

Let the Music Speak...



"I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music." Billy Joel

This project was planned knowing that we wanted the children to be immersed in music from other countries and cultures, and that a key part of this project would be **learning new languages and also performing to each other**. There were so many rich aspects of this project, including a **whole school music and languages day**, **older and younger classes pairing up to share French singing** and children of all ages listening to and learning **music from all around the globe**.

We started in September, with our annual **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LANGUAGES**. This year we decided that the theme of this day would be **music from around the world** and our aim was to learn and perform songs in different languages to each other.

We chose four countries and four songs that the children performed in Key Stage assemblies. The children dressed in the colours of their country's flag. 😊



**As part of our celebrations,
the children also played
games and took part in
activities linked to their
country.**



[Frère Jacques](#)



[Se sei Felice](#)



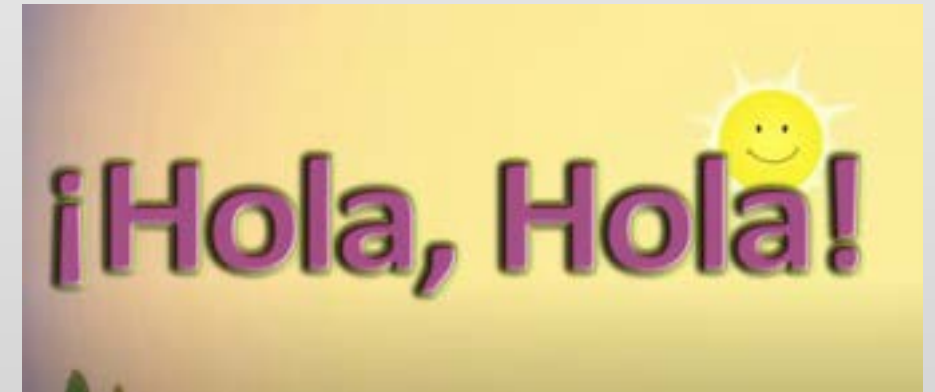
[Kopf, Schulter, Knie and Fuß](#)

These were the songs we learnt.

Year group	Country	Colours
Nursery and Reception	France	Blue, White, Red
1	France	Blue, White, Red
2	Germany	Black, Red, Yellow
3	Italy	Green, White, Red
4	Italy	Green, White, Red
5	Germany	Black, Red, Yellow
6	Spanish	Yellow, Red

At Wingfield, the children can dress up as class, rather than in year groups.

Class	Country	Colours
Cygnets and Swans	France	Blue, White, Red
Fireflies	Germany	Black, Red, Yellow
Hedgehogs	Italy	Green, White, Red

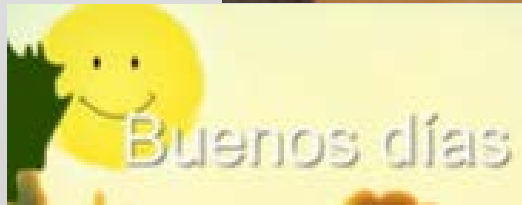


[Hola Hola](#)

Here we are performing our songs to each other.

Hola Hola cómo estás

Estoy muy bien gracias



Buenos días

Buenas noches

Cada día va muy bien

del sol hasta la luna





Kopf und Schulter, Knie und Fuß, Knie und Fuß
Kopf und Schulter, Knie und Fuß, Knie und Fuß
Und Augen, Ohren, Nase, Mund
Kopf und Schulter, Knie und Fuß, Knie und Fuß

Kopf und Schulter, Knie und Fuß, Knie und Fuß
Kopf und Schulter, Knie und Fuß, Knie und Fuß
Und Augen, Ohren, Nase, Mund.
Kopf und Schulter, Knie und Fuß, Knie und Fuß



Se sei felice tu lo sai

Children's Song (Italian)

Se sei felice tu lo sai
batti le mani

Se sei felice tu lo sai
batti le mani

Se sei felice tu lo sai
e ridere potrai

Se sei felice tu lo sai
batti le mani.

"I had a lot of fun singing Frere Jacques. We did it in a round. That means that one group sang before the other! We sang to lots of children. I was a bit nervous and I was excited. It was my first time speaking French. It was quite easy!"

