



# **Understanding and using music notation in the primary classroom**

A practical session for staff, focused on classroom instruments

# NOTATION references in the music national curriculum

## Under aims:

- “understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and **appropriate musical notations**.”

## Under attainment targets / subject content / KS2:

- “use and understand **staff and other musical notations**”

## Different types of notation:

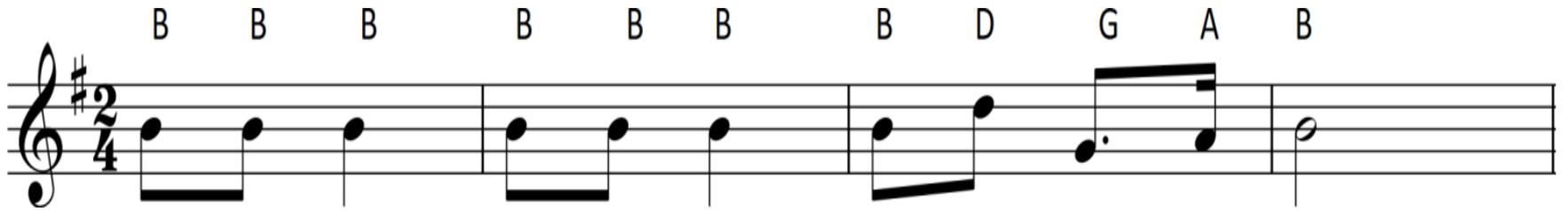
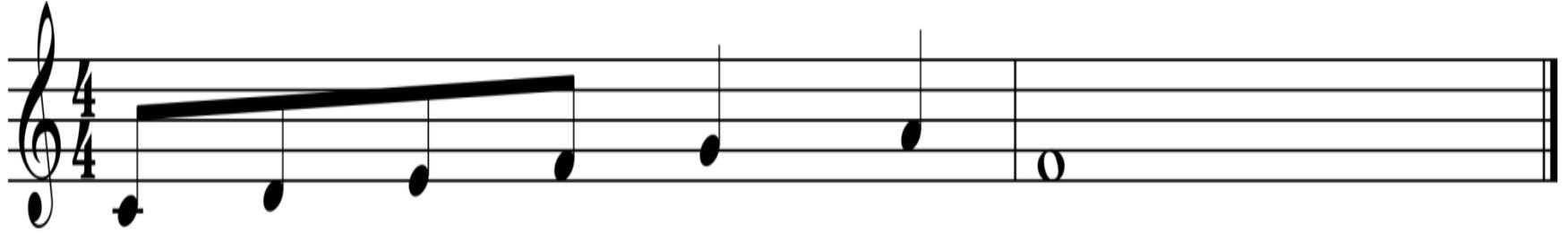
- **Stave (or staff) notation:** five lines and the spaces between them.
- **Note values / letter names:** a 'half-way house' to stave notation.
- **Chord symbols:** most commonly used with guitars and keyboard music
- **Graphic notation:** signs and symbols; often used in the classroom context

## The 'basics' of stave notation that anyone can learn....

- left to right
- line by line
- higher or lower on stave

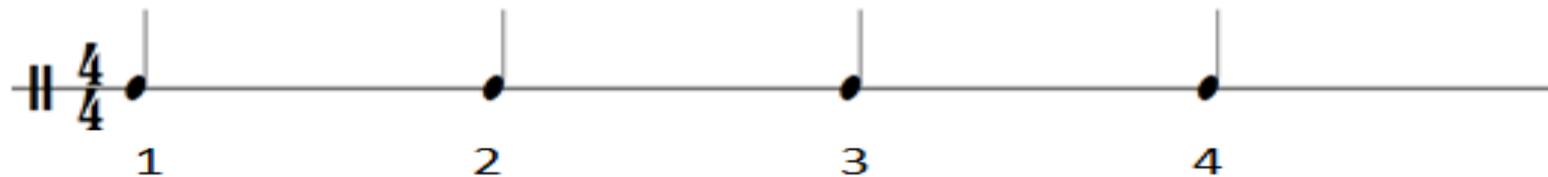
### and also....

