

Alanouwoly Salifou Sylla



Holbeach Primary School African Music Project 15.6 - 20.6.2009



The program was designed to give all pupils hands on experience of African music and culture with a performance at the end of the week. Nansady Keita, a highly respected Guinean musician, and Rosanna Dellow, a teacher of both Latin and African dance, spent two and a half days explaining this culture and teaching the pupils of Holbeach School drumming, dancing and singing songs in the African language Mandinka.

Out of all the classes they selected the most suitable students to train towards a performance at Assembly on Friday, the 19 of June and at the School Fair, Saturday, the 20th of June.



They were joined by a third teacher, Hassan Lotfi, who has extensive experience in teaching drumming and African music to children and adults, to help with both performances.

The success of the program could be seen in the discipline, enjoyment and interest in the performance of both the performers and the audience. It was excellent and joyous, because the children were highly engaged and motivated.



Quotes from Holbeach teacher:

“great for inclusion, all children could achieve in this environment”

“children formed relationships with individual drums”

“strong evidence from children's evaluations that they understood more about the culture”



Quotes from Holbeach pupils:

“Enjoyed the way they taught us, learning about a new culture”

“we made everyone happy, everyone joined in”
Year 5

“...it was so fun, I wanted to do more.”
Leila, year 3



I enjoyed the dancing because I learnt a lot about Africa”
Crystal year 3

“When I was doing the drumming I felt proud of myself”
Kaya year 3



“...amazing because they only had a few days to practice.”
Jasper, year 3

“..I would have begged to do it.....
...it was beautiful.”
Rebecca, year 3