

Term 1 Performing Arts Curriculum Overview 2026



Prep and Year 1

This term, our Prep and Year 1 students will be beginning an exciting Drumming Program! Through fun, hands-on activities, children will explore the elements of music including beat, rhythm, and tempo, while developing listening, coordination, and teamwork skills.

Using classroom percussion such as drum pads, djembes, buckets, and body percussion, students will gain confidence performing and responding to rhythm.



Year 2 and 3

This term, the Year 2 and 3 students will continue exploring the concepts of beat, rhythm and patterns, practising 4-beat patterns using the musical notations 'ta', 'ti-ti' and 'rest.' They will engage in rhythm reading, utilising charts with simple notation to both perform and compose their own rhythmic patterns.

The students will also delve into call and response drumming, where they will create 4-beat calls. They will also be introduced to 'ostinato' to create repeating patterns and layer them under simple songs. They will learn about musical structure through the A/B form, crafting drumming sequences with two distinct sections.

This term, improvisation will play a key role in their learning, allowing students to create 4-beat improvisations over a steady beat and use cues to start and stop. The students will combine all these elements to create a performance piece that incorporates ostinato, form and call/response technique.

Year 4, 5 and 6

This term, the Years 4, 5 and 6 students will participate in an engaging 8 week drumming and rhythm unit designed to strengthen ensemble skills, rhythmic understanding, creativity and performance confidence.

Throughout the program, students will develop correct hand technique, tone control and dynamic awareness while learning to maintain a steady pulse using a metronome. They will build rhythmic literacy by reading and performing 4–8 beat patterns using ‘ta’, ‘ti-ti’, ‘tika-tika’ and an introduction to syncopation, (accenting unexpected beats.) As their skills grow, students will explore simple polyrhythms (3 vs 2 patterns) through group layering activities that develop coordination and listening skills.

Creativity will be a strong focus, with students composing their own 4-bar rhythm pieces and notating them using basic rhythm notation. These individual ideas will then be combined into a collaborative class arrangement structured with an introduction, groove and ending. Students will also explore improvisation, performing solos over a backing ostinato in a supportive ensemble setting.

In the final weeks, students will refine their performance by adding texture and expressive elements such as crescendo, layering and dynamic contrast. The unit will conclude with a performance, and a reflection on their musical growth.

We are looking forward to a term filled with musical exploration and growth.