



# Oakwood

## Primary School

Achieving Excellence Together

Sandpiper Road SOUTHAMPTON SO16 8FD

[oakwoodlive.net](http://oakwoodlive.net)

[info@oakwoodlive.net](mailto:info@oakwoodlive.net)

**Headteacher:** Ian Taylor, BEd (Hons) NPQH

**Chair of Governors:** Judy Short

Phone: 023 8074 2345

Fax: 023 8074 2346

12 June 2017

Dear Parent

### Continuing Peripatetic Music Tuition in September 2017

**We have now reached the time when you and your child need to make the decision about learning a musical instrument next year.**

If your child has enjoyed the experience of learning an instrument this year as part of the **Music on the Map** project, we would encourage you to think about them continuing to learn an instrument next year.

As you know, there are so many benefits to learning an instrument in terms of personal pride, achievement and general learning. **Learning a musical instrument...** *speeds the development of speech and reading skills; trains young minds to focus their attention for sustained periods; helps young people develop a sense of empathy for others; has positive effects on a child's self-confidence.*

To help you decide, we have attached a list of things you need to think about. It is important that you give these points careful consideration. The children are taught for a twenty minute lesson and group sizes are limited to no more than three. (If you are interested in your child having 1:1 lessons, please contact the office. These may be available, but are more expensive.)

This year we are pleased let you know that we are continuing to use Showcase Performance Company as our music provider. Alex Pope is the Director of Showcase and is well known at Oakwood for providing music lessons.

This year there is no increase in the cost of tuition. The cost will be £45 per term. Similar private lessons can cost between five and ten times as much. (In cases of genuine financial need, please speak to us. We will assess each case individually. This is in keeping with the Governors' Policy for Charging and Remissions.)

When you have thought things through and made your decision we would be grateful if you send in the enclosed return slip before **Friday 23 June 2017**. **Signing this slip commits your child to lessons for the whole year. This will enable us to make the appropriate arrangements for continued tuition next year.**

Yours sincerely

Ian Taylor  
Headteacher

Claire Di Maiolo  
Admin Assistant



**Oakwood Primary School & Showcase Performance Company**  
**Continuing to learn a musical instrument - things to be considered**

- Learning a musical instrument is a great source of personal and family pride.
- The instruments offered by Showcase are: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone\*, trumpet, trombone, tenor horn, French horn\*, guitar, piano, drums, violin and cello\*. We also offer vocal tuition. (\*Limited availability.)
- **We do encourage children to make sure they practise their instrument at home. Showcase Performance Company will be sending home letters at the beginning of September regarding instrument loan. The cost to hire and insure the instrument will be a one off payment of £25 (payable directly to Showcase) so that your child can take their instrument home.**
- In accordance with Oakwood Primary School's Charging and Remission Policy, there will be a charge for tuition of **£45** per term. (This can be paid **fully in advance** with a £15 discount ie. £120 or 3 termly payments of **£45**). Your child will receive a minimum of **30** lessons over the academic year, which amounts to only **£4.50** per lesson. This represents **excellent value** – similar private lessons can cost between five and ten times as much. The first instalment of £45 for the autumn term (or £120 for the whole year) must be paid by **Monday 3 July 2017**.

**Please read the next paragraph very carefully**

- **By signing the slip below, you are committing to pay the full cost of music tuition for the whole year. This is because music teachers' contracts and visits are arranged at the start of the year. If you decide that your child should stop learning the instrument, the music teacher's contract cannot be altered mid year. Because of this, it is very important that the commitment to continuing to learn a musical instrument is taken very seriously.**
- Pupils will be taught in groups of up to three children. The main focus will be their development on their chosen instrument. It requires a degree of enthusiasm and dedication.
- From time to time you will be asked to purchase music for your child. The cost of this will be kept to a minimum, but it would be appreciated if the music could be purchased as soon as possible after details are sent home to help maintain rates of progress.
- Regular practice is important – try to encourage your children to practise five times a week for 10 minutes.
- We try to encourage a good, working partnership between home and school to support the children in their instrumental learning. Try, therefore, to listen to your child play at least once a week with suitable encouragement! Also, try to make contributions to the children's practice books that are sent home on a weekly basis.

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**Oakwood Primary School - Continuing Instrumental Tuition – Return Slip**

I would like my child to continue to learn a musical instrument next year.

**By signing below, I am committing to pay for a full year's music tuition (£45 x 3 instalments or £120 as one payment).**

Signed:

Relation to pupil:

Date:

First Choice of Instrument:

(This slip **must be returned to school by Friday 23 June**. We have to make arrangements to book teachers and **no late slips will be accepted**.)