

## Percussion workshops encourage children's development



**On the beat:** Pupils at Easton Primary School give a concert after attending the workshops

**Photograph:** Gavin Crilly

# Drumming up interest

**CHILDREN from Easton have been exploring methods of communicating using drums in a series of free workshops.**

HumDrumStrum is made up of two Bristol-based musicians, Jason Flinter and Simon Carver, who run workshops using drums and percussion from around the world.

They have been offering free workshops to inner city schools which are involved in the BrEaz scheme.

Children at Easton Primary learned about tempo, dynamics, rhythm and timbre over a six-week course.

by **LUCY PARKINSON**

They also wrote a story which linked to a series of pictures, and then put their own drum soundtrack to it.

Jason Flinter said: "Our aim was to encourage the children to view themselves as individuals within a team and to work together as a team."

"Over the six weeks they have worked on developing their listening and non-verbal communication skills, they have become a strong team."

"An important part of the course is teaching the children to listen and

respect each other, which is vital in getting them to learn to play music together in unison."

The workshops are designed to build children's confidence and co-operation skills, promote team spirit and make time for fun and creative expression.

HumDrumStrum were keen to get involved with the local community, as Simon Carver explains.


He said: "We are a relatively young company and we were keen to get involved with local, inner city schools as well as the BrEaz scheme, so it has been a learning process for us as much as anything."

"The schools we have been

working in don't have much in the way of musical curriculum before so I think they enjoyed the workshops."

"But while the drums are fun and a novelty, we used them to teach the children about how to work together and tolerate each other."

"The children always wanted the biggest or loudest drum, and we used that as a metaphor for learning how to work together and learn that we are all equal by showing them that all the drums were equally important in creating the overall sound."

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