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Headteacher: Mrs. Tracy Thomas

13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am taking this opportunity to write to you regarding music at Samuel Lucas School.

For some time, we have enjoyed much success with our music-making at school. Along with our Governor for music: Nick Shaw, who works professionally in music education and our Music Specialist: Nicky Footer, we have taken some time to review what has happened in the past and how we can make the musical offer the very best it can be for our children in the future.

We want to raise the quality of musical learning and would like to offer a variety of excellent experiences and opportunities. We still want to celebrate our talented and hard-working musicians, whilst ensuring that the musical offer is appropriate and inclusive to all our children.

As the school has now reached full two form entry, we are going to alter the current format of super-large performances in Key Stage 2 as having 240 children performing together at Christchurch twice in the autumn term is actually not providing them with a high-quality musical offer. The building is too small to accommodate this many children comfortably and safely and the performance area doesn't allow the audience to see the children performing. Over the whole course of Key Stage 2 the children will still have the chance to perform in two a harvest performances and two Christmas performances at Christchurch, where the smaller number of children involved will allow all to feel more included within the performing group.

Performances this term will be as follows:

EYFS Christmas production in school

Years 1 & 2: Harvest celebration and Christmas productions; both in school

Years 3 & 4: Harvest at Christchurch

Years 5 & 6: Christmas at Christchurch

Of course Year 3 & 4 will be celebrating Christmas, but this will not be a public performance.

Musical learning will be held at the centre of all we do to improve skills and understanding; the focus will be as much about the process as well as the outcome; we want to meet the musical needs of every child. We will procure different opportunities for performances, sometimes we will showcase our choir and plan to have a Year 5/6 orchestra with a training orchestra for children lower down the school, we will seek opportunities to work with our local secondary schools and for children to play regularly in assembly and we plan to celebrate the work and the progress that has been made in outcomes by having live performances as part of this.

Already our choir have been invited to sing at St Albans Cathedral in October and Mrs Footer will always be looking for different ways where our children can be engaged in musical activity. We are hoping once again to

gain a place at the biennial Herts Schools Gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall in March 2020 as well as planning a Summer concert and a Music Week during the year which will focus on lots of different musical experiences and performances.

We recognise the important impact that music has within the school and will strive for the very best musical outcomes for our children and I hope that you will support us as we continue to ensure that Samuel Lucas provides creative and exciting musical opportunities for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

T Thomas (Mrs)  
Headteacher