Bea Year 1

"I was nervous and excited. We sang "Frere Jacques, Frere Jacques, Dormez vous, dormez vous....." That was my first time speaking French. My mum talked about French but I've never sung it before!"

Freya Year 1

"I was a bit scared because I'm nervous talking in front of lots of people. When I started it was ok! I liked learning French because then you can speak to people who live in France!"

Charlotte Year 1

Year 1 thoughts about performing our French song...



Frère Jacques
Frère Jacques
Dormez vous?
Dormez vous?
Sonnez les matines
Sonnez les matines
Ding ding dong
Ding ding dong





Here are our
choir in
December,
singing the
Botswanan
carol Tsaba,
Tsaba in Bath
Abbey, with
Lucis choir.

Tsaba, Tsaba! (Watch out, watch out!)

Come join us in celebration
Come join us in joyful song
Come join us across the nation
Jesus is born

Tsaba tsaba!
Amahy brakes!

Tsaba tsaba
Jesus is born

Ooo__

Ooo__

Mm__

Tsaba, tsaba, tsaba.

In the summer term Year 1 and Year 5 linked up, teaching each other French songs and exploring the meaning of the words together.



Here are Year 5 teaching the song “Un éléphant” to Year 1. Year 1 loved joining in!

Un éléphant,
qui se baladait,
tout doucement,
dans la forêt,
et cet éléphant avait
perché sur son dos
un petit perroquet
qui s'appellait Jacko!

“I liked that they sang English and French. When they first sang in French I didn’t know what it meant but then they sang in English and I did!” Freya

“I liked that they sang in groups because one started and the others if they didn’t know, could copy!” Charlotte



**Dans ma famille, dans ma famille,
Dans ma famille nous sommes cinq.**

“I felt a bit awkward and nervous but it was nice to teach French to them!” Bea



Year 1 taught the song “Dans ma famille” to year 5, explaining what the words meant!

**Ma mère, mon père,
Ma soeur, mon frère et moi,
Voilà!**

World music throughout the year...

Year 4 have been singing the Japanese song “**Naka Naka Hoi**”, and playing it on tuned percussion. They have been learning how the pentatonic scale (made up of five notes) is used throughout different cultures.



Naka naka hoi
Japanese traditional
(Naka – inside; Soto – outside; hoi – hey!)

Naka naka hoi
Naka naka hoi
Naka soto soto naka
Naka naka hoi

Soto soto hoi
Soto soto hoi
Soto naka naka soto
Soto soto hoi



Year 5 and 6 have been learning how to play **Samba music from Brazil**. They have played the different Samba instruments: the big Surdo bass drums, the Repenique drums, the Agogo bells, the Ganza shakers and the small Tamborim Drums. They have learned different rhythms and how they all fit together to make one amazing piece of music. **We performed for Year 4 outside and Year 6 will be performing for their parents at the end of the year.**





“The drumming from Brazil was so much fun. It’s quite loud but it’s fun to do it together and be free with it. We were composing our own songs!

