

Music Long-Term Overview 2026-27

Cherbourg Primary School

Year group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
R	See Year R overview					
1 	Unit: Finding the singing voice Key Knowledge and skills: Relationship between speaking & singing voice Pitch matching (small range) Echo & call-response Outcome: Sing simple songs with developing pitch accuracy	Unit: Singing together: how singing makes me feel Key Knowledge and skills: Dynamics (loud/quiet) Expression in singing Following a conductor. Outcome: Perform songs using simple dynamics	Unit: Compose and Create: exploring and performing rhythm patterns Key Knowledge and skills: Identify timbre Composer/composition Simple rhythm patterns Play untuned percussion Outcome: Compose and perform simple rhythm compositions	Unit: Music and movement: feeling the pulse and changing the tempo Key Knowledge and skills: Pulse & tempo (fast/slow) Responding to tempo changes Embed and use their understanding of the call and response structure, using this to respond and play in time. Outcome: Using tempo to tell a musical story.	Unit: Compose and create: high and low melodic responses Key Knowledge and skills: Pitch (high/low) Notes: so & mi Simple stick notation (Ta, Ta-di) Outcome: Compose and perform simple (four beat, high and low) melodic patterns	Unit: Singing for performance: Changing tempo and dynamics in our songs Key Knowledge and skills: Tempo, timbre & dynamics Mood in music Performance skills, including from memory. Outcome: Creating a convincing singing performance

Unit: Start with singing: learning through singing games.

Key Knowledge and skills:

Pulse, beat, rhythm

Pitch (high/low)

Singing games

Stick notation

Outcome: Playing the beat and rhythm of the same song through call and response.

Unit: Singing together: how singing helps us work together

Key Knowledge and skills:

Call & response

Pulse in teamwork (keeping in time)

Texture and ostinato

Sea shanties

Outcome: Create your own ostinato linked to a sea shanty.

Unit: Compose and create: recording our musical ideas using a graphic score

Key Knowledge and skills:

Rhythmic patterns

Composition

Graphic score

Ternary form (ABA structure)

Outcome: Create and record a short piece using ABA structure (singing and percussion to represent an animal).

Unit: Music and movement: using symbols to represent pitch

Key Knowledge and skills:

Pitch on a three-line simplified stave, focusing on pitch and syllables but not rhythm.

Notes- 'high and low' (so and mi) to include 'higher' (la) and 'lower' (do).

Outcome: Place notes on a stave to notate a song.

Unit: Compose and create: improvising with four notes

Key Knowledge and skills:

Use do, mi, so, la, to both play a known melody and improvise on pitched percussion.

stick notation

understanding of the difference between composition and improvisation

Outcome: Create a performance in ABA structure.

Unit: Singing for performance: adding a simple vocal accompaniment.

Key Knowledge and skills:

pulse

ability to match pitches

sing with some control of dynamics

texture and part-singing

Outcome: Performing a song with two or more layers.

Unit: Start with playing: adding percussive layers to build to texture in our songs

Key Knowledge and skills:

Use pulse, beat, and rhythm to create rhythmic layers under songs.

Singing with a simple rhythmic ostinato.

Using untuned percussion.

Outcome: Children perform a sign with layers of percussion.

Unit: Singing together: how songs are used in communities

Key Knowledge and skills:

Different songs capture different emotions.

crescendo vs piano p

vocal range, clearer articulation and more authentic expression

Outcome: Performing together.

Unit: Compose and Create: notating and performing using rhythm grids

Key Knowledge and skills:

Music notation/ rhythm grids

Play rhythmic ostinati

Subdivision of the beat

Outcome: Perform percussion ensemble.

Unit: Playing together: building texture with melody, drone and ostinato

Key Knowledge and skills:

Drone accompaniments

Play melodic ostinato

Rehearsal

Outcome: Performing with layered accompaniments.

Unit: Compose and Create: major pentatonic melodies

Key Knowledge and skills:

Notation, (three-line simplified stave)

Outcome: Play and compose pentatonic melodies on tuned percussion.

Unit: Singing for performance: holding a second part in rounds and partner songs

Key Knowledge and skills:

Texture (melodic second line)

Round or partner songs

Harmony basics

Outcome: Children perform following a conductor.



