

It's a rap

CHILDREN at a Birmingham primary school enjoyed their very own voyage of discovery.

A Year 3 class at Hawthorn Primary spent the past few weeks working on a project about developing teamwork skills, while also linking in with literacy and the environment.

And the group of seven and eight-year-olds, including children with hearing impairments, saw the Our Discovering project come to a close with a special assembly.

The class performed a specially written rap song, Down with the Daisies, about a field trip to Clent Hills, near Bromsgrove, last month.

The Creative Partnerships project, which received funding through Bright Space and the Kingstanding education action zone, has involved the school working with visual artist Dilwara Begum.

She said: "There is a lot of social challenge among this group of pupils and they needed



MAKE SOME NOISE Zak Powell, eight, of Hawthorn Primary School playing a drum.

something to motivate them and give them a positive life experience.

"I'm dyslexic and a few of the children struggle with writing, but we have all been able to write words for the song."

She added: "The children have been absolutely wonderful and we have managed to achieve things we wouldn't normally have been able to do."

Hawthorn's music teacher Peter Brindley said: "This was planned seven months ago with myself and our home liaison officer Sue Zentani.

"We decided to use this Year 3 class as a focus group for collaborative teamwork to bring something together, such as this project.

"We also wanted to link it with literacy and the environment to take advantage of our outdoor area, and went to Clent Hills to take them out of their normal environment."

THREE DAYS OF THEATRE

A NORTHUMBERLAND school held three days of performances to celebrate the talent of its students.

Bedlington Whitley Memorial C of E First School took part in the inaugural Shine Week, a national festival celebrating the skills and abilities of our children and young people.

A whole range of activities are due to take place in school this week, following yesterday's performance by the school's nursery class of their own version of Sleeping Beauty and other self-penned shows.

Headteacher Elaine Cull said: "We have had all sorts going on, from storytelling to performance in front of our parents, and it has given us a great opportunity to help the pupils to write their own

stories. All the work we are doing is part of our creative partnerships and we have been working towards the performances all term.

"We feel Shine Week fits in very well with our ethos in school and the performances and activities have been very successful. Staff and pupils alike have really enjoyed this opportunity."

Shows are continued with Class 3 doing Zak and Ella's Magical Adventure and Class 4 showing its parents Jack the Giant and the Dragon.

Classes 5 and 6 demonstrated their work on the Adventures of Katie Moran. The oldest pupils added performances of Sir Clumsy and the Dragon, Mark's Mermaid and The King's Hat after a special achiever's assembly.



YOUNG THESPIANS Children perform Sleeping Beauty.

Students celebrate successes

CHILDREN and teachers from across Middlesbrough gathered for a celebration of success.

The event, at Middlesbrough Teaching and Learning Centre, was organised by Middlesbrough Council and showcased the talents of young people and those who work with them.

In between performances of High School Musical, puppetry displays and a singing and sign language choir, presentations were given by teachers and experts.

These focused on subjects such as healthy living, personal safety and how to make a positive contribution to the school environment. The afternoon was compered by former headmaster Colin Algie and his metallic mate Oscar the Robot.

Steve Taylor, head of Hall Garth School, took students along to take part in a drumming and dance presentation. He said: "We celebrate success every day at our school, and this is a great way to celebrate success at schools across Middlesbrough."



HITTING THE HIGH NOTES Green Lane Primary School's performance of High School Musical.

CHILDREN WITH A FEW MORE STRINGS TO THEIR BOW



MAKING MUSIC Fiona Andrew, Megan Gough, Sarah Gyte, Charlotte, Lucy Brennan and Romany Brook who played in the guitar and violins concert.

YOUNG musicians have been showing off their talents as part of nationwide Shine Week.

Pupils from Churchtown Primary School, Liverpool, performed a series of mini concerts to demonstrate the instrumental skills they have learned over the past year.

One of the concerts, which was performed in front of parents, featured woodwind and brass while the second featured guitars and violins.

In total 90 pupils aged between nine and 11 took part in the concerts.

Children also learned how to play steel pans as well as learning dancing and cheerleading skills.

Singers also went into the community to sing for elderly people. The theme for all the songs performed was 'happiness'.

Music teacher Amanda Roberts, said: "We do performances across the year but we thought it was a lovely idea to show a lot of children playing instruments and show what they can do. It is nice to share it."