

Tues 26 May

## **Bathgate Academy**

A very interesting and happy day for the children - A trip to Bathgate Academy. It's great for the children and interpreters to see and experience different schools. But first in Broxburn we were joined for the day by Stephanie, who speaks Russian but is from Scotland. The children were intrigued and happy to chat with her. Then we made the short journey to Bathgate Academy where we were met by our pupil helpers, Mr Abbot the head-teacher and Mr McKay the pupil support manager, who have both been great to us over the past few years. First up was a session in the pool. We gave the children a little swimming test and found that only 3 out of the 20 can swim with some of the new ones having their first swimming outing. We will start swimming lessons with them next week. So with armbands and goggles on and lots of floats and toys in the pool the children had great fun. After a snack of fruit and juice we went straight into lessons. First lesson was music. We had great fun learning the rhythms of Samba. I am not sure if they ever quite made the rhythm with all the various percussion instruments but they certainly loved making their instruments heard :) and were very enthusiastic. Next lesson was Craft where the children made lovely candle holders from blocks of wood. This involved sanding the wood vigorously with sandpaper to make them smooth. It was fun watching Tania trying to translate the phrase elbow grease. The children then drilled a hole for the tea-light candle to be added. They were ably assisted by the adults, but did most of it themselves. The finished product was something to be very proud of. After all that work it was time for school lunch. Various pastas, sausages and fish and chips were the popular mains along with starters of fruit and pudding of yoghurt and cake and of course juice aplenty. The canteen staff were great with the children and the interpreters remarked at how pleasant they were. After lunch we were taken to a room to meet with some of the pupils. Every child was given a new rucksack full of clothes, toys and useful things and a shoebox full of more things. The school also presented us with a cheque with funds raised from a recent dress down day. So, so kind of everybody and it's a real pleasure to go to a school who have really taken the children to heart. Tania gave a nice thank you speech to the pupils and

staff and we handed over a child's hand made thank you card and a concert invite.

Back at the hall it was like a scene from a crazy Christmas morning. Twenty children opening their rucksacks and shoeboxes and pulling everything out excitedly and showing it all to anyone who would look. The children were so happy and it took them a long time to quieten down to say goodbye to Stephanie who was great with the children.

Some concert practice rounded off a great day.