Unit: Anglo Saxons

Key Knowledge and skills:

Duration

Dynamics

Tempo

Graphic score

Outcome: Perform class accompaniment to a scene / narrative from either an original Anglo Saxon poem, story or saga such as Beowulf.

Unit: Find it, Make it, Play it

Key Knowledge and skills:

Timbre and how sounds can be used singularly or in unison.

Texture for expressive effect.

Outcome: Children create a winter sound sequence, layering certain sounds.

Unit: Compose and Create: improvising within Hindustani classical music

Key Knowledge and skills:

Identify and understand how rhythm patterns fit to a steady beat using 4 metre.

Stave notation

Outcome: Children perform a super hero themed American army style pitched chant.

Unit: Reading Rhythms

Key Knowledge and skills:

2, 3 and 4 metre

Basic rhythmic notation (crotchets, quavers and minims)

Outcome: Invent and perform 4 beat rhythm patterns using crotchets, quavers and minims.

Unit: River's Journey

Key Knowledge and skills:

Graphic notation

Minor scale pattern

Musical themes

Using tuned percussion

Outcome: Perform own arrangement of the River's Journey song.

Unit: Lucy in the sky with diamonds

Key Knowledge and skills:

C major scale

Rhythm patterns

3 and 4 metre

Pitch

Outcome: Children create 3 and 4 metre melodies using C major scale.



Unit: A Bao A Qu (Ten Pieces) - Fantastical Beasts

Key Knowledge and skills:

Pentatonic, major and harmonic minor

Outcome: Playing your part in a layered (textured) ensemble piece.

Unit: Read, Write and Remember to Twinkle

Key Knowledge and skills:

C major scale

Core stave notation

Note names

Outcome: Children learn to read note notation and perform twinkle twinkle little star.

Unit: Frozen Lands

Key Knowledge and skills:

D natural minor scale

Performance with drones/ closed rounds

Tuned percussion to accompany singing

Outcome: Children create their own melodic phrase / tune for *The wind blew cold the wind blew strong* using the notes D E F G A and high D.

Unit: Map Rappers

Key Knowledge and skills:

Grids and rhythmic notation

Contrast different music

chant / rap

rhythm patterns in 8 metre

Outcome: Children create a group verse that rhymes.

Unit: Space

Key Knowledge and skills:

Harmony

Timbre

Texture

Dynamics

Dissonant note clusters

Outcome: Children create their own version of atmospheres with one child conducting. The different pieces are explored and compared.

Unit: Greek Tragedy

Key Knowledge and skills:

Dynamic

Tempo

Structure

Choral interlude

Outcome: Children create and perform an independent group interpretation of a Greek tragedy.



Unit: Short Ride in a Fast Machine

Key Knowledge and skills:

Layering steady beat with rhythm patterns

3 and 4 metre

Outcome: Children performing whole class and small group minimalist style rhythmic creations (creating, developing and performing own "Fast ride" compositions).

Unit: Calypso Sparkle

Key Knowledge and skills:

C major scale

Graphic and stave notation.

Pitch, duration and texture

Syncopation

Outcome: Children perform a calypso piece of music.

Unit: Amazing Machines

Key Knowledge and skills:

8 beat repetitive melodic and rhythmic patterns.

Improvising

C major scale.

Outcome: Children create an 8 beat machine music using vocals and tuned instruments.

Unit: God Save the Queen

Key Knowledge and skills:

Inventing, notating and performing short 6 note (2 x 3 beat) melodies in G major

Melody

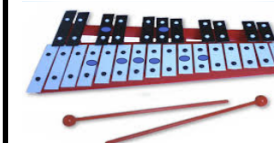
Stave notation

Outcome: Children perform God Save the Queen – melody and chords.

Unit: Baghdad – Mongol invasion

Key Knowledge and skills:

Arabic / double harmonic scale



Drone

Ostinato

Outcome: Children compose series of music to depict the Mongol attack of Baghdad.

Unit: Quiet Confidence

Key Knowledge and skills:

Structure and dynamics

Rhythm patterns

Rehearsal

Outcome: Children perform Quiet Confidence song with Rhythmic Composition.