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MUSIC TRAIN HITCHIN NEWS



TAKE A PEEK!

BACK AT WOODSIDE

PETER & THE WOLF

FREE PLAY

TUNEFUL TED'S TRAIN
IS BACK . . .

Welcome to the 6th
Volume of this newsletter.

Read on to find out what
has been happening at
Hitchin Branch this term.

Back at Woodside Hall



It has been great to be back face to face at Woodside Hall this term. By changing the room layout I have managed to fit in two more families per class and the new seating seems to be working well. We are still not up to our normal class sizes and I have had more people wanting places than I have space for. During the term we have been able to make some small changes as lockdown eases and are looking forward to more when circumstances allow.



The Music Train is Back!

Following the move to Stage 3 on the government's roadmap, we have made a few changes at Music Train. Instruments are delivered to the children by Tuneful Ted and his Music Train. We can once again play the guess what's in the train game and let the children choose their own instruments. All instruments and props continue to be cleaned / quarantined as necessary.



Free Play Returns



During the first part of the session, younger children and babies have teacher led musical activities. At the end of class we like to give children the chance to explore the instruments and musical toys for themselves. This is an important part of their learning. At first they did this on their own mats, but from 17th May the big mats are back in the middle!

Pictures and Music

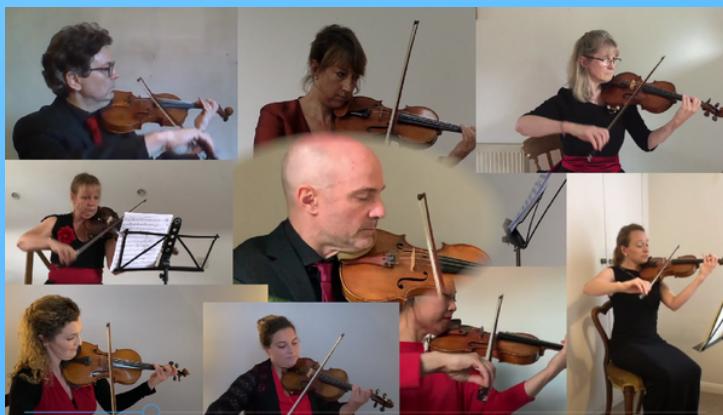
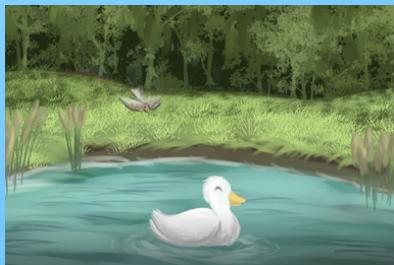


The new digital projector has been giving an exciting and atmospheric start to class for the older children. Images of woodland creatures and plants have been projected on the wall as we listen to birdsong and related music. We have also been able to watch a film version of Peter and the Wolf which everyone has enjoyed.



Peter & The Wolf

This wonderful piece by Sergei Prokofiev was written in only 4 days back in 1936. It is great for helping children learn about some of the standard orchestral instruments. This time through we have used a wonderful recording of the music made by The London Mozart Players, who have been so helpful in giving me permission to show the film in class.



It was recorded during lockdown in 2020 and has been put together brilliantly using the orchestra, their friends, family, a toy duck and even someone's dog to represent the wolf! .



Filming took place in their houses, gardens and local countryside. Children in the older classes have really enjoyed watching the film section by section each week. Thank you London Mozart Players.

Woodland Topic

I always enjoy this topic. This time through we have had new bird puppets to use and some lovely leaves to scatter, helping us to pretend we are in the woods. Each week we have found a new woodland creature in my tree to guide our singing , rhymes and music making.



Twiddlers and Bubbles



Pictures, bubbles and twiddlers have helped the children to focus and listen to selected tracks of music. We have a bubble machine to avoid me blowing bubbles and our lovely twiddlers (liquid timers) are great fun at all ages.

Thank You

I would like to say a big thank you to you all for being so supportive and cooperative this term as we returned to face to face classes. You have been thoughtful and caring towards each other by wearing masks, doing covid tests and generally 'following the rules' to keep us all as safe as we can. Thank you.

I hope you have enjoyed catching up on all things Music Train. Booking for Autumn 2021 will be open on 5th June and to new families two weeks later. Many of our clients come to us through personal recommendations - please let your friends know about us.

Frances and Tuneful Ted x

Coming soon . . .

After half term our topic will be colours. Children in 2+ years classes will also look at musical notes from the scale of C. The school age class will be using notes from the scale of C to play tunes and accompaniments to our songs.

