



## **String Programmes for Year 1 and 2 at Newton Prep.**



At Newton Prep, children at Year 1 and 2 have the opportunity to join our String Programmes for beginners.

Learning music at this age is an important addition to academic and other general learning. It builds on and further develops physical, communication, mathematical and creative skills. It gives children the chance to experience working towards a long-term goal, to perform in public and to work as both a team member and an individual.

We offer strings tuition in our beginner programmes at Newton for several important reasons; we know how important it is to start children early with a variety of learning experiences, including music, and we know the sooner the better for long-term virtuosity and success. String instruments can be taught successfully to very young children. Most brass and woodwind instruments require learners to have good stature and breath control, which most 5 and 6 year olds usually don't have. Even if your child moves to a non-string instrument in later years, starting in the string programme at this age will equip your child with good general musical skills which can be carried over to any tuition on any other instrument.

**If you are interested in having your child take part in the Year 1 and 2 String Programmes, please read on, and return the attached contract to Mrs Anna Miller (Director of Music).**

Please note that places are limited so it's a good idea to register your interest as soon as possible. At the beginning of the new school year there will be a Strings information session before the Year 1 and 2 Welcome Drinks, so that participating families can ask questions, meet the strings teachers and learn what parents can do at home to help their children in their string-learning endeavours.

## **Year 1 String Programme**

How it works:

- Students take a weekly shared or individual lesson with one of the string teachers. Parents can opt for shared or individual lessons but please bear in mind that in an individual lesson, your child has his or her teacher's undivided attention and progress can be made more quickly.
- Students also take part in a once-a-week ensemble session together with all other Year 1 string players. Games to develop posture, listening skills, playing and performance skills are undertaken, as well as the practice of increasingly challenging repertoire.

Fees:

- Parents pay for individual or shared lessons only; £196 per term for individual lessons, £98 for shared lessons. The ensemble session is now a school-based non-fee paying activity.

Performances:

- Children perform together several times a year, at assemblies, recitals and concerts. Parents are able to attend a number of these events. We will be sure to notify you in advance.

*Please note that while violin is very often very popular, cello is just as great a choice for young learners; it is often dismissed unnecessarily as 'too big to handle'. They are quite light to carry, and come with rucksack style cases, easy for even small children to deal with. Cellos are (obviously) built on a larger scale and are easier for small fingers to get around in many ways, not as small and 'fiddly' as violins. They can also have a much mellower tone than their smaller cousins, especially in the hands of beginners.*

## **Year 2 String Programme**

How it works:

- Students take an individual lesson with one of the string teachers. Paired lessons are not available in Year 2.
- Students also take part in a once-a-week ensemble session together with all other Year 2 string players. These sessions focus on developing skills begun in Year 1 and on building repertoire and performance skills.

Fees:

- Individual lessons at £196. The ensemble session is a school-based non-fee paying activity.

Performances:

Children perform together several times a year, at assemblies, recitals and concerts. Parents will be able to attend a number of these events. We will be sure to notify you of these events in advance.

If you have any questions, or would like information on buying and hiring instruments, please feel free to contact Mrs Anna Miller at school [amiller@newtonprep.co.uk](mailto:amiller@newtonprep.co.uk)

*A recent study in an American university found that playing the violin was the activity that made more parts of the brain active at same time than anything else. Nothing else came close. Just think of all those neural pathways busily being formed! - and how important it is for young children to have the stimulation of a variety of challenges that encourage brain development.*