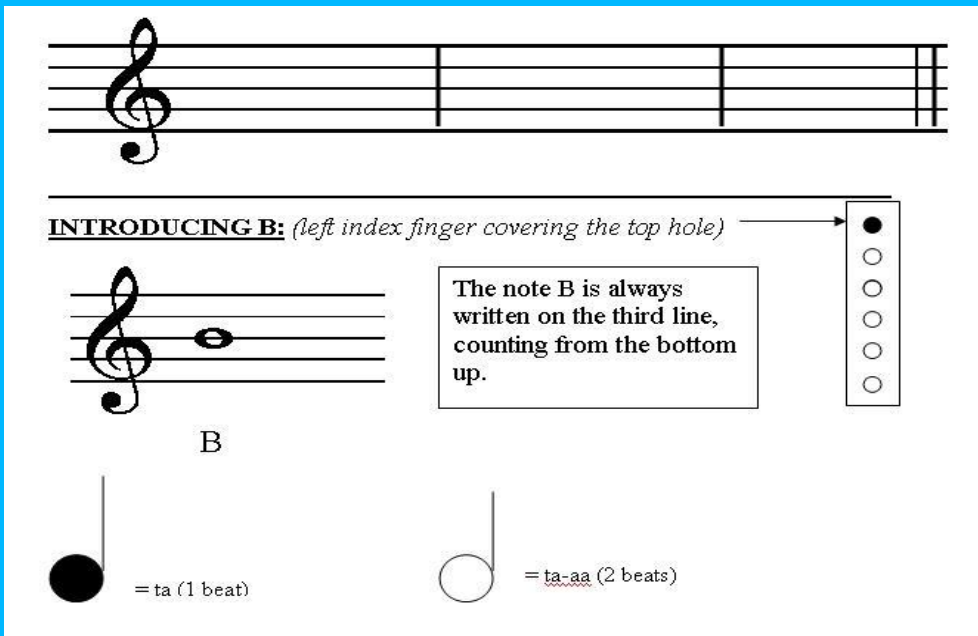# Sample Tin Whistle Scheme

Useful Tips when teaching tin whistle(see Teacher Guidelines for Music p.109)

- Good quality tin whistle
- D tin whistle most appropriate
- Correct posture is important
- Left hand over right
- Keep fingers flat
- Use pads of fingers
- Hold between lips
- Breathe gently

Words are written on lines in a copy. Music is written on lines in groups of 5, known as a stave. Notes are divided up by bar lines. A double barline usually indicates the end of a tune.

INTRODUCING B: *(left index finger covering the top hole)*

The note B is always written on the third line, counting from the bottom up.
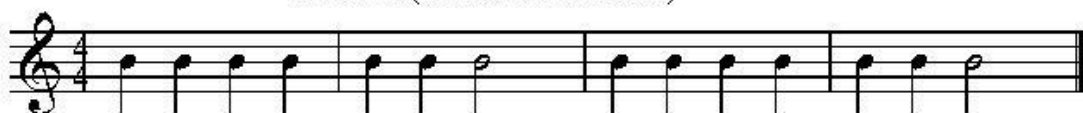
B

= ta (1 beat)

= ta-aa (2 beats)

Here are tunes using only the note B which can be played on tin whistle.

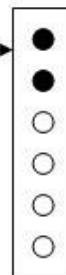**The Bee Tune** (4 full beats in each bar)

Be Cool (4 full beats in each bar)

INTRODUCING A *(left index and middle finger covering the first two holes)*

The note A is always written in the second space, counting from the bottom up.

A

Here are tunes using only the notes B and A.

B A-mazing (4 full beats in each bar)

Tunes can also have silences or rests in them. We've played notes of different lengths and rests can also be of different lengths. A rest looks like this in staff notation and when we see a rest in a tune we don't play anything for that rest.
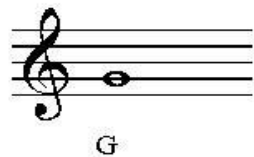
This is what a rest, with a value of 1 beat, looks like.

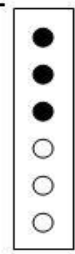Here is a tune which has a combination of B's, A's and rests in it.

The 'Rest' Tune (4 full beats in each bar)

INTRODUCING G *(index, middle and ring fingers of left hand covering three holes from the top)*

The note G is always written on the 2nd line, counting from the bottom up.

G

Here is a tune with the notes B, A and G in it.

Mary had a little lamb (Simplified version - 4 beats in each bar)

= ta (1 beat)

= ta-aa (2 beats)

= ti-ti (½ beat and ½ beat)

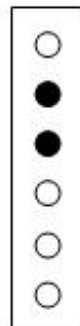**Hot Cross Buns** (4 beats in each bar)

INTRODUCING C:

C

The note C is always written in the third space, counting from the bottom up.

There are 2 types of C on the tin whistle:
C #(sharp)= no fingers on tin whistle ⟶

C ♮ (natural) = middle and ring finger of left hand covering 2nd and 3rd hole from the top ⟶
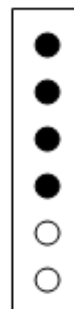
Pease Pudding Hot (4 beats in each bar)

INTRODUCING F # (sharp) *(index, middle and ring fingers of left hand covering three holes from the top of the tin whistle, index finger of right hand covering next hole down)*

F #

The note F# (sharp) is always written in the first space, counting from the bottom up.

Here is a tune which includes the note F #.

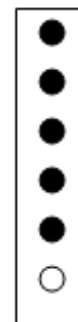## Little Sally Waters (2 beats in each bar)

INTRODUCING E *(index, middle and ring fingers of left hand covering three holes from the top of the tin whistle, index finger and middle finger of right hand covering next 2 holes down)*

E

The note E is always written on the first line, counting from the bottom up.

Here are some tunes which include the note E:

Rain Rain (2 beats in each bar)
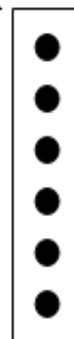

Mighty March (2 beats in each bar)

INTRODUCING D: *(index, middle and ring fingers of left hand covering three holes from the top of the tin whistle, index, middle and ring fingers of right hand covering bottom 3 holes on tin whistle)*

D

The note D is always written directly under the 5 line stave.

Here are some tunes that include D. You will probably recognise them:
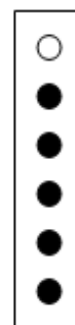
This Old Man (4 beats in each bar)

Frère Jacques (4 beats in each bar- can also be performed as a round)

INTRODUCING HIGH D: *(this is almost the same as playing low D except you lift off your finger closest to the top of the tin whistle-left index finger-and blow a little harder)*

The note high D is always written on the 4th line

A Sailor went to sea (4 beats in each bar- C #-all fingers off)