- simple note values

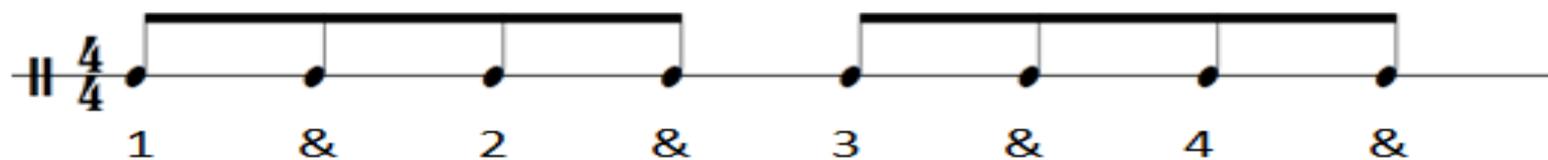


# Note Values (duration)

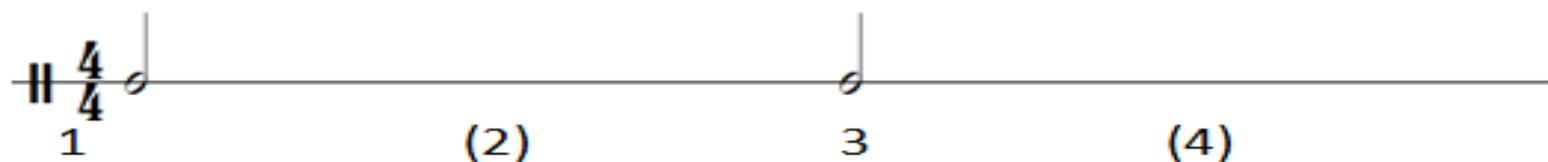
Crochet '1/4 notes'



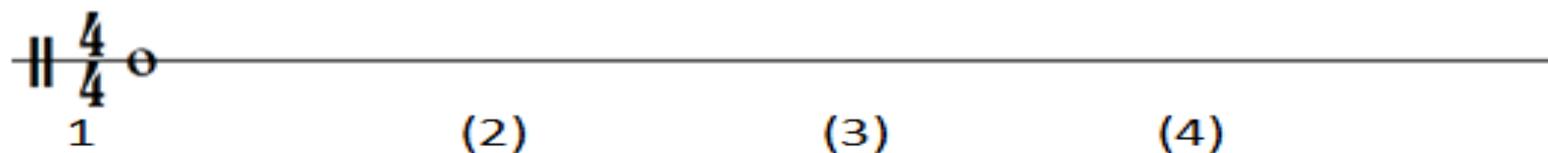
Quaver '1/8 notes'



Minim '1/2 notes'

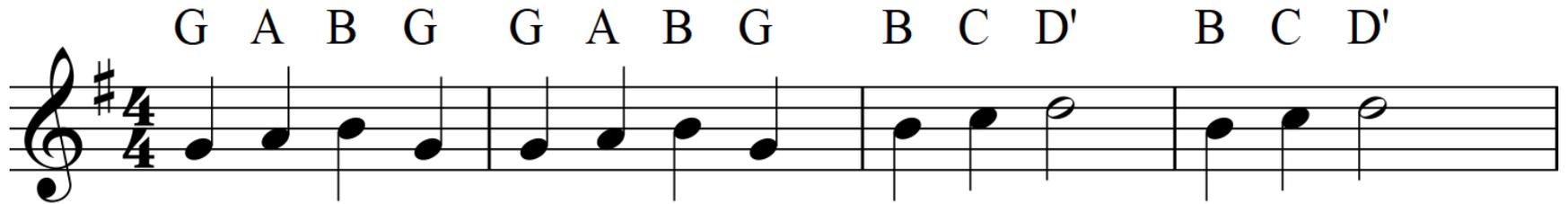


Semibreve 'whole notes'

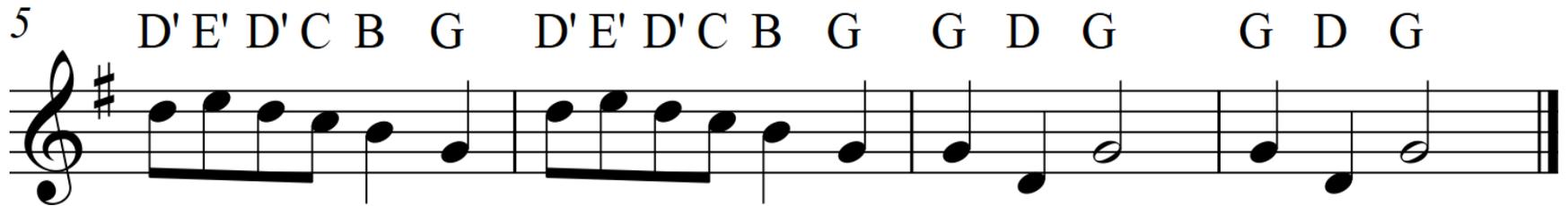


# FRERE JACQUES

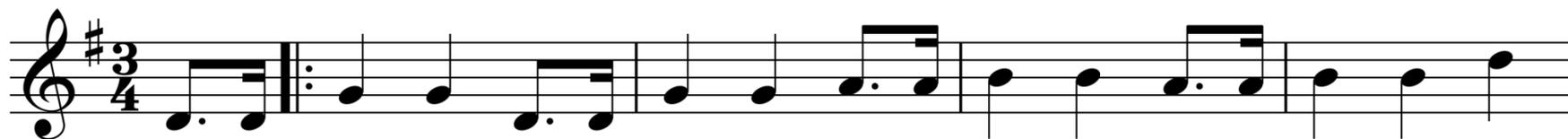
G A B G G A B G B C D' B C D'



