**2023/24 RODMERSHAM TERM 1 – PULSE AND RHYTHM**

A handy guide to musical terms for Term 1

PULSE A steady beat, like a heartbeat

RHYTHM A pattern of sounds of different lengths, or very simply, some sounds are short and some are long. It can be notated in a number of ways including using traditional western notation (Like crotchets, quavers etc) or dots and lines (similar to Morse code) or by pictures.

\*\* Rhythm is hard to spell. Use this mnemonic to remember it;

**R**HYTHM

**H**ELPS

**Y**OUR

**T**WO

**H**IPS

**M**OVE

GRAPHIC NOTATION – Using pictures or symbols to create (COMPOSE) a piece of music, for example, a picture of a foot to depict a stamping sound

PERCUSSION – An orchestra family of both NON-TUNED instruments, such as drums and claves and TUNED PERCUSSION, such as glockenspiels and xylophones. Both are usually hit with beaters, drumsticks or by hand.

\*\*FUN FACT – The piano is a percussion instrument as it uses hammers to hit strings to produce a sound (although some people feel it should be defined as a string instrument, the jury is out!) Picture a grand piano as a harp on its side!

NON-TUNED PRCUSSION is defined as a sound, rather than a pretty melody or tune.

BODY PERCUSSION – Using your body including mouth sounds to make percussive sounds, eg clap, stamp, shhh sounds

Composer focus: ANNA MEREDITH – A contemporary Scottish composer who uses body percussion in her compositions. We have been studying ‘Connect It’ and ‘Hands Free’.

Children frequently get the words COMPOSER and CONDUCTOR mixed up, here is how I remember it;

A COMPOSER writes their music on paper but frequently dislikes what they have produced, so they screw up the paper and throw it in the COMPOST bin:

**COMPOS**ER

**COMPOS**T

A CONDUCTOR waves their arms about a lot, so if you were to try to take them a cup of tea you would have to DUCK or it would get knocked over by their flailing arms!

CON**DUC**TOR

**DUC** (k)