

Review- Scott Nicol

School- Annanhill Primary

Date- September 2021

Curricular area- Expressive arts/music technology

Lesson detail- song writing workshop

Lesson length- 3x1 hour lessons across different Primary 6 classes

Teacher(s)- Mrs M Donohoe, Mrs C Scott, Mrs C Wallace

Prior to the lesson, the children were asked to brainstorm lyrical ideas for a song based on friendship, what it means to have a friend and how a good friend makes them feel.

Lesson detail and feedback:

Scott was very well prepared for the lesson. He arrived with his guitar and was extremely enthusiastic and keen to get started. As soon as he stepped into the class, he had the full attention of all the learners. He took the time to build a relationship with each child- making the effort to memorise their name.

The lesson then developed with some question-and-answer time for the children to get to know Scott a little more. The children were keen to ask questions about Scott's musical background and learn about the guitar too. This section of the lesson was finalised with Scott playing one of his songs. The children really enjoyed listening and got involved by singing along to part of the chorus when instructed.

As the lesson developed, the children were encouraged to share their thoughts on what a good friend means. I (class teacher) typed up their ideas and wrote some up on the board too. Scott then was able to share his thoughts on each line, discussing syllables, rhythm and rhyme. He was able to put together a couple of lines with a melody and the children were then asked to sing back what he had created.

This is how we were able to construct a full verse and chorus! I was amazed at how quickly Scott (and the talented children) were able to write the lyrics and compose them into a song.

After all the lyrics were created with accompanying melody, the whole class were given the opportunity to practise the song and sing along. The whole class

absolutely loved the experience and seeing their faces look genuinely amazed was fantastic. After a couple of practises, Scott added percussion instruments and some children were given the opportunity to sing and play.

As a finale, Scott encouraged individual performances and a couple of the children were confident enough to come up to the front of the class and have a go at singing the song on their own.

The lesson was fantastic, and I would thoroughly recommend Scott to other teachers looking for something different as part of their music and expressive arts curriculum.

Learner/parent feedback:

During parents evening, a few parents commented on how much their child loved the song writing workshop.

After the lesson, the children have repeatedly asked when Scott will come back! They clearly loved the song writing workshop.

Follow up activities planned:

My stage partners and I have booked Scott for future singing/song writing workshops linked to Christmas. We are so excited to work alongside Scott and the children to create a P6 festive and Christmas song!

Review- Scott Nicol

School- Annanhill Primary

Date- December 2021

Curricular area- Expressive arts/music technology

Lesson detail- Recording studio workshop

Lesson length- 3x1 hour lessons across different Primary 6 classes to compose Christmas song

Teacher(s)- Mrs M Donohoe, Mrs C Scott, Mrs C Wallace

3x1 hour lessons across different P6 classes to record Christmas song

Previous learning- friendship song writing workshop,

Christmas song writing workshop

X-Factor style auditions to provide confident children with the opportunity to sing a solo in the song final recording.

Lesson detail and feedback:

Scott was very well prepared for the lesson. He arrived with his guitar and recording studio equipment. The equipment was all set up with plenty of time in my classroom for the children to come in and experience the magic of a recording studio. Ian and Scott took control and directed the children to ensure they were ready to record.

The lesson then developed with some rehearsal time, whole class singing and recapping of the song and lyrics in preparation for recording. Scott picked apart the song and revisited more difficult sections to ensure the children understood how to sing specific parts.

As the lesson developed, the children were given the opportunity to record the song by singing alongside a pre-recorded backing track which Scott and Ian had prepared in advance. A drum beat and Christmas bells were added during the recording process to give the song an upbeat feel.

After the whole class recording, soloists were given the opportunity to sing their own version of the full song through the microphone.

This process was repeated for all 3 primary 6 classes. After this, the children got the opportunity to work on Single Artwork and song title ideas.

Scott and Ian then worked behind the scenes to edit the song and get it ready to be released in time for Christmas! The final product was wonderful. The children (and class teachers) were all delighted. Once the children had heard their final song, Scott then began the process of making sure the song was available to download across all different media platforms such as iTunes, Spotify and YouTube.

Scott was excellent at facilitating this and making sure the song was released in time before Christmas. The turnaround was great and the whole process happened quickly. The child who won the single artwork competition now has their single artwork shared across these digital platforms and all the children who sang/performed solos can share their talents with friends and family.

To help promote the song, Scott was excellent at contacting various radio stations. Our song was played on some local Scottish stations including West FM, and it was even played in America! The children were delighted. Unfortunately, several planned outdoor performances had to be cancelled due to rises in the Omicron variant of Covid.

Once again, this series of lessons were amazing, and I would thoroughly recommend Scott to other teachers looking for something different as part of their music and expressive arts curriculum.

Learner/parent feedback:

Parents have approached staff to thank them for giving their children this opportunity. The song has been shared on the school Facebook page and feedback from the wider school community has been extremely positive. Parents are so proud of their children.

The classes absolutely loved getting to record a Christmas song, they were thrilled to hear their song on the radio and are still talking about the lessons/asking about Scott. Scott has inspired numerous children to have a go at learning an instrument/ working on their singing talents.