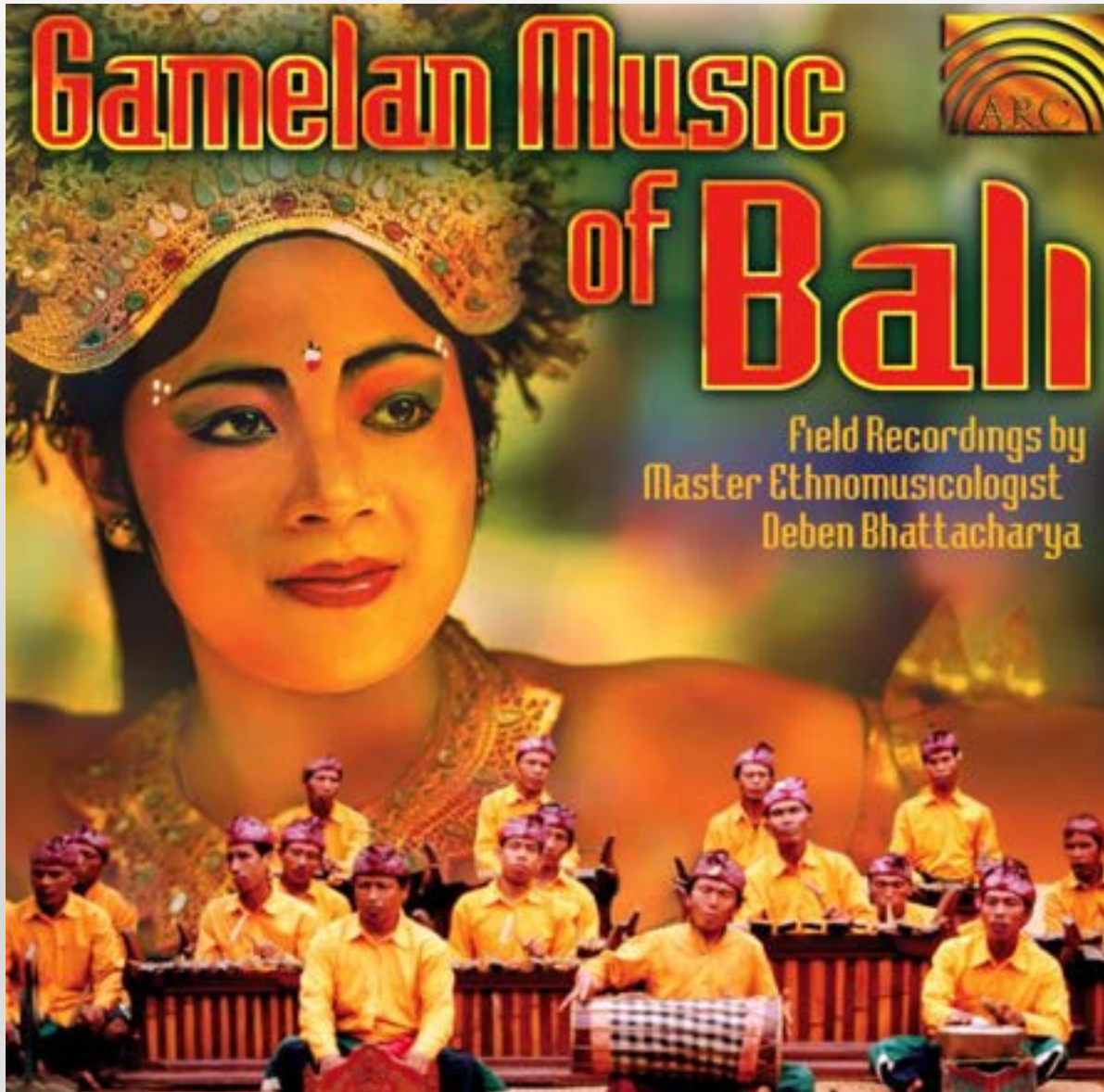
Silva Year 6



**They performed
for Year 4 outside
and Year 6
performed for
their parents at
the end of the
year.**



Year 5 learned about Cyclical music from different countries, including the Gamelan music of Bali.

