



Tips for Acoustic and Electric Guitar Players!

Hello everyone! How have you been getting along with your guitar playing? We really have missed being able to teach you all in person and can't wait to see you all! You might have noticed that we have been adding lots of exciting tutorial videos, worksheets and activities to our website. So whatever standard you are we hope that there will be something for everyone to try.

We hope that this newsletter will give you extra ideas and tips to keep you motivated in your practise. If you have any questions about your practice you can email the Musica office and they will pass it on to our team and we will do our best to get back to you. Also, if you would like to send us a video of your amazing guitar playing you can send it as a direct message to the Musica Holme Valley Facebook page #musicakirkleesathome. We would love to see how you are all doing!

The exercises on our website that we're suggesting for acoustic guitar are also very useful for electric players, and vice versa. Have a go!

FOCUS OF THE WEEK FOR BEGINNERS: STRUMMING PATTERNS!

Before you start try to make sure you are in tune. The 'GuitarTuna' app from 'Yousician' will help you to do this if you can get onto a tablet or smartphone, and we even have videos on our website demonstrating how we can tune the guitar.

If you're a beginner player, we've made three mini-booklets for you which are available from the 'Resources for Pupils Page' of our website. These take you through using our C, G, Am and D7 chords. They introduce some different ways of strumming the guitar and even give you some songs to listen to which we hope you'll find inspiring! The 'Three Little Birds' video on our website teaches you how to play this famous Bob Marley Song, which is at the end of the third booklet.

SOME TRICKIER STRUMMING!

For something a bit harder, check out the 'Stuck in The Middle With You' video on our website. There's a PDF there to accompany this exercise too. This is a very famous song by a band called Stealer's Wheel which uses two different strumming patterns, one a little trickier than the other. This will really get your strumming hand moving!



FOCUS OF THE WEEK FOR INTERMEDIATES: IMPROVISING!

We've got lots of videos in the electric guitar section of our website about improvising (*improvising means making up it up as we go along!*) If you're new to improvising, you might like Mr Scriven's videos about improvising over major chords, or Mr Bateman's videos about using the A major pentatonic scale. For those of you who are a little more experienced with improvising, Mr Bateman has added a two-part video series about using the Bb Major Scale and the Bb Lydian Mode to improvise with. We hope this will be an exciting challenge for you guys!

SOME INSPIRING VIDEOS!

For electric players...

Brian May from Queen has been showing everyone how to play some of his very famous guitar solos and parts. Check them out!

[Bohemian Rhapsody Tutorial](#)

For acoustic players...

Thomas Leeb is an incredibly creative acoustic guitarist from Austria, who blends elements of classical guitar with many other styles. Check out some of his videos, they are sure to leave you feeling inspired.

[Thomas Leeb - Desert Pirate](#)



COME UP WITH YOUR OWN SONGS AND PIECES!

One of the brilliant things about learning an instrument is being able to make up your own stuff.

Alternate Tunings

With the guitar, a great way to get started on your own composition this is to explore alternate tunings. We'll be talking about this more next time, but on our website there is a series of videos exploring how we can get creative with our guitar by putting it into different tunings, getting away from the usual EADGBE way of doing things!

Songwriting

We've also got a separate songwriting page, with a series of videos showing you some different ways of writing a song... as well as a video exploring how we can write lyrics! Check them out... and be sure to send us the results!