



Dear Piano Families,

Happy Summer! This week (5th - 10th July) is the last week of lessons for the year. **We will resume on the week commencing 6th September.** I will email before we begin to remind you :-)

I did a little calculation this week and realised that from April 2020 we've spent about 8 months having online lessons. I want to take a moment and really highlight how wonderful your children are. Learning music online is extremely challenging. It requires high levels of focus and independence. Every single student demonstrated such extraordinary ability through this; from the little four-year-olds learning music for the first time, to students preparing advanced repertoire for exams, assessments and university auditions, everyone has progressed and developed beautifully. I am extremely proud of them and I hope they understand just how extraordinary they are.

With this in mind - I want to encourage everyone to take time off this summer. Fill your summer with happiness, play, rest, family, friends, adventure, silliness and laughter. We will come back in September full of energy to take our practical learning to amazing new places. This will work best if little spirits have been renewed and refreshed.

Have a WONDERFUL summer. I can't wait to see you again in September!

Stakk

A NOTE ABOUT FATIGUE AND STRESS

It is completely normal for children to go through periods of piano apathy. When we say that we want music to be part of our lives, this becomes true. As we each grow and change, so does our relationship with music. If you see your child seeming to dip into a slump, please don't panic. Let me know early on. There are a few ages and stages when this happens normally (predictably) and I am able to help families navigate these times, but only if I know it is happening. Please don't ever think that your child is the only one battling to practice or resisting lessons. It's happened to me, my children - everyone.

AN UPDATE ABOUT ME

In September I will join the graduate programme at the University of Chichester to earn a Masters Degree in Music Teaching. My focus will be the study of folk and traditional music in musical education. Ethnomusicology has always been a huge passion of mine and I am VERY excited to be able to bring more wonderful and exciting ideas to my teaching.