



Primary Music Newsletter



November 2006

Not all colleagues are able to attend the Best Practice Music forums held three times a year and as there are no hard copies of any subject newsletters nowadays I thought a short newsletter would help to keep everyone up-to-date with current information. If you want to contribute in any way just send the information via email and I'll compile a newsletter as and when appropriate. Don't forget to check the music web site for resources at

www.learningwithsouthglos.org.uk

- A one day regional **Music Conference** at Bath Spa will be on **Wednesday 11th July 2007**. Please put this date in your diaries – it promises to be an exciting valuable conference targeted at primary and secondary teachers from across the South West. It will not be more than £50 per delegate. Look out for the flyers in January.

Primary Music Best Practice Forums – the next meetings are on **6th (MUS01) & 14th (MUS02) March 2007**. If you are not booked already and would like to attend, please apply in writing on a CPD booking form quoting the course codes to The CPD Unit, Bowling Hill, Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire. BS37 6JX or Fax: (01454) 868651

- Groups of Year 5/6 pupils identified as **G & T in music** have been attending some Music Technology workshops with Sven Rees (AST) at Sir Bernard Lovell School this term. Past workshops have used GarageBand on the Apple Mac Computers, but these sessions have been exploring the recording programme called **Audacity**. Audacity is a free software programme for recording and editing sounds. You can:

- Record live audio.
- Convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs.
- Edit MP3, and WAV sound files.
- Cut, copy, splice, and mix sounds together.
- Change the speed or pitch of a recording and many more effects



This software comes free and can be downloaded at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download> on PCs and Apple Macs.

More information regarding Gifted and talented in Music can be found on the music web site.

- **Artsmark** – Artsmark is a joint venture focussing on Music, Dance, Drama & Art and Design. There will be a meeting on 6th February at Little Stoke for primary and secondary schools 4.00 – 5.45 with an Arts Officer to discuss what Arts mark is all about and how to get support to fill in the application form! Letters will be sent out to all schools soon. For more information go to www.artsmark.org.uk

- **Teachers TV** www.teachers.tv Check out some of the programmes. There are a lot of programmes focussing on music.
Type in music in the search box and every programme with a musical aspect will appear. Remember you can download them and watch them on line. The resources are worth investigating and can be printed off.
- Primary Teachers Magazine (Nov, 06 Pg. 18) has a very interesting article called '**The Pod Squad**' Have you started pod casting yet? For more information visit the Downs Park School internet radio station – Downs FM - www.downsfm.com Pod casting is a way of publishing files to the internet that may be subscribed to and downloaded onto other computers or MP3 players (and now video players such as the latest iPods). These files are usually free and over the last three years they have been mainly audio programmes. Now we are seeing as well as hearing with many programmes available in video format.
- **Science Unit 5F Changing Sounds.** Music filters through most subjects and this particular unit is one that music co-ordinators can support their colleagues. Through this unit children learn that sounds are produced by vibrations and that these vibrations travel from the source through a variety of materials. Musical instruments are used to illustrate the range of ways of producing sounds and how pitch and loudness can be altered. Tuning forks are useful - have you got one? Work in this unit also offers opportunities for children to use scientific knowledge and understanding about sound to explain familiar phenomena and to relate this to their understanding of musical instruments.
- Don't forget we have two **ASTs** for music. **Support is available free of charge.** Simon Taylor is available for all primary music on Fridays and Sven Rees (years 5/6 only) on Thursdays. Fill in the AST request form and get them in!
- The **Music Manifesto** Report 2. This report and more information is available online at www.musicmanifesto.co.uk You can request a hard copy – numbers are limited. There are lots of interesting issues to read about and future plans/thoughts about Music Education.
- **Rosemary Bugden Trust** - For those of you who applied to the trust fund in October will soon know if your bid was successful (mid December) Please let me know how you got on and what you plan to do with the money. Your success may help others next year. If you didn't apply...why not!! The Trust fund is very generous and has given thousands of pounds to support music making in South Gloucestershire. Look out for the letters in October 2007.
- **South Gloucestershire Primary Schools Carol Service** takes place on Thursday 7th December at Clifton Cathedral this year. Radio Bristol are recording it to be broadcast on Christmas Eve! This year we have a song being sung in Welsh and a harpist accompanying. I am sure all 1000 pupils will have a wonderful time as always.

Don't forget to have some fun at Christmas. Karaoke can provide quite a few Christmas songs for a treat!
Vanbasco is proving to be a great free Karaoke player. (See ICT/Music poster - Vanbasco)

Good luck with the Christmas festivities/concerts.

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