



Music *at* heart

more than just music lessons

What will my child learn in Pre-Instrument classes?

We prepare our minds

- we improve our focus and concentration
- we develop our memory skills - the key to all learning
- we practise social skills by learning to listen, share and respect others, an integral part of any form of group music-making

We prepare the voice - by singing songs galore

- the voice is our first musical instrument
- through singing we develop inner hearing, fundamental to all musical growth
- through singing we gain a sense of pulse, pitch awareness and rhythmic control, foundation stones of all instrumental playing
- songs give us our first introduction to the repertoire we will later learn to play on our instruments

We prepare the body - with movement games and exercises

body awareness is at the root of a good posture, essential for all instrumentalists

- we learn balance and how to be centred
- we learn sidedness - left from right
- we learn how to recognise tension and release it
- we learn what it feels like to move freely
- we learn how our limbs move naturally and how to work with them, not against them

We prepare the breath - with blowing and sound games

efficient breath control is important to all instrumentalists, even string players, but particularly wind players!

- we connect with our natural breathing rhythms
- we practise blowing and regulating our breath
- we use the breath to explore musical phrasing and expression

We prepare the fingers - having fun with finger games

well-developed fine motor skills are central to all successful instrumental technique

- we fine-tune our sense of touch by exploring interesting shapes and textures
- we practise moving and co-ordinating individual fingers and groups of fingers

We prepare the tongue - with creative wordplay

- we learn rhymes and songs with challenging phonics and articulations
- we practise the tonguing syllables needed for playing the recorder

We prepare our eyes and ears for reading music - as a separate skill from playing an instrument

- we listen to CD recordings of the Suzuki Recorder music we later learn to play, just as we all first hear the sounds and words of the language we later learn to speak
- we use solfa names and handsigns as kinesthetic reinforcement
- we play a vast array of Music Mind Games