

Day of the African Child

Anyone seeing five hundred children marching with banners round the grounds of Brookhurst School on 29th June might have wondered whether a revolution was under way. Far from it; they were celebrating the Day of the African Child.



The parade

Eleven local schools joined in a day of workshops and gatherings to learn more about Africa and celebrate their links with schools in Bo, Sierra Leone. After the initial grand parade they gathered in a large marquee. They heard that the day was initiated to commemorate the Soweto demonstrations and

shooting of schoolchildren in 1976. For One World Link it has grown into a celebration of more than thirty years of contact with schools in Bo and is a day of joyous activity.

The children joined in six different activities. In rotation one group sat quietly on the classroom floor listening to stories told by Sierra Leonians (although sadly the Ebola outbreak had prevented teachers from coming from Bo as originally intended). Another were in the marquee singing at the tops of their voices while outside another group were enjoying sports on an African theme. In another classroom there was intense concentration as the children drew and cut out beautiful metallic designs in the shapes of leaves found in West Africa. In complete contrast the assembly hall was full of sound and action as they danced to beating drums. Not to be outdone, another group were learning drumming themselves, enjoying the chance to make a lot of noise, albeit a very organised noise!

The enthusiastic participation of so many children and their orderly progression was a tribute to the many teachers who took part, to Brookhurst for hosting the day and particularly to the organisers, Liz Garrett and Rachel Cliff.

At the end of the day everyone gathered again in the marquee where they heard more about the Link. As a grand finale they all joined in the songs and dances they had learnt during the day before wrapping up their banners and heading for home.

This event was kindly supported by Leamington International Twinning Society (LITS)

For more information about One World Link, please visit oneworldlink.org.uk



Singing in the marquee



Dancing to the drums



Learning drumming



Listening to a Sierra Leonian story



African leaf designs produced in the art workshop