

## **HOW TO PLAY THE RECORDER – TOP TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILDREN**

- Place the mouthpiece of the recorder on bottom lip and in front of the bottom teeth. Do NOT close your top teeth on the mouthpiece.
- Only the tip of the mouthpiece should be in your mouth
- Make sure your lips stay firm around the mouthpiece. If you open and close your mouth on each note, you will get lots of air leaks.

### **BLOWING**

- Blow softly with a steady stream of air. Not much air is required. Blowing too hard makes a horrible squeaky sound.
- ‘Steamy window’ blowing is the key. Blow on your hand as if you are steaming up the car window and you don’t want anyone to hear. The air should be warm. Blow the same way into the recorder.

### **PROBLEMS**

- If you make a squeaky sound, you may be blowing too hard. Try to remember ‘steamy window’ blowing and keep it steady.
- Check that your fingers are covering the holes completely. Use flat fingers, not curved ones.

### **PRACTICE IDEAS**

- Sing the songs
- Clap and say the rhythm (ta, ti-ti, too)
- Sing the song in ‘sol-fa’ with the hand signs (do, re, mi)
- With your recorder in ‘practice position’, finger the notes while you speak the note names
- Play the piece very slowly to start with and only speed up when you can play it well slowly.

### **WEBSITE**

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/RPESrecorder/featured>
  - This is a useful website with lessons on many of the pieces we will be playing across the year as well as good examples for parents of some of the ways we teach the children at school. Please look at the Basic Skills section of the page at the bottom which has clear, helpful hints. Focus your child’s attention on the songs we are working on at school and try not to surge ahead with other songs. We work on little bits of technique throughout the year and don’t want the children to develop incorrect habits unnecessarily.
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjUxQg9cHiOYqaRdtZ6pfoQ>
  - This website only has a few of the songs we will be doing, but great videos to support the children’s practice. It also contains lots of songs and visual resources with ‘sol-fa’ symbols on the videos which you may find useful if you want to learn what the children are doing.