

Dear Parents,

The children in Year 5 have been fortunate to get the opportunity to learn a brass or woodwind instrument with the teachers from Buckinghamshire Learning Trust, Emma Walker and Lyn Lee. Our lessons on a Friday have started fantastically, and the children thoroughly enjoyed experiencing many different brass and woodwind instruments. The children are kindly being loaned an instrument from their list of preferences and are expected to take them home in order to practise and show off their skills! This is a joint initiative between school, home and Bucks Learning Trust. This is an exciting prospect for them, and gives them the opportunity to show how responsible they can be in looking after their instruments. It is imperative that the instrument is brought to school **each Friday** so that the children are able to use them in the music lessons. The children's lessons will finish in February, and at this time the instrument will need to be returned so that it can be loaned to another child to play.

Time has been spent with the children to show them how to put the instruments together safely, to return them to their cases and how to look after them. We have shown the children that when assembling the instrument try to hold it where there are very few or no keys. This will stop the delicate mechanisms being damaged. Special care should be taken with Clarinets and Saxophones as they have "correspondence keys" which link the middle joints and are easily bent.

The children have been advised not to leave instruments near radiators, in cars, or in other places where the temperature and/or humidity fluctuates significantly, as this may affect the performance of the instrument. The pads of the instruments are held in with substances that will melt in high temperatures, and the pads may fall out.

We have explained to the children not to eat just before playing. Food could be blown into the instrument and it will begin to smell after a while. It is not only unhygienic but can corrode the inside of your instrument if left unattended. Also sweets and fizzy drinks will make the pads sticky. If you do have sticky pads then they need cleaning, please bring it into school if this is the case. When not in use, it is best to keep the instrument in its case, as that is the safest place for it.

Please can we ask that the instrument is played only by the children in Year 5, as they have been shown how best to look after the instruments. It is not suitable for siblings.

We are aware that accidents do happen and most accidents happen when the instrument is left unattended out of its case. If your child's instrument needs repairing, please let the school know as soon as possible. Please don't attempt a repair yourself, as further unintentional damage can easily be caused by well meaning parents attempting a little DIY.

Please may we ask you to sign and complete the below slip to the school to show that you have been in receipt of this letter. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask at the upcoming parents evening. We hope that you enjoy the

experience of hearing your child learning to play an instrument that they may not have before!

Kind Regards

The Year 5 Team

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Childs name:

Child's agreement:

I agree that I will take my instrument home each week and practise regularly. I agree that I will remember to bring my instrument into school each Friday so I can be involved in each lesson.

Signed.....

Parental Agreement:

I agree to take responsibility for the instrument (please delete as applicable)

trumpet /baritone /trombone /clarinet /saxophone

I understand that if the instrument is deliberately damaged then I am responsible for the cost of replacing the instrument. I understand that if the instrument is lost then I may be required to cover the cost of replacing the instrument. I will ensure that he/she takes reasonable care of the instrument.

Signed Parent/Guardian.....