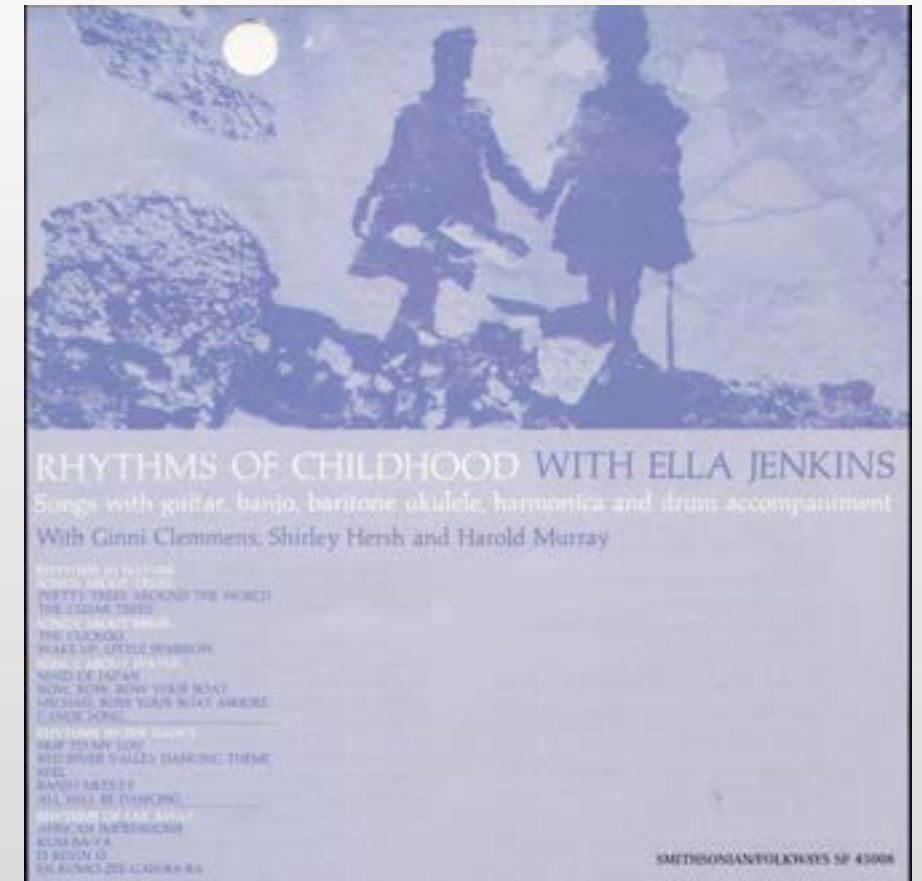


Year 2 have been listening for high, low, long and short sounds in the traditional Chinese flute song “Mu Min Xin Ge”



Year 4 have also been learning about the history of Black music and its influence on popular music and beyond in the USA, listening to Blues, Jazz, Rock 'n' Roll, R'n'B and Hip Hop. We have listened to the work of Ma Rainey, Leadbelly, Miles Davis, Destiny's Child and Grandmaster Flash. They have learned how to play the 12 Bar Blues on Tuned percussion.

Year 1 have been listening to “**Rhythms of Childhood**” by Ella Jenkins – a traditional Black American Folk artist



What the children thought...

"You can't help but smile when you're at the front singing to everyone. It's the best feeling! I thought it was cool to hear everyone singing in a different language! It makes me appreciate songs in other languages because you don't go home and listen to Spanish music, you don't tend to hear it. I find it interesting!"

Silva Year 6

"We sang heads, shoulders, knees and toes in German. It was a bit scary singing in front of everyone but I quite liked it because my mum's half German!"

Erin Year 2

"We sang in Italian. It was really fun but it was quite difficult to learn. I think it's good to learn songs in other languages because if you go to other countries you can speak a bit of their language."

Ruby Year 4

"We sang in French and it was good because we got to sing it to everybody!" George Year 1

"It was hard to learn because it was a new language that I've never learnt before. Learning a new language is fun. It would be really good if an Italian person could teach us!" Iris Year 4

What the adults thought...

"Music is such a lovely way to explore languages and culture. It was interesting to hear the feedback from pupils. It was great to hear from young children seeing the value and purpose of learning a new language. The comment from a Year 2 child who linked the language of her song to her own family made us want to explore this further next year. It would be wonderful to give children more opportunity to sing and perform in languages familiar to them."

Gill Herrin – International Co-ordinator.

"European Day of Languages was an opportunity for each class to showcase the songs they had practised in foreign languages. Year 5 had enormous fun with an ever-quickening "Kopf, Schulter, Knie und Fuß" (Heads, Shoulder, Knees and Toes) and it was truly inspirational to hear both Year 1 classes singing "Frère Jacques" in a round, with such excellent pronunciation too!"

Johnny Webb Year 5

"Year 5 and Year 1 shared some songs in French, listening to each other performing and then joining in to sing altogether. All of the children enjoyed the opportunity to share with children from another Key Stage, and they were excited and enthused by learning lots of new vocabulary!"

Johnny Webb Year 5