

## SINGING AT ST HELEN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the last month the children of St. Helen's Primary school in Alveston have been enjoying exciting and uplifting singing sessions.

The children have been focusing on pieces from around the world ranging from African welcome songs to humorous calypsos.

The sessions begin usually with a warm up, which focuses not only on warming up the voice but the whole body. Chants and raps have been very successful in energising the children's tongue and lips even before a note is sung! The chants and raps have also assisted in helping the children begin to understand how to communicate whilst singing.

When the singing begins I usually have the group standing. This is in an ideal situation because the body supports the voice. If children stand or sit badly this will have a negative effect on vocal sound. If standing is impossible then encourage the children to sit 'tall'.

Let the group imagine they have a piece of string attached to their head, ask them to pull it and the whole lower part of the body will become straight!

One of the best received songs has been the 'Breakfast Calypso'. This is initially taught as three separate verses and then can be sung as a 3 part round. Its syncopated rhythms and catchy tune also enable the children to communicate through their singing....it certainly made the staff feel hungry!

Andrew Cleaver (Primary Music AST)

### Coffee Pots

All I want is a proper cup of coffee,  
Made in a proper copper coffee pot!  
I may be off my dot,  
But I want a proper coffee in a proper coffee pot!

Tin coffee pots and iron coffee pots  
They're no use to me (clap clap)  
If I can't have a proper cup of coffee in a proper copper coffee pot  
I'll have a cup of tea! (clap)

### Lickety Split (A repeat- after- me song)

Say Lickety split, lickety split  
Lickety split, lickety split  
Lickety, trickety, rickety, split!  
Lickety, trickey, rickety, split!  
Todilly pip, todilly pip!  
Hop and a skip, hop and skip  
Fancy a chip? - Yes please!

(These chants can be found in The Singing Sherlock Books. Boosey & Hawkes)