



Dear Parent,

Berkshire Maestros teachers, John Earls and Joe Cowie, are visiting your child's class at Birch Hill Primary School to display the capabilities of two musical instruments: **Violin** and **Double Bass**.

Berkshire Maestros would like to offer your child the unique opportunity of a **free taster lesson** on either the violin or double bass, with a view to take up regular lessons at Birch Hill Primary School or at one of our Music Centres. **Please contact the relevant teacher below** if you would like your child to have a free taster lesson within school time.

Learning a string instrument develops a range of transferrable skills and unlocks the opportunity to participate in a range of musical activities.

Double Bass is currently on our **Endangered Instruments** scheme, with **free instrument hire** and **50% off the lesson fee**. These discounted sessions must be applied for this term and are extremely limited in number - so do not hesitate in finding out more. Whilst the double bass may seem a big instrument, we have smaller double basses (1/16, 1/8, and 1/4 sizes), perfect for KS2 students. Additional instruments may be left at school, so you do not have to transport it into school for the lesson.

## About Us

John Earls began his working life as a member of the first violin section of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He then went into teaching full time, first as a violin teacher and then increasingly as a classroom teacher. John has been Director of Music or Head of Music in a number of schools in the UK, Thailand and Brunei, and now teaches violin and conducts string ensembles for Berkshire Maestros.

Joe Cowie has experience teaching double bass students aged 6 to 60. He currently teaches throughout the entire county for Berkshire Maestros. He is a sought-after performer with leading ensembles, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also performed at the BRIT Awards and for touring musicals, such as Les Misérables.

## Contact Us

John Earls

Violin Teacher, Berkshire Maestros

[johnearls@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:johnearls@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

Joe Cowie

Double Bass Teacher, Berkshire Maestros

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Find out more about music lessons, visit our website:

<https://berkshiremaestros.org.uk/music/music-lessons/>

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