**2023/24 DYNAMICS**

DYNAMICS means VOLUME in music. We say LOUD and SOFT, rather than LOUD and QUIET

There are several dynamic markings in music which the children will learn, as below;

A scale with music notes

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With the younger children I tend to use hand signals. Starting with pianissimo palm together and gradually moving out in degrees until hands are as far apart as possible for fortissimo.

A hand with a raised index finger

Description automatically generatedA hand with a tick mark

Description automatically generated For example, this would be PP – Pianissimo

This is good to use when asking them to sing loudly, but not shouting – “Sing Forte/ Mezzo Forte please”

Two other dynamic markings are Crescendo – getting gradually louder and either Diminuendo or Decrescendo, which mean getting gradually quieter/softer. The marks for these are as follows:

A black lines with a blue arrow

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We also talk about silences in music (called **RESTS** in NOTATION). Why do we need silences in music, why do we need differing volumes in music? The answer is to give expression, convey a feeling, trick the listening into a false sense of security, shock them with an unexpected loud noise. This can lead on to a topic discussing film and television music. Listen to Delia Derbyshire – Dr. Who Theme