



September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been given a superb opportunity through the government's Music Plus scheme to provide some free music tuition for Year 5 children. This means that we can offer lessons for all the children to play a brass instrument for the whole of this year. We have instruments loaned from Kent to use and I will be providing the teaching.

Loan of musical instruments

As well as providing tuition in school I would also like to offer your child the opportunity to take their instrument home to practice, however this is optional.

If you would like to have an instrument on loan please would you sign the slip below noting the following:

- The instrument is the property of Kent Music School and is on loan to you free of charge.
- In the event of loss or damage to the instrument you must be prepared to accept full financial responsibility.
- Instruments in need of repair should be returned to the school immediately and not repaired privately.
- If lessons are discontinued the instrument should be returned to school immediately.

Could you please complete and sign the slip below and return it to school as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Driscoll
Music Tutor

Year 5

I/we agree to our child _____ bringing home the brass instrument and tutor book for practice purposes and accept full responsibility for its safe keeping whilst away from school premises.

If the instrument is lost or damaged I/we agree to accept full financial responsibility.

Signed _____ Date _____
Parent/Carer

CARE OF YOUR HIRED BRASS INSTRUMENT

ASK YOUR TEACHER IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT ANYTHING CONCERNING YOUR INSTRUMENT

Please remember that your brass instrument looks tough, but should be treated as if it were made of glass! Brass instruments are easily dented, and though some dents have little effect, one tiny dent in a trombone slide or valve case can make the instrument unplayable.

Internal cleanliness and lubrication

Once a month, thoroughly flush the instrument with warm water and several drops of washing-up liquid. Work the valves (or trombone slide) with the water in the instrument, rinse with cold water. Take care not to dent the instrument on the bath, sink or taps. Dry the instrument carefully with a soft, clean, lint free cloth and oil the valves and grease the slides (see below)

Every 3 months a flexible cleaning brush should be used to clean the slides and tubing before following the above.

TUNING SLIDES – ALL BRASS INSTRUMENTS

Carefully remove, one at a time, while depressing the appropriate valve. Remove old grease from the inside and outside of the tubing and replace with new slide grease of petroleum jelly. Keep the relevant valve depressed and carefully replace the tuning slide

ROTARY VALVES (Horn, Bb/F trombone)

Never disassemble a rotary valve nor its linkage.

Your teacher will show you how to lubricate correctly, using quality valve oil

Keep caps lightly greased, as for piston valves, avoid bending the linkages
never store music in your horn case

MOUTHPIECE:

Keep this spotlessly clean with a mouthpiece brush

Ensure the outside of the mouthpiece tube is clean before you assemble

Put the mouthpiece in the instrument with a gently turning action

Never try to remove a stuck mouthpiece (there is a special tool for this) take it to you teacher or contact the Keeper of Instruments 01622 358408

PISTON VALVES: Trumpet, cornet, tenor horn, baritone, euphonium, tuba

Always remove and replace valves one at a time, by unscrewing the top cap

Take care not to loose the valve spring

Remove the cap at the bottom of the casing and carefully clean the piston

Clean the caps and inside the casing with a clean, lint free cloth

Oil the piston, line up the pistons key with inner casing slot and replace

Oil valve cap threads, and replace to finger tightness

TROMBONE SLIDE:

Hold the slide section only and carefully remove the outer slide

Clean the slide with a clean, lint free cloth

Every 3 months clean the inside of the outer slide with a flexible brush

Never try to run a flexible cleaning brush around the bottom of a trombone outer slide

Your teacher will give you advice regarding cream or oil used

Replace the outer slide with care

The outside of lacquered and silver plated instruments, should be wiped with a dry, clean cloth. Never use metal polish on lacquered, brushed silver or silver plated instruments.

Store your instrument at room temperature

When the instrument is not being used, store in its case away from young children

Valves and trombone slides must be lubricated at least once a week, before they stick

Please do not attempt any repair yourself, contact your teacher or the Keeper of Instruments 01622 358408