

Y3 Parent information on violin, bow and music

Keeping a violin at home:

- violins are **sensitive to heat/cold** due to the glue and delicacy of wood they are made of. At home, the ideal place for a violin to be stored is on a shelf/surface or tucked away next to a wall- **avoid keeping them next to windows or radiators if possible**, and away from pets.
- Due to the current circumstances, its preferable **to avoid letting other children/adults play/ touch the violin**, unless helping with preparation before playing (if so, washing hands before- as the teacher will also help with instruments in class).

Things to check before bringing it back to school for lessons:

Is the violin and bow in the case? Please ensure both stay in the zipped-up case, as we need both for the lessons.

- Does the violin have 4 strings on it?

If a string has **fallen off**- and not snapped put **the string in the case** with the violin to be fixed back on by the teacher in class

If a string has **snapped**- find out the name of the string (G,D,A,E) as on the picture diagram on the next page, and **buy a replacement** using this link: <https://www.gear4music.com/orchestral/string-instrument-accessories/violin/strings/quarter-size> If you are unsure how to fit it onto the violin, put the **new string in the violin case** and the teacher can fit this at class. (recommended **Astrea strings** make for ¼ +1/2 size violin)

Strings can snap due to too much tension; this may happen if trying to tune the string. They may also snap due to wear and tear or even changes in weather. Strings do snap occasionally on an instrument (most likely the thinnest string E as it is delicate).It can be quite alarming for a child if this happens, however **if the pegs are not moved** (as told in class) this should very rarely occur if at all.

Is the Bridge still on the violin?

The tension of the strings (EADG) holds the bridge in place on the violin. If the strings become too tense/too floppy the bridge can fall down/off. If this happens, and you can't put it back on, **put it in the case** for the teacher to fix in class.

About the bow

- The bow is fragile (it can be tempting to use it as a toy sword or to lean on when playing) but this will cause it to snap (unfixable), so children should use it just to play the violin with and do finger exercises (bunny, rocket and windscreen wipers). If the bow is not sounding it needs **Rosin**. Some cases have this in them, whilst others don't – in which case the teacher will put some on the bow in class.

Violin pieces

Willow Waltz (pizzicato piece)

(say wi-llow tree 4 times with the track from the beginning)

D.. D..D..A..

D..G..D..A..

D..D..D..A..

D..G..A..D..

Manhattan Blues (pizzicato or bowing piece) (z is a rest - sh!)

(count 1234 1234 1234 1234 with the track from the beginning)

D D D D z z z z

D D D D z z z z

D D z z D D z z

A A A A D z z z

There are backing tracks on Youtube (or a free Vamoosh app)

for the pieces we have been working from a book called

Vamoosh 1 eg. 'Willow waltz backing track Vamoosh 1'

Violins come to school on **Thursdays!**

Happy Practising- If there are any problems feel free

to get in touch or send a note in a violin case.

