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MUSIC TRAIN HITCHIN NEWS



TAKE A PEEK!

MUSIC TRAIN GOES ON-LINE

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP.

TUNEFUL TED'S 25TH BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

Welcome to the third edition
of this newsletter.

Music Train is now available
on-line. Read on to find
outmore . . .

Music Train @ Home



When the covid 19 pandemic struck and face to face classes had to stop, Music Train went on-line via the zoom platform.

We all braved the initial technical challenges and now everyone is comfortable using zoom.

The children have adapted amazingly well to the new format and some have found new confidence to sing on their own from the comfort of the home.



Peter Rabbit and Peter Puppet still hide away to be sung for and Tuneful Ted keeps a watchful eye on everything.



Music Train @ Home -what you said

They really enjoyed it!

The interaction was fab i.e colours, pictures etc

lovely interaction with others in the class as well and each child with the teacher

He loved it and said how much he enjoyed it after.

we loved watching everyone on the multiscreen and the interaction of choosing some of the content

Being part of something structured. XXX being able to see and do something 'normal'

We liked your different background pictures!

Singing Happy Birthday. Watching xxx blow out the candles

You also made some very helpful suggestions which I have tried to follow up on e.g. resending the link each week, muting everyone at once, colouring sheets, bit of show and tell, sing for Peter

How is it done?



Green screen technology is the answer. I convert the corner of a bedroom into my studio by hanging up green cloth over the curtain rails. I have lights, an extra long ethernet cable and all my usual musical equipment.

Grandparents

We are used to having the occasional visitor to our classes. At a time when seeing family is impossible, it has been a particular pleasure to welcome lots of grandparents who have braved zoom to join in. Some are well-known to us all as they usually bring their grandchildren to class, and for some it has been their first (we hope not last!) Music Train experience. I know they have all enjoyed seeing their families taking part in classes. It has been great to feel that we can support you all in this way at such a difficult time.

Tuneful Ted's 25th Birthday giveaway



The prize for February was won by a Hitchin family who were able to receive their gift in class.

Winners from March, April and May will have to wait until they can collect their prizes when face to face sessions resume.

New Facebook Group



The new private facebook group for current clients has been a great success and is definitely one of the silver linings of this period. I have been able to make and share lots of mini videos for families to use in between our sessions.

Tuneful Ted's 25th Birthday

Sadly we have had to postpone Tuneful Ted's special birthday classes – we hope these will take place in the autumn. Instead in Hitchin we will be having an informal on-line teddy bear's picnic at the end of June which will be the last in our block of 4 weeks of a teddybear / book bear theme.



Nurturing Babies Musicality goes ahead



Our special class for parents/carers with babies 0-12months has continued on-line this term. Each week we take a theme for me to explain how and why we teach different concepts.

The class all get a follow-up email afterwards with more information and useful links to on-line resources.



The next Nurturing Babies' Musicality course will start in September. If you know anyone who has a young baby please put them in touch.

Looking Forward

We have all found ourselves digging deep and having to try new ways of doing things during this crisis period. For me, who had never even taken part in a video conference call before, the learning curve has been very steep! But now amongst new skills I can list scheduling and running zoom meetings, teaching on-line, making and editing videos and setting up and running a facebook group. All skills that will be useful in the future I hope.

As soon as it is safe to do so face to face classes will resume, but for the moment we stay on-line. We are now all used to the format. Although it has its limitations I think it is working well in the circumstances and probably feels more natural to the children than having to understand and follow strict social distancing measures at Woodside Hall.

Frances and Tuneful Ted x

