Africa
- Discussing the themes and setting of a play
- Memorising lines and acting out a play
- Performing a mini-musical with acting, singing, dance, and music

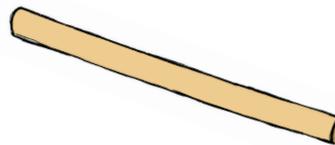


CLASS AWARDS

Subject Link: Cross-curricular

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Developing a script for an awards show
- Celebrating each other's achievements in all subjects
- Learning about Viktor Hartmann's exhibition of paintings that inspired Mussorgsky to write *Pictures at an Exhibition*
- Learning about the painting *Catacombs* by Hartmann
- Appraising the children's own artwork
- Comparing characteristics of art and music
- Writing rap lyrics using a word bank
- The qualities that make someone a class hero

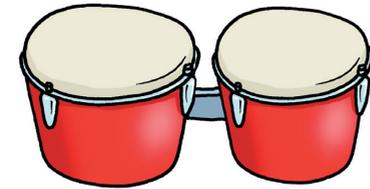


MOVING ON

Subject Link: Computing

Cross-curricular themes and activities:

- Planning a leavers' assembly
- Discussing the emotions surrounding leaving your current school to go on to a new one
- Memories
- Using maths skills to work out timing transitions between slides in a slideshow synchronised to a song backing



Links to Computing:

- Creating a slideshow of images synchronised to a song backing