Monday 18th April, 2016,

Dear Parents/Carers,

In 2016 the junior choir consists of foundation to grade 2 students and is structured to explore music through song. Participating in a choir fosters a sense of wellbeing as the students learn about music and how it represents and expresses the ideas and emotions of all cultures across the globe.

Learning to sing and perform requires a multitude of skills and as such the junior choir will begin and continue to focus on:

- becoming aware of rhythm, pitch, dynamics and expression, form and structure, timbre and texture;
- exploring sounds as they learn to listen to and make music with their voice;
- learning to discriminate between sounds and silence, and loud and soft sounds;
- learning to move and perform with beat and tempo;
- learning to listen as performers and as audience.

An effective way to develop these aural and oral skills is through learning songs in another language, as this requires the students to draw their attention to the sounds, rhythm, pitch and dynamics within a different language. Therefore this year we are integrating the Japanese language into our choir, to discover sounds and experience different styles of music. The student will work towards building a repertoire of songs to perform at our end of year concert.

I am providing a CD with 3 of the songs to support their learning, please do not worry about the pronunciation of the words, the focus is to hear pitch and sounds. This is not by any means set homework, if your child is lost for something to do they have their CD to listen to, it is amazing how much they can learn through informal listening.

Kind Regards,

Kate Ridgeway