

ABC and Instrumental Resources:

Which Instruments do we need in our Primary to teach ABC Music resources?

Please first look for useable untuned and tuned percussion in your existing stock- There is advice on assessing and repairing instruments from old stock below.

ABC Newsflash #1: ABC will soon be updating our Lower Primary Activities to link to our existing Early Years pitch based activities in using [coloured pitched bells](#), but we will provide PDFs and instructions to produce coloured stickers to add to your existing chime bars- so you will be able to use chime bars for these activities. We will issue advice on how many pitched bells to buy- when the activities are released.

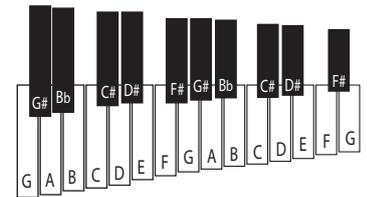
ABC Newsflash #2: Soon we will start selling a Lower Primary version of our successful Early Years Instrument Bags including coloured Pitched Bells- [see here](#) for more info on Early Years- and we will announce on the teaching website when these are available. If you are interested let us know- we will get there quicker if you are pushing us!

Primary Instrument List:

Tuned Percussion-

Boxes of 25 Chromatic Chime Bars-

We recommend these as they are a very flexible resource, useable in Upper and Lower Primary ABC activities. Go [here](#) or [here](#).



For classes up to 30 children- you need a Minimum 2 boxes, and ideally 4 boxes of 25 Chromatic Chime Bar Sets in a case, which will provide resources for ABC pitched activities through Lower and Upper Primary.

If you have additional stocks of Xylophones, Marimbas and Metallophones, then you will probably manage with 2 or 3 boxes.- but 4 is still ideal as they let children compose in a greater variety of moods- eg Happy/Sad/Magic/Scary.

If you can only afford 2 boxes of 25, and have some old but useable xylophone and metallophones to help with Upper Primary classes, buying two additional sets of 8 White Chime bars, will cover your lower ABC activities at ideal level- so all children in a class of 30 will be able to play. Go [here](#) and [here](#).

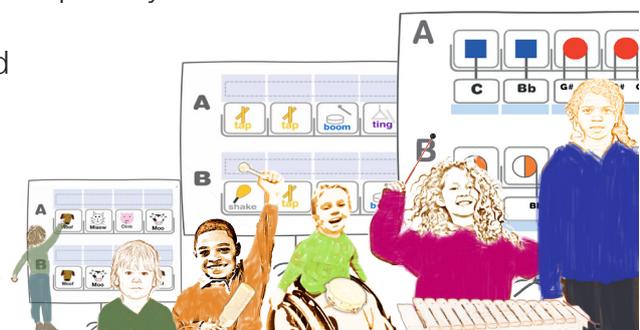


If you can afford new xylophones/metallophones- go for it!
Contact us for further advice.

We don't recommend coloured chime bars for Lower Primary, as they are small, and don't have pitch letters on them, so can only be used for lower primary classes.

Beaters: You will need enough beaters for at least one per child + one for the teacher, and ideally two each for Upper Primary.

Go [here](#) and [here](#).



Untuned Percussion



Hand-held Percussion:

Maracas - x 8

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

You may well have these from old stock!!

Egg Shakers - x2

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Jingle bells- x8

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Claves- x3

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Woodblock- x3

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Woodblock/Agogo x3

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Guiro x3

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Cabasa x2 (Expensive and Optional!)

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Triangles- x4

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Triangle (PP258)

You may well have these from old stock!!

Tambourines x8

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

You may well have these from old stock!!

Finger Cymbals- 2 pairs

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Cowbells x2

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Cowbell (PP669)

Drums:

Tambour x4

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Tambour (PP045)

Kids Floor Tom (PP389) x2

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Optional- 2 or more Djembe

Go [here](#) or [here](#).

Painted Djembe (PP6630)

This is an ideal list- with 8 each of Tambourines, Jingle Bells and Maracas, allowing P1/Reception classes to work with the ABC P1/Rec Percussion Icons. If you assess what you have from old stock, you can buy new instruments to top up to this list.

Old Stock- Untuned Percussion:

It will almost always contain a load of instruments that are very useable with a clean- especially triangles, maracas, cowbells, cabasas, claves and guiros.

If drums have intact skins and make a decent sound grand- and if woodblocks have wooden handles that have fallen out- a bit of araldite or superglue and they are very useable.

Old Stock- Tuned Percussion:

Old Xylophones, Metallophones and Marimbas can be wonderful resources to use- especially the big ones which have an amazing deep sound.

They need all their bars- (if there are odd ones missing, it can be possible to replace them eg [on Percussion Plus website](#).) and all the bars need to make a clear ringing sound.

If they don't sound right and clunk- more often than not they need [Spare Note Pegs](#) (PP097)- rubber supports which should fit over metal pegs.

Someone will need to spend an afternoon washing and repairing them- but you may find plenty that are very useable- and this could be a great project for a group of P7 children, and you might save hundreds of pounds worth of instruments.

However if you have a lot of old xylophones with multiple problems, missing iron pegs, rubber strands to support the bars that are missing or decayed, and you have the budget to replace them, then I think that is allowed and advisable-

and much much better than allowing a dusty pile of old instruments, which need quite a lot of time and work to be useable- sitting in a cupboard making everyone feel guilty, because everyone is realistically too busy to do this- to prevent musical activity in the school.

I don't know if there is somewhere to send the old tired stuff, for recycling to a good cause- but if you find somewhere let me know! Maybe another P7 project!

We don't recommend small glockenspiels, eg those in plastic cases- as the bars are too small, and it is hard to take the bars off to simplify performance, and the pitch is very high.

You may have useable chime bars- but old chime bars can be a problem.

If the chime bars have poor rubber supports, particular the old blue-body ones, and clunk then they are best chucked or recycled.

If you have a bunch of xylophones and marimbas, it is advised to also have minimum of two and ideally 4 boxes of 25 chromatic chime bars as well, as they allow children to compose in a wider range of musical moods.

If you need further advice- e-mail me on phil@abccreativemusic.com.