



Archdiocese of Birmingham
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy
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Music At Home

Hello everybody,
I hope you are all keeping well and safe at home.

Music is a great way to keep boredom away and cheer you up whilst we can't get out and about as much as usual. There are plenty of ways to bring some music into your home life and share it with your family. Here are some musical activities for you to try out; there are listening, performing and composing suggestions.

I have included weblinks to a range of resources including (for age 6 and up) the Blue Peter Music Badge!

Listening

Share your favourite songs with your family and then ask your parents about their favourite songs when they were your age. See if you can find the songs they remember and listen to them. Talk about the music with your parents.

Key Stage 1

- How does it make you feel?
- Is it fast or slow?
- Clap along and keep to the beat.
- Do you recognise any of the instruments used?

Key Stage 2

- Is it computer-generated sound?
- How many singers did you hear?
- Were there any backing singers?
- Did you catch any the words used in the lyrics?
- Which words were repeated the most in the song's catchiest part (known as the 'hook')?
- How many notes were in the hook?
- Did the pitch rise, fall, or stay the same during the hook?
- Could you tell which part of the song is the verse and which part is the chorus?
- How does the song end?

You can use this discussion as part of your [Blue Peter Badge application](#), just add a few words about any other music you have participated in, you can include the activities we do in class, singing in assemblies and concerts as well as any music trips you may have been on to the Victoria Hall or Young Voices. You will need your parent's permission to apply for the badge.

If you require this information in any other format, please contact the school office.



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Try listening to a different style of music for a change. Find music from a different part of the world or different historical period. Choose a famous composer and listen to several different pieces of music by the same person. [BBC 10 Pieces](#) is a good place to start.

Performing

Some of our favourite songs that we sing in music lessons in school are now available to sing along at home. Go to the website of the publishers "[Out Of The Ark](#)" and look for the @HOME link. You will also find exciting new songs; there's one for every day that we have been off school so far!

Key Stage 1 children can find Mr Hayes, our Songbirds tutor, teaching his favourite songs on YouTube on the [City Music Service](#) channel. There are other videos worth exploring here for Key Stage 2 children and links to my other two suggestions, [Sing Up](#) and [BBC Bitesize](#).

[Sing Up](#) has playlists for silly songs, relaxing songs, action songs and uplifting songs.

[BBC Bitesize](#) Daily lessons include a music lesson for each year group- just pick your class and get started. At the end of the lesson are links to other videos and activities from around the BBC Teach website. The [House of Sound introduction to instruments series](#) is definitely worth a look.

Why not try performing using items from around the house? Ask a parent to help you find a few things to make a percussion set with. Maybe put some pasta in a jar with a lid to shake, tap a pair of metal or wooden spoons, stamp your feet, clap your hands. You will need 4 or 5 different sounds. Use the radio or another music source and play along, making up a repeating pattern with your sounds.

To practice your music reading, use the percussion videos on the [Musication](#) channel on YouTube and match the different symbols with your different sounds. There's also a movement warmup video – I must share that with Mr Sigley!

If you are missing our hymn practices, then don't forget to check out Dan and Emily's weekly Worship and Song from [One Life Music on YouTube](#).

Composing- Making your own music (Key Stage 2)

Now is a great time to write a song as you have plenty of time to think and practice it every day instead of once a week in a short music lesson. Your song could be silly, thoughtful, energetic or prayerful. It is a good way to practice your English skills, as many songs have rhyming lyrics, alliteration and sometimes homophones or puns (they are a form of poetry really). You need a strong, memorable melody for the chorus.

BBC Teach also has some ideas for [making your own music](#) projects.

Finally, if you have a musical instrument at home, keep practising!

Stay safe and enjoy some musical fun,
Mrs Amison

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