

## Subject Report

**Teacher: Adam Todd/Courtney Fourie    Subject: Music    Date: 2024-2025**

This year has been an exciting one for music at Holly Grove, with lots of positive changes and new opportunities for our children. One of the biggest highlights has been the introduction of our brand-new music scheme of work, designed by Danielle Alty and Courtney Fourie. Their inclusive and creative approach has brought a fresh energy to our music lessons. Staff have felt more supported and confident when teaching, which has led to more enjoyable, hands-on, and engaging sessions for the children.

The new curriculum puts a strong focus on practical music-making, especially through learning instruments and composing. Most year groups now get the chance to play an instrument, helping children build musical skills in a fun, interactive way. There's also a bigger emphasis on creating and composing music, giving children the chance to express themselves, work together, and develop their listening and performance skills.

Staff feedback has been really positive. Many have said they feel much more confident delivering music lessons thanks to the clear structure and support offered by the new scheme. As a result, we've seen children more engaged in lessons and achieving great things in music across the school.

We have been fortunate to have access to Lancashire Music Hub's Accessible Library, which has added something special to our music curriculum. The children have loved getting hands-on with exciting tech like Cosmo switches, Soundbeam, Orba devices, and more. These tools have made it easier for all children—including those with more complex needs—to explore sound, rhythm, and creating music in a fun and accessible way.

Another huge highlight this year was our musical sharing event in the auditorium, where we welcomed Ridgewood High School and other local schools. Each school learned the same five songs, including the Makaton signs, and then came together for a fun group performance. It was a great celebration of music, friendship, and community spirit.

We were also excited to have the Festivo Winds visit in the spring term for workshops with our Year 5 children. These sessions introduced classical music in a hands-on, interactive way. The children really responded well—many showed better eye contact, copied actions, and got involved through rhythm and movement. The workshops helped build confidence, social skills, and understanding of cause and effect. The children were especially fascinated by the different wind instruments, which were both interesting and calming, especially for those who sometimes struggle to stay regulated.

This year, we've renewed and strengthened our community partnerships. Burnley Youth Theatre and Little Voices have been working closely with each class, offering lively sessions full of drama, singing, and music. These sessions have given children extra chances to build their performance skills, confidence, and creativity.

In March, we were thrilled to welcome M&M Productions back for an interactive, in-house performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. For many of our children, going to a theatre can be overwhelming, so having the show at school gave them a safe, familiar place to enjoy live theatre. The lessons before the performance helped children get to know the story and characters, which made watching the show even more exciting. Many children felt proud and happy seeing the story they learned about come alive on stage.

Looking ahead, we're excited to keep building on this progress by giving even more children the chance to learn instruments, offering extra support and training for our teachers, planning more fun events with local schools and musicians, and making sure we listen to the children's ideas to keep improving our music program.

## Evidence of our Creative Children

