



Gainford CofE Primary School
Low Row,
Gainford,
Darlington,
Co. Durham
DL2 3DR
Monday 4th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Arts Award Project - Music

First I hope everyone is safe and well, life is unusual at the moment, to say the least, and we are all missing school. I have been looking for a way of keeping some elements of the music curriculum going in a way which is purposeful and consistent for our children; and thought I would draw on my Arts Award experience to create an interactive project. I am a qualified Arts Award advisor and currently deliver the programme for Cream Tees (a local youth folk group).

The Arts Award is an accredited programme (Trinity College London/British Ars Council) designed to help children explore and engage with different aspects of the arts, including music. It is a structured programme of five levels; Discover, Explore, Bronze, Silver and Gold, with Bronze/Silver equating to GCSE level and Gold being equated to A-Level. You can find out more about the programme at - www.artsaward.org.uk

The two levels appropriate for us are:

Discover (5 years+) Years 2 or 3

Explore (7 years+) Years 3, 4 , 5 and 6

Although Discover is open for children over the age of 5, Year 2's may need more support at home to access this fully. I also am aware that our Year 6 children will have transition work to do, so the project may not be appropriate for them (unless they are really, really bored!)

What's involved?

The Arts Award programme is based on children trying and reflecting on new arts activities and evidencing their engagement through portfolios. As the children cannot currently attend workshops or performances, I have been working with the Arts Award hub to find virtual alternatives so that I can still deliver the programme remotely. Mindful that I am unable to directly teach the activities, I have created a structured project workbook which will take the children through the tasks step-by-step. The Discover workbook has 3 sections and the Explore workbook has four.

Discover workbook

A	Discover (discover what arts are and try activities)
B	Find out (explore the work of 1-2 artists)
C	Share (share your portfolio work with others)

Explore workbook

A	Inspire (try art forms and reflect on the experience)
B	Explore (explore at least 2 artists and art organisations)
C	Create (create a piece that demonstrates your art forms/creativity)
D	Present (share, reflect and gather others' feedback)

How will it work?

I appreciate how busy everyone is and I have tried to create a project where the children can work independently most of the time to reduce the amount of support they need. I have also tried to limit the amount of internet access required where possible.

We currently have no idea of when we will all be back together in school, or what this will look like, and so I wanted to create a project that is long term and consistent, which can be dipped in and out of as and when you have time. The workbook may seem daunting in size, but this is only because I wanted to have the whole scope of the project available to you – you only need to print out a few sheets each week and keep in a folder of some sort. (If you cannot print the work out, please get in touch). The idea is the project is portable and children will collate the activities into a folder so that the workbook gradually builds over time. Keyworker children who are coming into school can bring it in with them, and children at home can stop and start as they wish.

*If using the Exploring booklet, pages 17, 18, 21 & 23 need to be in colour. All other pages can be printed in black and white.

For accreditation, the Arts Award like to see photos of the children working on their activities, however if there are parts your child cannot do at home (or you cannot add photos), miss them out and I will find a way to add this in school later.

The aim

This is a difficult and uncertain time for everyone, and I want to create an arts project which offers consistency and flexibility for the rest of the academic year (whether in school or at home). I also want to create a project which has a reward and sense of achievement attached. At the end of the project I can assess the workbooks so that the children can gain a certificate and official recognition from Arts Award. The children have something to work towards, and we can then celebrate their achievement once we are all back together.

I hope that as many of you as possible will take up the project, and if you do have any questions, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

Jill McLachlan