

Merley beats the drum for World Music Day



Merley First School was alive with the sound of drums in celebration of World Music Day.

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed an inspirational African Drumming workshop with a musician from Afric'Arts, provided by Soundstorm, the Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole music education hub.

Merley First School Music Lead Hayley Walker said: "Cheikh, who is an African drummer, taught the children how to play bass and tone on djembe drums, which are rope-tuned drums played with bare hands.

"The children then played a range of rhythms, while Cheikh played another rhythm to create a piece altogether. The children really enjoyed it and some said they would like to do drumming every day."

World Music Day takes place each year in more than 110 countries and 430 cities around the world and highlights the diversity of musical practices in all musical styles.

Across the rest of the school each year group worked on activity ideas compiled with support from Soundstorm around the song 'A Musical Journey' by Glyn Lehmann, which takes children on a musical voyage across the world.

In Early Years (EYFS), the children focused on India and enjoyed a song about the musical instrument the sitar, as well as trying out some Bollywood-style dancing.

Year 1 pupils sampled body percussion, djembe drumming and an African instrument version of Pass the Parcel.

While Year 2 'visited' South America and enjoyed a Brazilian samba performance and singing.

Year 3 and Year 4 had their sessions with African drummer, Cheikh. Year 3 then focused on the Aboriginal music of Australia and making their own didgeridoos. And Year 4 tried exploring the higher pitch tones of music from Ireland.

Merley First School is part of Wimborne Academy Trust (WAT).

CEO Liz West said: "The children had a fantastic day learning about world music and also made some pretty incredible music of their own."