

# Little Eaton Primary School

## Piano Lessons



Available for children in Year 1 and above

With Lynne Siddons and Phil Brown

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### ‘A Guide For Parents’

I am looking forward to teaching your child the piano, and I hope they will gain many years of enjoyment with their love of music.

#### Piano lesson fees



Lessons take place during term-time, on a one-to-one basis, lasting for 20 minutes. I will e-mail you the lesson time and invoice before the beginning of every half term. In Years 3-6 it is up to your child to arrive at the correct time. If they do not turn up, I will collect them, but this will be part of their 20 minute lesson. (Children in Years 1-2 will be collected and returned to their classroom)

The cost is £11.50 per lesson, and the half term fee is to be paid by the date on the invoice.

Let me know well in advance if your child is going to be missing their lesson for any reason for an activity inside or outside school, otherwise you will still be charged. If your child is ill on the day of their lesson and you message me before 9:00am, you will not be charged. If you wish to stop lessons, you are required to give me four lessons notice. We encourage children to continue with lessons in the school holidays especially over the summer so that they do not forget what they have learned and can keep practicing effectively. Any missed lessons which have been paid for may be arranged to be taken privately in the school holidays.

#### Practising effectively – making the most of 10,060 minutes

There are 10,080 minutes in the week and I only teach a child for 20 minutes of that time. People often talk about talented musicians, but progress is directly related to regular and effective practice at home. Very few children will practise voluntarily, and so it is down to parents to ensure that it takes place. Everyone has busy lives nowadays, so have a look at your child’s schedule at the beginning of each week and work out *when* they are going to fit in their practice. Little and often is best - children will achieve far more if they practise 15-30 minutes 5/6 times a week rather than 60 minutes the night before. Even if you do not read music, it is still valuable to sit with your child as much as you can, ask them to show you what they are learning, listen for small improvements and then praise.

Practising effectively is not achieved by just playing through a piece several times! Pupils need to actively think about what they are trying to improve by reading my comments in their music note-book. An example of this is if a pupil is aiming to play the rhythm correctly in a couple of bars, they think about what has to be improved, play it, then evaluate if it improved. If it has, play the section once more, if not look at what needs to be improved, and continue with the loop.

Please check that your child is bringing all their books to lessons and completing their music homework. Homework will not take long and usually includes copying music notes and symbols, finding interesting facts etc, completing fun sheets. This complements the pieces in the books and reinforces knowledge needed for reading the music.

## Music exams

Exams are a way of marking progress, however we have to ensure that they don't become the main focus of playing the piano. I give pupils the opportunity to play pieces in the Grade books if they wish, but there is no pressure to take the exam. The exam itself is only a snapshot of how pupils play in that few minutes in front of an examiner, not how they are as musicians. It is worth bearing in mind that as pupils learning the piano have to learn two different clefs, they do not tend to move through the exam system as quickly as they may in other instruments. By the time children leave Little Eaton School, depending on how regularly and effectively they practise, they could be playing music at Grade 1 or 2 standard. I am always happy to test pupils for Musician badges in Cubs and Brownies.



## Performing

I encourage pupils to play to relatives and family friends, take part in school assemblies and concerts, and in events outside school. Some also have the opportunity of performing at Church or with organisations such as Brownies, Cubs or Beavers.

*Thank you for enquiring about piano lessons at Little Eaton Primary School. If you have questions or would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to contact either of us using the contact details on the first page.*

*Best wishes,  
Lynne & Phil*