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Headteacher: Mrs Deborah Johnson, BEd, MSc

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know about our music provision at Freegrounds Junior School and opportunities that will be open to your child from September.

From next year we are delighted to have appointed a music specialist, Mr. Chapman, who will be working in school one day a week and who will be leading the Singing Collective Worship as well as conducting the School Choir. He will be supporting the teaching of music in all year groups.

From September, all Year 3 children will learn to play the recorder in music lessons. This will give them the opportunity to learn about rhythm and pitch and read simple music notation in a fun and interactive way. As children move through the school we will be working to develop their musical skills and we hope that, through learning to play the recorder, they are inspired to want to go on to learn another musical instrument.

This year our peripatetic music teachers have been as busy as ever and have been into school to deliver taster assemblies for children who are thinking of taking up, or continuing with, an instrument next year. We are pleased that from September we will be offering the following opportunities for your child to learn one of these instruments:

- Violin - Mrs. Henderson
- Guitar – Mrs. Cain
- Keyboard – Mr. Chapman
- Brass (Trombone, Trumpet, Cornet etc..) - Miss. Farnell
- Woodwind (Clarinet, Flute etc..) – Miss. Staniforth

Peripatetic music lessons require a parental contribution of £205 per year which is payable in advance.

In addition, from September we will be offering pupils an opportunity to learn an instrument or to develop vocal skills in a rock and pop setting by playing in a musical band. We have spoken to schools who have worked with the company 'iRock' and have had extremely positive responses and so will be trialling this as an additional peripatetic opportunity.

More information about iRock can be found by clicking on their web site which can be found at: <http://irockschool.com/>

The iRock company will come into school one afternoon a week to deliver band lessons bringing children together to form their very own band and learning either the drums, keyboard, electric guitar or vocals.

iRock is an independent company and charges £29.50 a month per child to participate. Payments and sign up is through their website.

## **Other music opportunities in school will include:**

Choir – singing a range of contemporary and pop songs.

Orchestra – building on from our successful orchestra event this year we are looking to have a school orchestra which will include guitars and recorders.

There will be no charge to participate in these clubs.

In addition, we will be joining with Wildern Junior Music Academy to offer a variety of musical clubs/ opportunities over the course of the year - the programme will be confirmed in September. Wildern also host the following music clubs:

- Music Fun Factory – for parents and children to learn a musical instrument together at the Wildern d@rt Centre (£2 per session)
- Ukulele Classes at the d@rt Centre (£3 per child)  
– please see more details on page 7 of the brochure by clicking on the link below:

<http://thedart.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/FINAL-BROCHURE-for-website.pdf>

Tomorrow morning we have invited the Year 2 children to come to the Junior School for a musical assembly which will be led by musicians from iRock. This is intended to be a lively, creative musical assembly giving the children an opportunity to hear live music, as recommended in the national curriculum. The assembly will also give the Year 2 children an opportunity to join with pupils in the current Years 3, 4 and 5 to hear a musical band playing and to learn about the various instruments involved.

Tomorrow morning children in Year 2 will be meeting their Year 2 teacher on the Junior playground from 8.45am and they will come into the Junior School with their teacher through the Year 3 doors at 8.55am. They will then be registered and brought into assembly with the Junior children.

If you wish to find out more about any of the musical opportunities above please do not hesitate to contact the Junior School Office who will be more than happy to give you additional information.

Yours sincerely



**Deborah Johnson**  
**Headteacher**