



Chesterford School Orchestra

from September 16th 2026

Tuesdays from end of school to 4.15pm

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Now is the time to sign children up for orchestra membership for September 2026. We hope that previous members will continue playing and that we will also have new members joining.

Who can join?

Any child learning an instrument – either in or out of school - is eligible to join. The rehearsal process will support the children's music literacy, but as music reading is an important skill for the orchestra, it is important that members are also progressing their reading and playing skills in their instrumental lessons. Children who have made a start at recorder playing in school are also eligible to join, though they will need to continue practising on the instrument. Exactly when children are ready to join will depend on their specific instrument, how long they have been learning and their age. If you are in doubt over whether your child is ready for the orchestra or not – do register your interest and we can discuss individual cases. New members are invited to try out the orchestra for two sessions before committing to joining if they wish. Please register by filling in the form below..

Although we do not have students playing keyboard in the orchestra, children learning the piano are very welcome to join, and to play tuned percussion (glockenspiel or xylophone) or recorder or untuned percussion. We would allocate these options according to the best fit with children's experience. We hope that in due course these pianists may be inspired to take up an orchestral instrument.

Fees

The fee for this activity remains at £50 per term for one child and a further £10 per term for each additional child from the same family.

The fee covers all rehearsals, performances, biscuits (though you may prefer to send in a healthier snack!) and music.

New members are invited to try out the orchestra before committing to joining if they wish.

Parental help

We would very much welcome parent helpers at orchestra – particularly from anyone with some musical experience. If you think you may be able to come along to support the children do let me know. This would be particularly useful this year as we will no longer be supported by Mrs Middleton. You would need to comply with the school's requirements for volunteers.

If you have any queries about any aspect of orchestra, please feel free to email me on janet.wheeler@cantab.net.)

Janet Wheeler

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

SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ENROLMENT 2026-2027

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

Registration and Payment via Arbor

All pupils must be registered on Arbor in the first instance.

Existing members:

Payment due on registration.

New members:

Payment due upon completion of the 2 week trial period.

Potential 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.