Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello! My name is Cate Madden and I work for Edsential, a Community Interest Company which offers a range of services for schools, teachers and families. My role is to support music-making both in schools and after school: Edsential Music delivers instrumental and singing lessons, runs choirs, bands and orchestras for children of all ages across Cheshire West & Chester and Wirral.

During the summer, Edsential Music were awarded a Grant from Youth Music to support very young children and in September we began delivering our ‘Leaps and Bounds’ Music Project for Early Years’ children in specially selected schools/nurseries. Your child’s school/nursery was invited to take part in this project and the staff have agreed to participate and are looking forward joining in with the project. We will work closely with the teachers to offer a range of creative music making activities over the next two to three years. Most of these activities will take place in your child’s school/nursery, occasionally, we will work with other schools/nurseries in the project and visit places nearby where children can sing and play safely together – we will write to you about this when the dates and venues have been decided.

‘Leaps and Bounds’ will bring musicians into your child’s school/nursery to play and sing and explore instruments with the class or group. The musicians have a full DBS (Safeguarding Check) and will be working alongside your child’s teacher or leader. We hope that you will be able to come and see some of the work we do, again, your school/nursery will write to you about this.

Your child will be able to listen to live music played by out music tutors, learn songs to share with children from other settings, play instruments from different countries around the world and explore all different types of songs and music-making.

In order for us to share this work, and evidence what we have been doing, it is very important that we can take recordings; audio, video and photographs. These recordings will be used to:

* explain to Youth Music how we have been using the Grant,
* used to share the music-making activities online with other schools and teachers,
* celebrate the work we have done with the wider community.

To do this, we need your permission for your child’s teacher to take and share images and recordings with us: I have attached a form for you to complete and return to your child’s school/nursery. If you have any questions about this, please speak to your child’s teacher/leader, or email music@edsential.co.uk

We look forward to working with you! Best wishes,

*Cate Madden*

Music Adviser for Edsential