**Online and practical resources for Primary School Violin students**

**From Mrs. Gilbert**

First half summer term

Hello! I hope everyone is staying safe, well, and coping with the current lock down situation. I am sending along a few ideas and resources to keep the children playing. As parents you don’t need to be an expert or have musical knowledge. The children can use these resources building upon what they have already learned and are capable of doing. Hopefully they will have some fun and also share with you what they can do.

**Beginners:**

Beginners are any children who have been playing 1 year or less

* I have attached a beginner lesson guide which provides ways you can remind the children what to do when holding, plucking, or bowing the violin. See attachments with this letter.
* *Vamoosh* Back tracks: all of my beginners have been playing from the book *Vamoosh*. The *Vamoosh* writer has offered backtracks for Book 1 on YouTube. The children can go back to song 1 and work their way through the book playing with the back track. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWrbTHiOcC7LTx4xbWAZ27A/videos?mc_cid=d23a70564c&mc_eid=2bb99fcddc>
* I would recommend, if the children exhaust *Vamoosh*, getting *Fiddle Time Joggers* and *Fiddle Time Scales* by Kathy and David Blackwell as a next step <https://www.kathyanddavidblackwell.co.uk/books/fiddle-time/>
* I have attached some easy duets provided by the *Fiddle Time* authors for free use.
* Try to use the five ways of learning which I have taught in lessons for each new song:

1. Listen to the song on a CD player or back track
2. Clap the rhythms
3. Say or sing the notes
4. Pluck the new song
5. Bow slowly the new song (remember to work on small sections before trying the whole song)

**Intermediate pre Grade 1:**

Intermediate are any children who have played for almost two years and are working from *Vamoosh* *1.5* or working towards ABRSM Grade 1 pieces. Most children should have the *Vamoosh 1.5* CD and could use this in a number of ways at home; in a PC, in a CD player, or possibly in a DVD player. They should be able to work autonomously at this stage moving forwards in the book. I would suggest continuing to use the five steps for learning something new:

1. Listen to the song on a CD player or back track
2. Clap the rhythms
3. Say or sing the notes
4. Pluck the new song
5. Bow slowly the new song (remember to work on small sections before trying the whole song)

In addition to *Vamoosh 1.5* I would recommend getting:

Fiddle Time Joggers, Fiddle Time Scales and /or the ABRSM 2020 Grade 1 pieces and separate scale book:

<https://www.kathyanddavidblackwell.co.uk/books/fiddle-time/>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Violin-Pieces-2020-2023-ABRSM-Grade/dp/1786012391>

**Grade 1 plus:**

These are students who are now working towards Grade 1, have recently sat it, or want to take it in the near future.

* Those who have recently taken Grade 1 could carry on learning the other pieces in the book which they haven’t tried
* Keep playing scales and learn some new ones with the current scale book and the following free scale back tracks from Blackwell. They also have a Fiddle Time Scale book available

<https://www.kathyanddavidblackwell.co.uk/books/fiddle-time/>; <https://www.kathyanddavidblackwell.co.uk/downloads/fiddle-time-scales-1-audio/>

* Keep playing new songs in Vamoosh 1.5

For more autonomous and confident learners, order ABRSM Grade 2 Pieces for Violin, 2020, and Grade 2 Scales.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Violin-Pieces-2020-2023-ABRSM-Grade/dp/1786012537>

**Tuning:**

I have attached a guide to tuning violins but recommend only doing so if absolutely necessary.

**Music theory**: there are many online sources but I have attached a few sheets the children can do as a worksheet for note learning