

# Primary Schools Newsletter

## Spring Term 2024

Hello everyone, I hope that your Spring term has been going well so far. With just 4 weeks ahead of us I know there is a lot to pack in to this short half term. A big thank you to all of those schools who have hosted a visit from me so far this year and if you would like to squeeze in a [free consultation](#) or [Quality Mark](#) in before Easter do get in touch. Thank to the TSAs and Development Groups that have also worked in partnership with us – we are really happy to support these in whatever way we can. This newsletter is to share opportunities for you and your pupils but if you have any items you would like to add, musical moments to share or special requests, please let me know and I will add them to the next one. Happy reading! Beth – Primary Schools Team Leader

## CPD and Networking Opportunities

### Save the Date - Music Educators Conference - Weds 26th June!!!

We now have confirmation that our music educators conference will be on **Wednesday 26th June 2024** and will be held at **County Hall, Glenfield, LE3 8RA**. We are currently working behind the scenes to book and provide high quality CPD, and already confirmed are Anthony Anderson (curriculum), Emily Barden (composition and singing), Tim Clay (music tech CPD) and Mr Shay (beatboxing and composition). There will be special discounts on our resources and services in 2024/25 for those that attend the conference so watch this space!

### Summer Term Primary Network Meetings

Thank you to those who attended the Spring network meetings – it was great to see you all. If you would like to attend the Summer meeting, please save the date and times below. The agenda will focus around singing – where to begin with choosing quality repertoire and how to successfully break a song down to teach it. Booking links to follow shortly.

Face to face meeting – **Wednesday 1st May 1:00–3:00**: LRTS Hub (Christ the King Infants Site – LE3 6DG)

Online meeting – **Wednesday 1st May 3.30–4.30pm** via Zoom

Next academic year's network meeting dates will be confirmed in the summer newsletter.

### EYFS Music Network in partnership with The Spark Arts- Limited Places left!

Thank you to those who attended the first EYFS music network meetings back in November. We were lucky enough to have Nicola Burke (author of [Musical Development Matters](#)) as our guest speaker. For our next meeting on **Thursday 7th March** we have the brilliant Dave 'Stickman' Higgins leading on a workshop full of child-led inspirational ideas to take away. [Book here](#)

### Using the Leicestershire Primary Music Scheme or want to know more?

If your school are already using the LM Primary Scheme of work and would like a Refresher training session on the Unit 5 Music Tech and Structure element, we are offering a one hour online session on **Tuesday 12th March** open to all staff wishing to gain confidence and familiarity with the apps and software used. £10 per person – [book here](#). If you didn't already know about our Primary Scheme and would like to find out a bit more or are already using it but want to know about latest resource updates, there is an [online information session](#) on **Monday 4th March** at 3:30–4:00.

### Online training - FREE to WCIT schools (£10 pp to non-WCIT schools)

These are the 2 final sessions of our very popular '[Making the most of Singing assembly](#)' and '[Understanding Notation](#)' online training sessions for this year. Short twilight sessions open to all school staff to attend.

### INSET day opportunities

The DfE document 'Working Lives of teachers and leaders' (April 23) found that music came second from bottom as the subject that teachers felt least confident to teach (33% confidence). With this in mind it is ever more important to ensure that time for music CPD is built into the school calendar. We offer a wide range of CPD options, one of which is booking in a session to kick start the school year as part of your INSET day. [Make a booking](#) for August or January dates here or for a twilight session on your staff meeting evening.

### New to leading music in your school?

Our 'Becoming an Effective Music Coordinator' course is spread across 3 afternoon sessions during the year. Attendees can join at any point in the cycle as each session focuses on a different aspect of the role. [Click here](#) to find out more and enrol onto the next session on **Wednesday 22nd May**

# National initiatives and updates

## MEHEM - FREE HMI Lead for Music webinar on 'Striking the right note' subject review - Wednesday 10th March 4pm-5pm

MEHEM (Music Education Hubs of East Midlands) have organised a webinar and Q and A session with HMI National Lead for Music Christopher Stevens on the 'Striking the right note' music subject review. This is free for all schools in Leicestershire and will be held on zoom. To book your place and submit questions for him please click [here](#).

## Lead Schools for Music - Application Process

In response to the National Plan for Music, Leicestershire Music is looking to broaden their work with schools by developing a Lead Schools for Music opportunity. The Lead Schools would work in partnership with us to develop support that all schools could engage with, including coverage of the Curriculum, Co-curricular and Extra-curricular in music. We are looking to appoint Primary, Secondary and Special schools, both in Leicester City and Leicestershire.

If you would like to find out more, whether you are interested in applying to become a Lead school or you would like to share your views on what a Lead School should look like, then join us at one of the two Lead School information meetings we are holding on **Wednesday 28th or Thursday 29th Feb**. To book your place click [here](#)

## Classroom support

### Whole Class Instrumental Teaching opportunities

We have some limited availability for our popular [WCIT lessons](#). A weekly 45 minute class lesson is charged at £50 and bookings are taken as a 10 week block (£500 in total). Please do get in touch if this is something you would like to find out more about for the remaining weeks of this academic year.

### Whole Class Songwriting projects

The amazing Greg Smith is available to offer songwriting projects for the Summer term. Perfect for Year 6 classes as an opportunity to write and perform a Leavers Anthem.

### Free Garageband resource

If you haven't already taken a look, do check out this fabulous [teaching resource by Ben Sellers](#). The ebook contains video links for KS2 Garageband projects that are perfect for beginners!



## Beyond the classroom ...

### Teacher's Choir

The teacher's choir did their first performance of this academic year at John Lewis last term and it was great fun! We have a full academic year of planned activities and we would love for you to be involved! For more information and rehearsal/performance dates, please click [here](#). No need to book, you can just turn up!



### Groups and Ensembles outside of school

Don't forget to signpost your students to our after school/weekend groups - use the QR code here to see an overview of all the beginner groups we currently offer.



### Tell us what's going well in your schools

This newsletter is to celebrate success too - tell us about your concerts, shows, music lessons, musical opportunities and anything happening in your school! Email [Beth](#) and she will mention in the next one.

### Social Media

Please give us a follow on [Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#), [Twitter/X](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [Youtube](#)!

Any music making you want to share, please tag us and use the hashtag **#leicsmakemusic** and we can share/retweet.

We also have a Teachers Facebook group for Leicestershire - you can join [here](#).