



School Orchestra
2019-20
Tuesdays **3.15- 4.15pm**
plus some Fridays 8.30 – 9.00am + assembly

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The orchestra rehearses after school on Tuesdays and will be continuing this term. We look forward to welcoming back existing members and also to meeting new ones - see below for details.

Tuesday Rehearsal timing

The orchestra runs from 3.15 (straight after school) until 4.15pm. Please arrange to collect your children from reception promptly at 4.15pm. If you are happy for your child to walk home alone or to travel with another parent or guardian, we need written confirmation of this.

Who can join the orchestra?

- The orchestra is open to all children who have learnt an instrument for one year (This can include the recorder if children have played that in school for a year).
- In addition, children who have learnt an orchestral instrument **for less than a whole year** may be able to join, depending on how many notes they can play!
- Children playing clarinet, cornet, trumpet and baritone horn will need to be able to play a scale of D major (ideally A major). Children playing alto sax will need to be able to play a scale of A major (preferably E major).
- Children offering recorder as their main instrument may be able to play tuned percussion from time to time.
- Pianists are welcome, but they should also bring a recorder if they have one and be prepared to play tuned percussion.

Friday mornings

Once we have built up sufficient repertoire, we'll let you know dates when the orchestra will be playing in Friday assemblies, either in school or in church. On those Fridays we shall need as many orchestra members as possible to arrive for set-up and rehearsal at 8.30, but children who travel by the school bus are not excluded – they just come as soon as they can. It will be especially important that children remember to bring their music with them.

Fees

The fee for this activity is £50 per term for one child and a further £10 per term for each additional child from the same family. In cases of need, the school may be able to help with these fees. Please discuss this in confidence with Mrs Mitchell. The fee covers all rehearsals, performances, biscuits (though you may prefer to send in a healthier snack!) and music.

Folder

Please could you provide your child with a stiff-backed ring binder which opens out fully. Alphabetical dividers and plastic wallets will also be useful (though not essential).

Alternative folders with integral plastic wallets are also workable but over a period they may not hold enough music for our purposes.

Parental help

We welcome offers of help from any parents with musical skills who may be interested in joining the team. Please indicate on the form if you could be available. Some musical help is specialist for particular instruments and some is more general e.g. with counting, navigating the music etc.

We are extremely fortunate to have the support from our team of musical parents and former Chesterford parents. I'm very grateful to them for all their musical and administrative help. They ensure that all the children get the most out of being in the orchestra.

On an ad hoc basis we also need help with taking the children and equipment to and from Chesterford Church for end-of-term services. Any available helpers are welcome then.

If you have any queries about any aspect of orchestra please feel free to ring me on 01799 531265 or to email me at janet.wheeler@cantab.net (please note this new email address – my old address was withdrawn when the provider closed down their email provision.)

I look forward to working with this year's orchestra.

Janet Wheeler

Please complete and return the accompanying form to the School Office as soon as possible

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ENROLMENT 2019-20

- Child's Name:
- School class:
- Instrument(s):
- How long learnt:
- Any grades taken:
- Home email if available:
- Home phone number:

Payment

Online via SCOPay – see school website for a link

New members

The fee will be payable after a 3 week trial period

Help available from parent/guardian

If you have a musical background and are willing to help out please give brief details here:

Collection from school

Please give details if your child will be travelling home alone on Tuesdays or will be collected by someone other than you:

I am happy for my child to travel home independently Y/N

My child will be collected by me/us or by

----- or -----

Parent's/Guardian's signature:

We hope very much to have a place for all who want to join, but if we are oversubscribed we may need to place some children on a waiting list. Priority will be given to children learning an orchestral instrument.