

Ardoch Strings: Instrumental Opportunities Report for Autumn Term (Aug-Oct) 2021

Covid-security measures still prevent me from entering the school building. I collect all violins from parents and place them directly into the village hall at 9am, from where they are collected again at 3pm. Children are then sent out to me in their year groups for a 30 minute lesson, following all the protocols for a Covid-secure teaching environment in the hall, including distancing, good ventilation, hand-washing and my wearing a face covering.

Lessons were provided for only 6 weeks of this term as the school required the hall on 7 Dec due to a maintenance emergency and an advisory from the headteacher in the last two weeks for covid precautions about the Omicron variant shortened the term further.

Pupils involved in the project

The numbers have gone up significantly as seven new P3s have started learning violin. One P4 dropped lessons, whilst one P6 returned after a few terms out. Current numbers are up to 23.

P3s: 7
P4s: 4
P5s: 3
P6s: 6
P7s: 3
Total: 23

Parent contributions are £20 per term per child, covering exactly 50% of the tuition and venue hire cost of the project this term.

Ardoch Strings & performances

I was able to run the Ardoch Strings afterschool club for five weeks for the older learners in P5/6/7. Of the 12 eligible learners, nine attended on a regular basis. We were able to create some festive recordings which were shared, with all permissions in place, with parents, the community and the Scottish Music Education Partnership Group.

*Fiona Chalamanda
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