5 D'E' D'C B G D'E' D'C B G G D G G D G

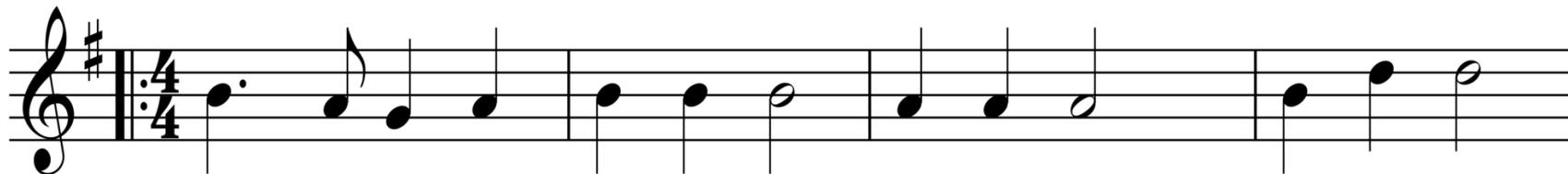


# London's Burning



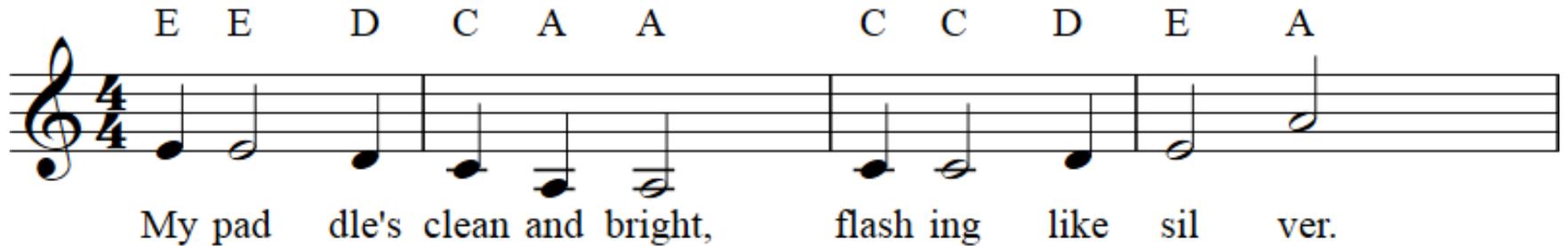
5





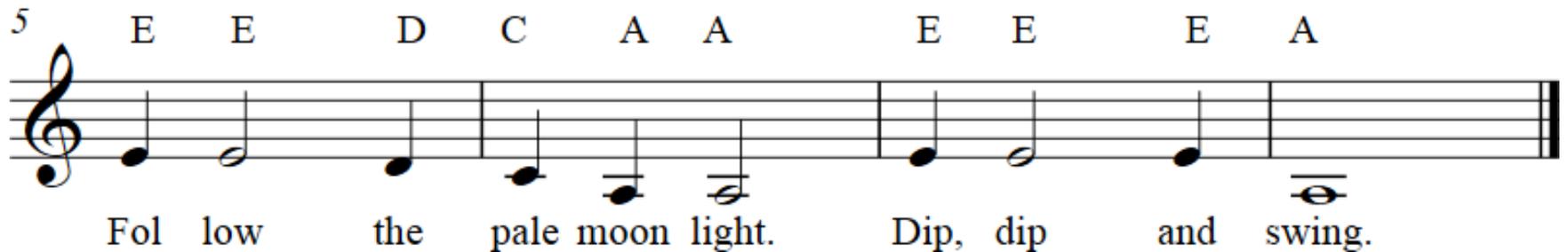
# My Paddle's Clean and Bright

E E D C A A C C D E A



My pad dle's clean and bright, flash ing like sil ver.

5 E E D C A A E E E A



Fol low the pale moon light. Dip, dip and swing.

A pentatonic (5 note) melody. Removing F and B from tuned percussion creates an A minor pentatonic scale.

## Graphic notation:

- **‘Child-friendly’ signs and symbols...** a valid alternative to conventional /stave notation
- **Can be pupil led...**let them creative and devise in a way that works for them
- **All notation is primarily a memory aid...**if it helps / works, use it.

