

Primary Music January 2009

Happy New Year! It is the Chinese year of the Ox. Celebrations will take place in late January so get those drums and cymbals out and join in!

Primary Music Best Practice Forums 09

Thursday 5th February 2009 or Wednesday 11th February 2009 Come along and gain some ideas and resources to use back at school. Meetings take place at the Music Service at Little Stoke Primary School in the afternoons. 1.15 - 4.00pm.

Sing Up News!

95% of schools in South Gloucestershire have registered for Sing Up. This is excellent news and I am sure you will agree the magazines and CDs are valuable resources. Can we get 100% by Easter? 10 schools are well on their way to gathering evidence for the Sing Up Awards. Register your interest and fill in the starter questions. Sing Up will advise if they feel you could qualify for gold. Start gathering and creating your evidence. Most questions need 3 files of evidence so spread the word all around the school! Downloading is straight forward if you have quality time to concentrate without distractions. Print off the questions for all the sections to help gather the evidence and save time. Register at: <http://www.singup.org/teachers-music-leaders/sing-up-awards/> Evidence can be anything from audio and photos to testimonies from pupils or parents. If you have any problems registering or downloading information contact Kate Gibson – kate.gibson@singup.org If you would like support in staff meetings/inset, please contact the Music Service.

CPD is currently being planned for the year and will include more opportunities to work with top trainers sponsored by Sing Up. Other courses (Samba, etc!) will be available and promoted by flyers. Don't forget The Bath Spa's Music Conference on 7th July 2009.

Sue Nicholls will be in South Gloucestershire on **Friday 24th April** focusing on **singing in KS1**. Sue has written the popular singing books 'Bobby Shaftoe Clap Your hands', 'Michael Finnigin, Tap Your Chinigin', 'Music Express' [Foundation Stage] and 'The Handy Band' and contributed to many other books including Singing Sherlock. Look out for the booking forms due out soon.

Big Sing

Congratulations to the 36 schools that took part in the National event 'Big Sing' in November. (The most schools in the 'Avon' area!) The aim was to break the

existing 2005 Guinness World Record of 293,978 children all singing simultaneously by reaching one million! Schools will be informed after all the paper work has been collected and checked which could take a few months!

Carol Service

Over 1100 pupils took part in the carol service plus a very well behaved donkey called Gigi! The whole service was broadcast on BBC Radio Bristol over the Christmas Holidays. Well done to all the pupils and staff who took part. We have started to make plans for the next service to be held on **Tuesday 8th December 2009**. Put the date in your diary now!

Awards for young Musicians

This is a Bristol based organisation who support young instrumentalists (between the age of 5 and 18) making music in any genre. If you have a pupil who can clearly show that they are really talented, committed and need financial help with their music expenses - they need to apply by 27th March 2009. All applications are means tested. Application forms and further information is available on the web site. www.a-y-m.org

Wider Opportunities

The projects are proving very successful and music is certainly buzzing in the corridors – be it fife, samba, djembe, recorders, ukulele, strings or brass. Pupils and staff are enjoying learning new skills in a whole class learning environment. The vocal project 'Lets Sing' is also receiving excellent evaluations and will certainly help schools to become singing schools supporting pupils and staff. (Prime opportunity to gather some evidence for a Sing Up Award!)

Useful Web Sites

A new web site for all staff involved in music. **Teaching Music** offers resources from early years to secondary plus a forum. Check it out – you may find a whole network of teachers and musicians to share ideas and thoughts with. Go to www.teachingmusic.org

The popular music games web site has been updated – always worth a look and a play! Go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/orchestras/play/>

For curriculum music support and advice please contact me at christine.wright@southglos.gov.uk

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