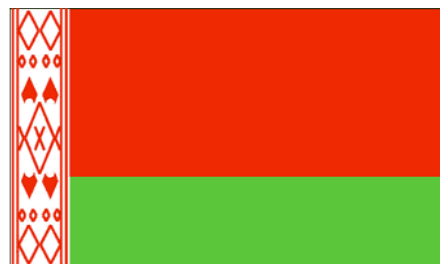
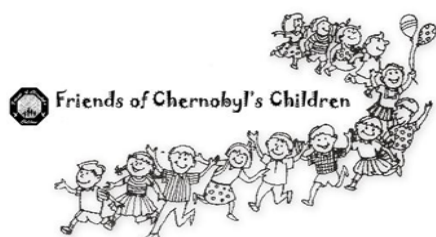


FOCC Edinburgh West – West Lothian



Daily Blog for the group visit ~ 2nd June to 30th June 2012

DAY 10 Monday 11th June – The Zoo

The children started their day with some crafts in the hall followed by their English lesson. It was impressive to peep through the hatch from the kitchen and hear how well the children's English is developing.

At 10.30 we set off in convoy to Edinburgh Zoo in the minibus and two cars. Upon arrival, as we were checking in, the lady issuing the tickets surprised us by announcing that there were enough available tickets for the children to see the pandas. A great bonus!

We started with a visit to the monkey house and the baby monkeys were particularly popular. Fortunately, we managed to keep our wee monkeys separate from those belonging to the zoo. This was followed by a walk up to see the Rhino's and the children were particularly impressed by these animals. They all took a deep intake of breath at the sight - before realising how smelly it was and quickly holding their noses.



Our Panda tickets were for 12 noon so we made our way down to the Panda gate and the children waited very patiently to be called forward. This was despite the fact that there were several adults and children who pushed in front of them and walked straight to the front of the queue. One of the Zoo staff commented on how well behaved and patient

our children were in relation to some of the other visitors. The children loved seeing



the Pandas and were lucky to see the girl (Sunshine) wide awake and eating bamboo. The boy Panda decided to hide his eyes until we were gone. We had a half hour break for our picnic on the benches outside and then went up

to see the big cats. The boys seemed particular keen on this area.



At 2pm we went to a handling session at the education centre. All of the children were given the opportunity to handle Giant African Snails, cockroaches, a snake and a Bearded Dragon. Throughout this we were entertained by the parrot in the corner wolf-whistling at Linda. Dasha Harper decided that she wanted to have her photo taken pretending to kiss a cockroach and somehow ended up really kissing a snake. The other children soon joined in, although none of them with quite the same enthusiasm as Dasha.



After this we visited the Budongo trail and made our way back to the minibus and the hall.

Our day at the zoo was paid for by a very generous individual donation, for which we are extremely grateful.

Fun Stuff: Watching Dima's reaction as a snake disappeared up his shirt.

Stars of the Day: Dianna for her care and concern for her brother during the animal handling (or possibly for her concern for the animals).

Olya and Katya deserve huge congratulations as our group was certainly one of the best behaved at the zoo that day.

