Ratho Primary School

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Head Teacher: Peter Gibb

Ref: Primary 4 Violin tuition 2023/24.

Dear Families,

I am delighted to let you know that over the next few weeks, I will be visiting both P3/4 and P4 classes with a view to selecting a small group of children who are interested in learning the violin. I am one of 80 instrumental instructors who teach a range of orchestral instruments across Edinburgh primary and secondary schools. The selection process will take place over a number of weeks and will involve me assessing each child as to their suitability and interest in learning the violin.

Some children are more suited to a string instruments, and others to a brass, woodwind, or piano. String instruments are the only ones offered at P4 with other instruments offered in P6 and P7 and in high school. When you are helping your child consider which one, if any, you also need to take into consideration how much time they have in their schedules to practise. You may have heard some recent data that learning an instrument has several positive effects on our brains, not to mention it being a lifelong pleasure and skill. Lots of skills are fostered in music tuition and in order to improve and contribute to the overall success of the group, regular home practise is needed and expected. So, if they are already committed to other activities which take up a lot of their time. then making time to practise will be a challenge. Please consider this aspect very carefully. I will be teaching in a group and so the children will encourage each other as they learn.

I look forward to meeting your children next week and starting the selection process.

Elizabeth McColl

Violin Teacher