

# Baden-Powell & St Peter's CE Junior School



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**Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Rusling**

Deputy Headteacher: Miss Amanda Knowles

2 July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Bassoon Lessons for children currently in Years 4 & 5**

We have been offered the opportunity to borrow some mini-bassoons from our local Music Hub, Soundstorm, to enable some of our pupils to take up the instrument. We recently had a demonstration from bassoon player, Polly Phillips, in assembly. Polly told us that the bassoon is a very special instrument for many reasons:

- The bassoon is the lowest-sounding woodwind instrument.
- Before the mini bassoon was invented, the size and cost of bassoons made it an unpopular choice for new learners and the bassoon soon became an 'endangered' instrument.
- The mini bassoon sounds 5 notes higher than a full-sized bassoon but the note reading, finger patterns and reeds all remain the same.

The mini-bassoon lesson offer from September:

- Three terms of lessons with Polly (approximately 10 lessons per term) at £55 per term.
- Free mini bassoon hire.
- The lessons will be taught in small groups of 2, 3 or 4 pupils and last between 20-30 minutes. We'll confirm details when we know how many pupils want to take up the offer.

What we would expect from pupils and parents:

- A commitment to a full year (three terms) of tuition.
- A commitment to practice a few times a week at home (20 minutes, three or four times a week initially).
- To attend lessons when scheduled.
- To care for the instrument.
- We would also strongly encourage anyone who takes up this offer to join the school orchestra/wind band.

What happens after the first three terms of lessons?

Bassoons are a true endangered species instrument. Alongside Soundstorm, we will continue to explore ways of subsidising lessons/supporting parents with the associated costs for children learning the bassoon. The ongoing costs will be for tuition, occasional reeds and instrument hire.



*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart" Colossians 3:23*

Soundstorm are very keen to support and encourage bassoon uptake and have various sources of financial support which can help with associated costs of learning.

If you would like to hear the sound of the bassoon, please follow this link:  
**<https://youtu.be/xmnmffDcCN8>**

On Wednesday 9 July Polly will be offering bassoon tasters. If you would like your child to try a session, please complete the online [form](#) by midday this Friday, 4 July. Please note, we will only be able to offer bassoon lessons to children who won't be learning another instrument in school.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via the office.

Kind regards

*Sarah Talbot*

Music Leader