**2023/24 DURATION**

How long or short musical notes, sounds or silences are.

This is just a form of basic maths – different notes last for different lengths, these are then grouped together to make a piece of music. Each note has a corresponding REST or silence.

SEMIBREVE

MINIM

CROTCHET

QUAVER

A group of musical notes

Description automatically generated

A group of musical notes

Description automatically generated

<< These notes are SEMIQUAVERS, half the value of a QUAVER

Quavers are usually grouped in twos 4s and semiquavers in 4s.

When we have a **TIME SIGNATURE** on the **STAVE** (the five lines on which music is written) it tells us how many beats you need to have in each BAR

Time signatures: 2/4 means 2 beats in bar, 3/4 means 3 and 4/4 means 4 – this is called **SIMPLE TIME**

So, for example if you had a time signature of 4/4 (as below) you could simply put a combination of these notes in a bar to make 4 beats, although ‘real’ music uses a huge mix of combinations and notes and rests, as below.

A close-up of a music note

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EXAMPLE

2 MINIMS: 2 X 2 BEATS

= 4 beats

4 x ½ + 1 x 2 beat = 4

1 x SEMIBREVE = 1 X 4 BEATS =4 BEATS

2 X MINIMS 2 X 2 BEATS = 4

4 X CROTCHETS 4 X 1 BEAT = 4 BEATS

8 X QUAVERS 8 X ½ BEAT = 4

For younger children you can start with bugs or food to demonstrate long and short sounds – see bugs below:

A group of notes on a white surface

Description automatically generated A sticker of insects

Description automatically generated