

Make Music Week at High Green Primary school

Sheffield Music Hub organised Make Music Week to fundraise for the Musical Stars Scheme. The scheme supports children who have a clear passion and drive for musical learning and activity but for them, there is a barrier standing in their way. For more information on the scheme visit the [Music Hub website](#).

Make Music Week encouraged children from across Sheffield to take part in 10 hours of music making over a 7 day period. This could include practice, performing, listening, discussion or watching. Schools were informed of the scheme and High Green Primary decided to make something very special out of a simple idea. Laura Steelyard (Music Leader for Sheffield Music Hub) visited during Make Music Week to see what they were up to.

'As I walked around High Green School on Tuesday 23rd January I noticed children everywhere enjoying being part of their school. They were working hard, engaged, having fun, and learning. They used music as part of nearly every lesson. Each class was challenged to include music in 3 hours of their teaching for every day of the week. All of the classes did it and as a school, they took part in 100 hours of music in 5 days! The information below gives you a snippet of a day at High Green during Make Music Week!



The F2s used three stations around the room to do writing, dancing and aerobic exercise and a motor skills workout. The aim of this was to improve their writing skills, but music carved the way.





Y6 had Bollywood dancing. Every member of the class joined in to create a performance.

They spent some time analysing moves from various videos, creating their own moves, and putting together a performance. A European kick box champion had a shimmy like one I have never seen and although they may have remained on the back row, the other boys had a great time experimenting with the dance and working together!

Y5 listened to the classical piece of music Finlandia. They improvised on various instruments to create a piece and switched round to learn different skills.

Julie Doubleday (seen in the picture below) is one of our fabulous Music Leaders at Sheffield Music Hub. She took the idea of Make Music Week to Diane (Headteacher at High Green), and they worked out how this simple fundraiser could work for their school. Julie teaches in High Green weekly, it really shows what can be done if a school sets their mind to it.



Y2s had a fabulous African Drumming session with a visitor from London which was arranged as part of their topic for the term – Chocolate! The drumming helped them to learn about the origin countries for their product. Diane sent me some pictures of this activity; it looks like they had a ball!



Y4 had a singing workshop where they created rounds, match songs and various rhythm/pulse games and exercises. They discussed how music affects their life and how life would be without music. Here are some of the comments that were written down.

Music has made me more confident, I feel like I can talk to more people

It means being anything I want

Without music I would just be a girl sat in the corner

English is made more fun with music

It helps me relax and unwind

Life without music would be boring

If you forget something you can just remember a song and it helps you remember – we made a song about punctuation to help us remember

Music makes me happier

With music I feel calm

Music is in everything!



High Green always has a packed schedule of music and it isn't just down to Make Music Week that they have managed to achieve their target of 100 hours. Every week Y3s take part in

Sheffield Music Hubs First Access (whole class) Viola, Y5s undertake First Access Brass and Y6 have Brass Pathways (the continuation from Y5). There are also teachers who go in to allow the children to have individual or shared lessons on piano, violin, viola, brass, drums and the guitar in school.

We at Sheffield Music Hub believe in music and its value to children just because it is music. It benefits in so many ways to enhance learning, to instil team work or to develop social skills, but really, we all listen to it, experience it and enjoy it in some or many ways - so that makes it valuable for what it is...music.

Thank you to High Green for your amazing effort and for fundraising for our Musical Stars Scheme. This will enable children who currently don't have the opportunity, for whom music is a necessity and a passion, to get the musical experiences we all deserve. '