



Learning, Growing  
And Living with Jesus

## St. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

In the Diocese of Northampton

Head Teacher: Mrs S Oppé, LLB, MA  
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"The glory of God is  
a human being fully alive"

### Music at St Anthony's.

**Nursery and Reception:** In EYFS, children learn rhymes and songs which allow them to use their voices confidently. Memorising prose and song lyrics form a key part of their Christmas production, as well as performing in an ensemble. Physical confidence is also encouraged when learning actions and movements to songs or pieces of music. Topics covered are harvest, animals, methods of transport, emergency services, as well as concepts such as opposites. Children also learn to use a range of percussion instruments such as tambourines, claves, xylophones and drums.

**Year 1:** Children are introduced to the story of Little Red Riding Hood, learning songs in which they explore rhythm, dynamics and dramatic devices. They build on the skills they have learned to tell the story of the birth of Jesus in their Nativity performance. During the Lent term, they explore the different musical families of the orchestra and get the chance to perform on percussion instruments such as drums, xylophones, tambourines, chimes, shakers and triangles. After Easter they learn songs about the sea and marine creatures, as well as sampling music from around the world.

**Year 2:** Children start the Advent Term learning songs about the Great Fire of London, in which they explore how rhythm and tonality create a sense of urgency and drama. They are introduced to musical vocabulary such as glissando and staccato. During the Lent term they explore songs linked to the Chinese New Year and study Holst's Planets. Their History of Flight topic includes songs such as 'Up, up and away!' and 'Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines'. After Easter we examine different styles of drumming from around the world, including African djembe drumming, Native American pow-wow rhythms and Bhangra. Their topic on castles includes songs about kings and queens, and the story of the 'Dragon of Wawel'.

**Year 3:** During the Advent term, the children learn songs about the Stone Age, and explore prehistoric instruments such as drums, lithophones and bullroarers. This segues into their topic on Ancient Egypt, in which they learn songs describing the various customs of Ancient Egypt, as well as gods and goddesses. Children are introduced to musical notation and get the chance to play boomwhackers as well as other percussion instruments. During the second half of the Lent term, the children prepare songs for their Easter production, re-enacting Jesus's Passion. After Easter, atmospheric music is studied, specifically Mendelssohn's Fingal's Cave and Vivaldi's Four Seasons. The children also have the opportunity to learn the violin during their music sessions, provided by Slough Music Service.

**Year 4:** During the Advent term the children examine Roman gods and goddesses through song and learn about Ancient Roman instruments such as the hydraulis and kithara. From half term onwards, they prepare for their Christmas Concert, learning ancient and modern carols and singing in an ensemble. The children

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School & Nursery has a commitment to safeguarding, and the welfare and wellbeing of children.

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust; Registered Company Number: 09660515  
Registered office: St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Pastures Way, Luton, LU4 0P



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learn about Spirituals in music history and how to use polyphony, ie, layers of harmony, in their singing. During their Anglo-Saxons topic, they learn about the life of Alfred the Great and the story of Beowulf through song. Folk music is also explored, including folk in popular culture, ie, video games and fusion with techno. Musical terms such as pizzicato and accelerando are explored when analysing Grieg's In the Hall of the Mountain King. They end the school year learning how to play the recorder.

Year 5: During the Advent term, the children could perform Viking songs and drumming patterns. After Christmas, they explore the 'Heroes of Troy' as part of their Ancient Greeks topic. The songs encourage them to learn two-part harmonies. They learn how to sing in character, which will prepare them for their opera/musical production. They concentrate on the history of opera and different operatic voices, as well as how to write a libretto. The opera/musical performance takes place during the Pentecost term. They also have the opportunity to learn the ukulele.

Year 6: During the Advent term, the children study Medieval and Renaissance music, which form part of their Tudors topic. Songs composed by Henry VIII are studied and performed. After Christmas, the children learn songs and melodies linked to their WWII topic, specifically recreating Glen Miller's in the Mood on chimes, keyboards and xylophones. They examine the patriotic songs of the era and explore nationalistic music, such as Bacewicz's Overture, in which they can pick out elements of Morse code. Their history of music continues with the evolution of the Blues, culminating in their own Blues composition. They also get the chance to learn the ukulele. During their final half term, they use the vocal skills they have learned in their Shakespeare production.

September 2024

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