



**OXENFORD  
STATE SCHOOL**

*Knowledge Brings Growth*

September 2023

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

As your child is now in grade 2 or higher, he/she has been given the opportunity to participate in the instrumental music program next year. Children at Oxenford State School are able to learn a stringed instrument from years 3-6 (violin, viola, cello or double bass). Students may learn a band instrument from year 4-6 (flute, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, bass guitar, percussion, sax).

Your child has shown an interest in learning a stringed instrument and their class teacher believes that they would benefit from joining this program in 2024. This is what will be expected of them if they join the program:

- Minimum 5 home practices each week (for approximately 20 minutes)
- Compulsory attendance at weekly 30-minute lessons (in school time)
- Some out of school hours performances (concerts, workshops, competitions, excursions, tours, camps)
- Compulsory weekly string orchestra rehearsals (45 minutes before school and during breaks for part of the year).
- Minimum one-year commitment to the program.

In order to proceed further with the selection process, your child will be tested in more detail to see if they will be suited to the instrument they have shown a preference for. Other criteria for selection include discussions with the music teacher and classroom teacher to assess:

- Musical ability
- Behaviour
- Class work
- Perseverance
- Reliability
- Parent support
- Willingness to work and practice
- Other extra-curricular activities

Instrumental lessons are FREE and can continue through to year twelve. Other costs include:

- Annual contribution levy of \$45 is applicable to every student (which helps cover the costs of photocopying, smart music computer program, bus for Eisteddfod and music).
- An added fee of \$100 per year for students hiring a school instrument (not applicable to those purchasing their own instrument). It is expected that all violin and viola students purchase their own instrument after the first year. Cello and bass students can hire the instruments for a period of three years.

Students must commit to the program for at least one year but it is expected that students will continue through to the end of primary school. Students who have learnt strings for one year will not be permitted to quit in order to start a band instrument. Selected students who are outstanding on their stringed instrument may be offered the opportunity to take up a second instrument, however this is at the discretion of the teacher.

If you would like your child to be tested in more detail and think they will be committed to stay in the program for at least one year, please fill out the form attached and return it Ms. Ferrers or the office as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,


Sue Ferrers  
Instrumental Music Teacher  
Strings

Patric Brady  
Principal

Be Safe • Be Respectful • Be a Learner

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# Stringed Instruments Offered

Instrument		YouTube Clips
Violin	 <p>Violin Viola Cello Double bass</p>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHjpOzsQ9YI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHjpOzsQ9YI</a>
Viola		<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiGXdpWxN3k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiGXdpWxN3k</a>
Cello		<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiGXdpWxN3k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiGXdpWxN3k</a>
Double Bass		<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zook_bGHT3E">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zook_bGHT3E</a>

For all orchestral instruments: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKzx92ZqX1PKYTC-FC-CZRQ>

## Proven Benefits of Learning an Instrument

1. Increases the capacity of memory
2. Improved listening skills (sharper concentration)
3. Better executive function (making informed decisions)
4. Increases responsibility and time management skills
5. Boosts collaborative and team skills
6. Teaches perseverance and discipline
7. Enhances fine and gross motor coordination
8. Better mathematical ability
9. Improves reading and comprehension skills
10. Exposes people to cultural history
11. Fosters self-expression and relieves stress
12. Boosts self-confidence through performing
13. Increases serotonin, promoting happiness
14. Provides an outlet for self-expression and creativity through sound
15. Students involved in learning an instrument for 3 or more years will have permanent change in their brains

**Please read and fill out the questionnaire below, sign and return  
ASAP by end of Term 4 2023  
Expression of Interest – Instrumental Music – Strings**

1. My child would like to play a stringed instrument  Yes  No
2. Please indicate first and second preferences  Violin  
 Viola  
 Cello  
 Double Bass
3. Will you purchase your own stringed instrument?  Yes  No
4. I would like to hire a school instrument (\$100)  Yes  No
5. Has your child learnt an instrument before?  Yes (please list)  
\_\_\_\_\_  No
6. Does your child have enough after or before school time to commit to at least 5 twenty-minute home practices each week?  Yes  No
7. I understand that enrolment is for a minimum period of one year and students will not be permitted to drop strings to start band in year 4.  Yes  No

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number to contact you during school hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_

