**SIMPLE STEPS TO LOOKING AFTER YOUR GUITAR**

To help you look after your guitar please ask yourself the following questions:

 **Ask yourself - Would I like to be left out in all weathers?**

No, nor does your guitar. Very cold temperatures can damage your instrument. Please take your guitar indoors with you after taking it home from school. Very extreme heat can also damage your guitar. Heat makes the parts of the guitar expand and in extreme cases make the glues weaken, causing irreparable damage to your instrument.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Do’s** | **Don’ts** |
| Take your instrument home | Leave it in the porch, the car or garage |
| Keep it in a place indoors which remains at a constant room temperature | Leave it next to a radiator or fire |
| Keep it away from radiators, fires | Leave your instrument where direct sunshine will constantly shine on it through windows |
| Always place it back in to its case after use (with all the books you need for your lesson) | Carry your guitar around without the caseYou can easily damage your guitar as you walk through doors or it becoming wet through rain etc.. |

**How do I look after the strings on my guitar?**

If and where possible use an electronic tuner to tune your guitar as this will prevent you from over-tuning your guitar which could lead to the strings snapping or breaking. Gently place a cloth under the strings and clean under the strings from the bridge up to the headstock. Then clean the tops of the string in the same manner. This will prolong the life of the strings of your guitar and will make your strings ring out more clearly. Use a dry cloth to clean the body of the guitar removing all fingerprints, dust and dirt. String cleaner can be purchased but be aware that it is meant to because on the strings only no other part of the guitar should come into contact with string cleaner! Ask your teacher to show you how to change the strings in the correct manner.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Do’s** | **Don’ts** |
| Clean your guitar regularly | Forget to clean your guitar |
| Wipe down the strings after each playing | Let strings become full of dirt, sweat and grime |
| Tune your instrument before playing it.  | Forget to tune your guitar before playing it.  |
| Use a different cloth for cleaning the strings from the one used for cleaning the guitar body. | Use string cleaner for any other part of the guitar apart from the Strings! |