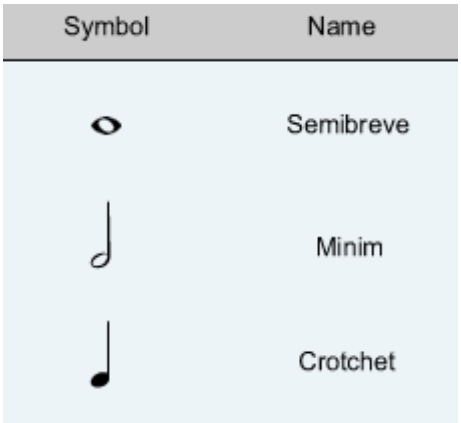
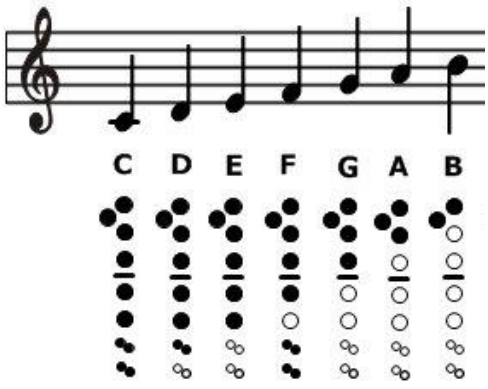
Music Core Knowledge Year 3

Musical Instruments	
Describe…..	
Djembe Drum	Pronounced JEM-bay. It is said to have been invented in the 12th century in Mali, West Africa. Originally it would have been carved from a tree trunk and covered with a goat skin.
Bass Tone	This sound is created by using the whole hand in the centre of the drum.
Open Tone	This sound is created by using the full length of the fingers on the edge of the drum.
Slap	This sound is created by using the fingertips on the edge of the drum.
Music Notation/ Terms	
What is……?	
Semi-breve	A note that lasts for 4 beats.
Minim	A note that lasts for 2 beats.
Crotchet	A note that lasts for 1 beat.
Vibration	All sound is created by a vibration. For every musical instrument there should be a vibration. On a drum this is caused by hitting the drum head.
Have a go…..	
All instruments make a sound because of a vibration. Think about other instruments you might know of. What causes the vibration? (Clue: Think about how the sound is made!)	



Year 4 Music Core Knowledge

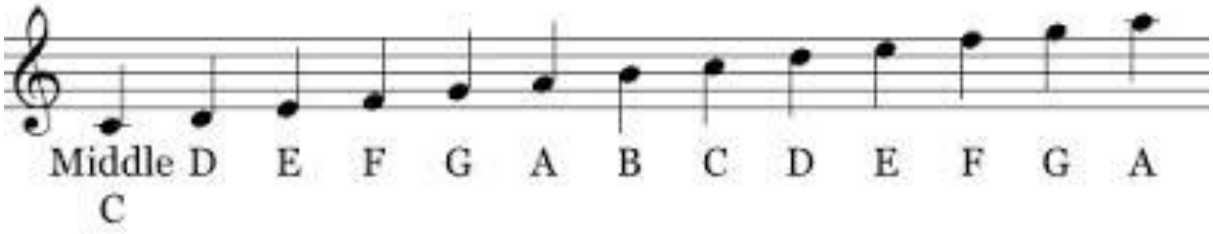
Musical Words and Phrases	
What is……?	
Pulse	This the beat of the music. You can imagine it is like the heartbeat of music.
Pitch	This is how high or low a note is. The pitch is defined by a note name (the letter). Your teacher might teach you to play a 'B'. The 'B' has a higher pitch an 'A'.
Duration	This is how long a note is to be played for. (Y3 Music Core Knowledge shows some common durations.)
Rhythm	This is a pattern of beats. Your teacher might use short words to help you remember the rhythm: Ta (1 beat note), ta-yah (2 1 beat notes after each other), ti-ti (2 half beat notes)
Musical Instruments	
Describe……	
Descant or Soprano Recorder	A member of the woodwind family. Originally recorders would have been made from wood or ivory.
Musical Notation	
What is……?	
Treble Clef	This is the 'swirly' symbol used for writing music for recorders. It indicated the pitch of the notes and helps musicians to read their music.
Have a go…..	
See below for the recorder finger positions. In Year 4 the main notes are B A and G, but you can try and learn the others.	



