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Violin, Flute and Clarinet Lessons at Norwood Primary School

Dear Parents,

From September 2014 there are spaces for new pupils to begin violin, flute or clarinet lessons. If you have any further questions or would like **to book lessons** for your child please **contact me directly by email** (teacher@musictuition.org.uk). Lessons will be allocated on a first come first served basis and if necessary, other pupils will be put on the waiting list.

Individual lessons

Parents are billed at the start of each term for that term's lessons.

A maximum of 3 lessons (each Academic year) missed for any reason (e.g. school trips or illness) will be credited to the following term. The fourth and any subsequent lessons missed will be billed at the pupil's usual rate. Pupils who start lessons mid-year will be allowed the appropriate proportion of non-chargeable lessons (one per term). If a pupil forgets their instrument they will have a theory and aural lesson. If the school is closed unexpectedly (e.g. due to heavy snow, heating failure) there will be no charge made for missed lessons. There is also no charge made for any missed lessons during SATs week. Lessons missed due to my absence will not be charged.

Cost: Individual 20 minute lesson - £9.50 per week
Individual 30 minute lesson - £14 per week

Group lessons

Group of two pupils- £70 per pupil per term (e.g. September to December)

Group of three pupils - £47 per pupil per term (If another child in your child's group gives up, the following term will be charged as a group of two pupils)

Groups receive a 30 minute lesson each week, 30 visits per academic year.

Lessons are charged per term and no refunds will be paid due to any lessons missed or pupils giving up. As long as one pupil from the group is there this counts as one of the 30 lessons even if another pupil is absent.

Groups need two beginner pupils (on the same instrument) to operate. If there is only 1 beginner pupil they will be charged at the individual rate for 20 or 30 minutes at the parent's choice. (A group of pupils must not span more than 3 school years, i.e. Year 1 and Year 3 is feasible, Year 1 and Year 4 is not feasible.)

If at the start of the Spring or Summer term it is not possible to create a group of beginners (2 or more) due to other pupils ceasing lessons the remaining pupil will be charged at the individual rate.

If, **at any point**, I feel that the difference in abilities has grown too far apart to make group lessons worthwhile to all pupils I will recommend individual lessons.

Notice to cease lessons

Half a term must be given in writing by letter or email if the pupil wishes to stop lessons; i.e. to finish lessons at Easter notice must be given **before** the February half-term holiday, or to finish at the May half-term holiday notice must be given **before** the Easter holidays. Lessons during the notice period must be paid for, but it is up to the pupil's parents whether they attend the lessons or not.

Pupils must provide their own instrument.

Violin – (I will advise on the correct size for your child) Suggested make – Stentor, Primavera, Mayflower, Hidersine

Clarinet - suggested makes - Yamaha, Buffet, Jupiter,

Flute - suggested makes – Yamaha, Buffet, Trevor James

- **There is one ¾ size and several 1/2size school instruments available to borrow**
- **There are several school clarinets available to borrow**
- It is possible to hire instruments from some music shops, e.g. Stamford Music Shop
- Please be careful if purchasing instruments second-hand
- There are cheaper makes of flute and clarinet, but these tend to break down very quickly due to poor manufacture and materials and so I do not recommend that you buy them.

Youngest recommended starting age:

Violin - Year 1 (provided the child has at least an average ability in reading)

Clarinet - Year 3 (Children must have their adult top front teeth)

Flute – Year 3 (I will need to assess smaller children to check they can reach the keys without discomfort)

Please discuss carefully with your child what learning an instrument entails. As a beginner they must be prepared to practise at least 10-15 minutes, three times a week. Parents will need to encourage their child to practise at home and provide a suitable space away from distraction.

A tutor book will be needed and I will inform you of the details after lessons are confirmed.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs N Weston

Visiting violin, flute and clarinet teacher.