



Newsletter Spring Term 2014

Dear All,

Happy New 2014

New Year feels a long way behind us now. However I would officially like to wish you all a happy one. The Christmas break has had a wonderful effect on the children and there is a spring in mine and the children's steps this new term.

ISTD Street Dance & Commercial Hip Hop Medal Tests

I can confirm that these are now booked for Sunday 30th March 2014 @ TnG Leamington, (The Space Upstairs, Spencer Yard) please pay for your child's test if you have not done so yet. Many thanks for those that have. For those that are participating in our Street Dance medal tests, good luck

Our examiner is Miss M Connon, a very experienced examiner in the DFRR Faculty of the ISTD. Exciting! Timetables will be available on the notice board at class. Please check your child's time and details. A big congrats to those that have not done a test before and are "going for it". Seeing as we have done so well in the past I think it should be called a celebration rather than a test. Good luck and keep practicing.

Learning on the Inside

At Tap 'n' Groove I can see the processes and journeys the children go through. Most of the time I think I wish the parents could see this, as most often even the smallest things have such a big effect on the children. For example, they grasp a step or I give praise, the smile on their faces is a joy and so powerful I never underestimate it. I am so proud of all of the pupils and their individual learning styles and paces. There is no way you can ever judge one child against another, as in my eyes they all have a potential to find their path. In my experience for some this happens quickly, for others it takes time and perseverance. For the children that are very focused, naturally able and rhythmical it is all quite simple, for others they need support to overcome the strange feeling of actually moving in a space or worrying about failure. The thought process to get the body to do what the brain wants is a mountain to climb, especially with children with special learning needs. Also we all bring our emotions to the dance studio on occasions it can disable participation. We always say "let's leave all those negative things at the door and for this precious time dance". We can then focus on the positive effect both chemical and physiological on a human that dance facilitates. This must never be underestimated in my opinion. Look at what happened to Deborah Meadon on "Strictly Come Dancing!" She turned into a pussycat! There is no failure in dance, it is an art and the children the artists.

New Timetable commencing Tuesday 29th April 2014

Since we began in 2005 (a small group in my living room) the framework of Tap 'n' Groove has not changed. Only that we are no longer in my living room! Back then we progressed to only one Infant class on a Friday and the time we allowed for class (20 minutes each genre) seemed to match the abilities of the children. Megan who was an original student then 6, is now towering over me and assists me with Friday classes. I am bringing in a new structure that will allow for more learning to cover what is necessary in Tap and Street Dance. This will allow us to cool down and stretch, go over separate amalgamations and break downs of steps. It will add consistency to cover all the work I anticipate in one lesson.

- The lessons will be increased by 15 minutes, taking the classes from 45 minutes to 1 hour.
- 30 minutes Tap and 30 minutes Street Dance.
- The charge for the extra 15 minutes will be £1.
- SwingSing will also be 1 hour as voted for in our open day.
- Newcomers/Infants on a Friday there will be no change remaining at 45 minutes.
- Stretch 'n' Skills on Friday there will be no change, remaining 45 minutes

Monday Kenilworth

Infants 3.45pm – 4.45pm (Collect children as usual from main reception door)

Juniors 4.45pm – 5.45pm (Collect children as usual from main reception door)

Tuesdays Cubbington

Infants 3.45pm – 4.45pm (Collect children as usual from main reception door)

Juniors 4.45pm – 5.45pm (Collect children as usual from main reception door)

Wednesday Warwick

Infants 3.30pm – 4.30pm (Collect children as usual from outside entrance door)

Juniors 4.30pm – 5.30pm (Collect children as usual from outside entrance door)

Seniors 5.30pm – 6.30pm (Collect children as usual from outside entrance door)

Friday Leamington

Newcomers/Infants 4.15pm 5pm (Parents of children in this class allowed in to assist with changing)

Juniors 5pm – 6pm (Collect children as usual from bottom of stairs)

Swingsing 6pm – 7pm (Collect children as usual from bottom of stairs)

Seniors Associates 7pm - 8pm (Collect children as usual from bottom of stairs)

Stretch n Skills 8pm – 8.30pm (Collect children as usual)

Queries

All payments unless ONLINE BANKING please hand in to Ellie (Cubbington) Kate (Warwick), Kiana (Kenilworth) Megan (Leamington) or myself in a marked envelope **Name, Amount, Fee's/Medal test (what for)** to save time at class. It is very helpful if you now pay via ONLINE BANKING, thank you.

If it is important you speak to Mary please wait to the end of the evening or we can arrange a meeting outside class time.

Everyday Mary is in the office and available for questions. Please email, call or text 07966 168043
mary@tapngroove.co.uk

Uniform

Tap shoes **MUST** be worn for Tap Dance..... I do have some that children can borrow in the first instance but please provide them for your child ASAP from joining. Jazz shoes or soft flexible trainers/plimsolls for Street Dance. Children will not be allowed to participate if they are not wearing the correct footwear (see Health and Safety Policy) children would not attend a tennis lesson without a racket or football without football boots. Injuries can happen especially to the knees if the correct footwear is not worn in dance.

Wearing school uniform to dance class is not suitable, obviously on one offs it can't be helped but please try to avoid this. Many thanks Mums and Dads. Until they have a TnG T-shirt any T-shirt is ok.

Uniform is TnG T-shirt and Black leggings/joggers. T-shirts (£15 cost price) and hoodies (£30 cost price) come in Black, White and Hot Pink. To order andy@tapngroove.co.uk

Stretch & Skills

“Stretch & Skills add on” Friday ‘til 7.45pm...for TnG students Junior level and above. A half an hour extra will help a dancer gain so much more! This has only been added as I have an understanding that if you are a dancer that doesn't go to a limbering class or ballet, you will be missing out on core skills that you will need if you become to take your dancing more seriously. This extra time will home in on core skills for the child who loves dancing and would like that little bit extra for strength and technique. To book contact mary@tapngroove.co.uk...£3 for TnG Students per class.

Accounts

All billing enquiries please contact murray@tapngroove.co.uk.

Keep stretching!

Mary and the TnG team x

