

## **Cello information sheet for parents of beginner cellists**

Cellos like to be kept at a steady temperature (e.g. please avoid leaving them by a radiator or overnight in a conservatory)

Every time your child does some practice, the hairs on the bow will need to be tightened. (Tighten it 4 turns to play). At the end of the practice, the bow hairs need to be loosened. (Loosen it 4 turns to put away.)

The hairs of the bow should not be touched.

Rosin needs to be applied to the bow hairs, probably every third practice. Check that there is some rosin in your child's case. (It is usually to be found in a box or felt bag.)

It is ideal to keep cellos out of the way between practice sessions (spikes - the metal end pins - can be dangerous).

### **Tuning the cello**

The strings of the cello are tuned to A (2 notes below Middle C on a piano) and the D, G and C below that.

Use the fine tuners (or 'adjustors') to tune the cello on a day-to-day basis, if necessary.

The pegs (the ebony pieces of wood protruding from the scroll at the top of the cello) are used to tune the strings if the strings go badly out of tune. If this happens you may wish to leave the cello for tuning at your child's next lesson.

It is possible to buy electronic tuners to help you tune the cello.

### **A word about practice**

Little and often is more helpful than a single blitz on the evening before the next lesson.

Ideally your child should sit on a suitable sized chair (without arms) when playing the cello. The angle between the thigh and the shin should be roughly a right-angle. Feet should be flat on the floor. If you don't have a small chair, place a suitable-sized book under each foot.

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Useful link: [www.littlecellist.com](http://www.littlecellist.com)