



Hot potatoes!

Above: Spud and Yam entertaining Year 3 and 4 pupils at Beechwood.
Right: The children get hands-on with some of the duo's instruments.
(Picture by Steve Sarre, 10736675)

Beechwood pupils enjoy music workshop with a message

INTERACTIVE story-telling through music and rhythm can be a great tool for helping children become happy, healthy and nurtured individuals, according to a visiting educational duo.

Spud and Yam, aka Kate Corkery and Winston Nzinga, visited the island as part of the Guernsey Literary Festival and held a series of workshops in schools. They also spent time training teachers how they can use similar methods in the classroom.

The duo visited Beechwood, where they entertained the children with songs and fable-type tales, including one about a tortoise who had six children who then saved him from a big fish and eagle, and another about two sisters in Jamaica who are asked to share an ackee, a Jamaican fruit. The thought-provoking stories

ST PETER PORT

were aimed at highlighting personal qualities and kindness.

The duo involved the children in singalongs and rhymes and showed them how to clap out rhythms.

Ms Corkery (Spud) is passionate about the idea that children need nourishment – not only through food but also through interactive learning.

‘Through the stories, songs and music it can help them to be happy, healthy, nurtured and giving people,’ she said.

In workshops with younger children the duo focus more on action, songs and rhymes but she said they try to challenge older children a bit more with sessions aimed at getting them to problem-solve and be kind.



The sessions give the children a sense of achievement, she added.

The pair travel all over the world but are based in London. Ms Corkery is from Ireland, hence the potato-based nickname, while Jamaican-born Mr Nzinga is Yam – another name for sweet potato.

Year 6 pupils Chris Collivet and Freya Guezo, both 10, enjoyed the session.

‘It was educational and fun,’ said Freya. ‘Our school aims are to aim

high, be kind and be brave and that is exactly what they taught us today.’

Chris added, ‘It gets you active and it’s definitely interesting.’

Beechwood deputy head (pastoral) Liz Bott said having different approaches to teaching was important.

And the children really enjoyed it, she added.

‘We are very lucky to have these guys here today.’