Year 5 Music Core Knowledge

Music History (Using BBC Ten Pieces http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01vs08w)	
Who was …….?	
Gustav Holst	1874-1934 A British composer most famous for his suite of music called 'The Planets'.
Benjamin Britten	1913-1976 Born and lived in Suffolk, in the Lowestoft area. By the age of 18 he'd written 700 pieces of music.
Edvard Grieg	1843-1907 Born in Norway. His music was often inspired by the Norwegian landscape and Norwegian folk tunes.
Edward Elgar	1857-1934 A British Composer who wrote Enigma Variations – a series of pieces about his friends and even a dog!
Igor Stravinsky	1882 – 1971 A Russian composer, pianist and conductor. One quirky fact is that he wrote a ballet that was performed by 50 baby elephants and 50 ballerinas.
Musical Instruments (instruments used in our orchestra)	
Describe…….	
Violin	The highest-pitched of the commonly used string instruments. It is played by supporting it under your chin and either plucking the strings or using a bow.
Cello	A lower-pitched stringed instrument. You need to sit down to play the cello.
Euphonium	A large and low pitched brass instrument. It has three valves.
Trombone	A brass instrument which instead of valves has a slide which is moved to change the pitch of the notes.
Trumpet	A relatively small brass instrument which has three valves. Playing different combinations of these values will help you produce different notes.
Cornet	Very similar to the trumpet but slightly smaller.
Clarinet	A woodwind instrument. A key feature of the clarinet is the reed. This is a small piece of wood on the mouthpiece which helps to create a particular sound.
Flute	Also a member of the woodwind family. The flute is played by blowing across the mouthpiece hole, rather like blowing across the top of a bottle. The flute is held out to the side and its finger patterns are similar to that of the recorder.
Musical Notation / Terms	
What is…….?	
Ostinato	A repeating pattern ('Mars' by Gustav Holst has a very moody ostinato all the way through it)
Pizzicato	This is a term for the string players and means to pluck the strings with your finger.
Crescendo	Getting louder
Diminuendo	Getting quieter
Piano (*p*)	Quiet
Forte (*f*)	Loud

Chord	A group of notes (usually three or more) played at the same time.
Have a go……	
Notes on the stave.	In Year 5 & 6 we use notes on the treble clef stave. Try and learn to write some of them (manuscript paper with the 5 music lines can be printed online). Don't forget to make sure the sticks go the right way!



Year 6 Music Core Knowledge

Music History	
Who was/is……?	
Delia Derbyshire	1937-2001 Derbyshire was an English musician. She composed electronic music and was a trailblazer ahead of her time. She is now well known for the Dr Who theme.
Modest Mussorgsky	1839-1881 Mussorgsky was Russian. He was a creative composer but not widely known until after he died, when a friend and composer, Rimsky-Korsakov, arranged his music for publication.
Ludwig Van Beethoven	1770-1827. Beethoven was German. He was a pianist but wrote many orchestral pieces even when he started going deaf. There are stories about Beethoven conducting an orchestra, despite being deaf. He did not realise the audience were applauding at the end because he could not hear them.
Carl Orff	1895-1982 Orff was a German composer. He also taught music. Carmina Burana from where we get O Fortuna (a cantata – sung piece) is one of his most famous pieces.
Leonard Bernstein	1918-1990. Bernstein was American. Over 50 years Bernstein composed musicals, operas, ballets, film scores and many more. He wrote music for West Side Story, which is a modern version of Romeo and Juliet.
Musical Instruments (other instruments from the orchestral families)	
Describe…….	
Viola	A string instrument. Played similarly to a violin but pitched slightly lower.
Double Bass	The lowest pitched commonly used string instrument. This is played standing up.
Harp	A string instrument. This has many upright strings and is played using fingers to pluck the strings.
French Horn	A brass instrument made of tubing wrapped into a circular coil with a flared bell. Most modern French horns have valves.
Bugle	Commonly used in the military, a bugle is a simple brass instrument. The notes are created by adjusting mouth position.
Oboe	A woodwind instrument. This instrument has a double reed which gives it its distinctive 'woody' sound.
Bassoon	This is a larger double reed woodwind instrument. It has a lower pitch to the Oboe.
Timpani	A large orchestral drum and part of the percussion family of instruments. This can also be referred to as a kettle drum.
Xylophone	A percussion instrument. It consists of wooden bars which are struck by a small mallet. Each bar is a different length making the different pitches of each note.
Musical Notation / Terms	
What is……?	
Syncopation	This is a rhythm that is played off of the main beat.

Symphony	A symphony is an elaborate and large composition played by a full orchestra. It is usually in 4 movements (parts).
Concerto	A concerto is a piece of music that consists of a solo performer who is accompanied by an orchestra.
Have a go……	
Notes on the stave.	In Year 5 & 6 we use notes on the treble clef stave. Try and learn to write some of them (manuscript paper with the 5 music lines can be printed online). Don't forget to make sure the sticks go the right way! Can you use notes to create a code? What words could you write with these notes?

