

# FOCC WEST LOTHIAN DAILY BLOG 2014

## Monday 26th May

### Settling In and Ratho Climbing

Today was the first day of our programme or school as we call it. Like first day at school everyone was in early and raring to go.

We started off with a safety talk. Setting some ground rules for a safe but very enjoyable visit. We got the children to put their coats on to go outside and practice crossing the road safely in various scenarios. However as we opened the door we were faced by pouring rain. So we turned around and did an imaginary road crossing in the big hall, with seats as parked cars, Martin and Luda acting brilliantly as moving cars on the road complete with horns and Kenny as a pedestrian crossing point. Much more fun than the real thing but an important lesson learned.



Then it was time to get an abundant amount of craft material out including glitter. The place was a hive of industry ( and mess ! ) for over an hour and the result was some very pretty thank you cards to be used during our visit.



The children are so used to having potatoes in Belarus so we arranged for the first lunch in the hall to be Scotlands take on potatoes Stovies. They went down a real treat and we had 26 empty plates. Thanks to Jean T, Tania's host, for providing them.





With the minibus picked up for the month it was time to go on our first excursion To Edinburgh International Climbing Arena. (Thank you so much to West Lothian Council for allowing us to hire the community minibus for the



month) What a brilliant time the children had. Over the 2 hours they were there they abseiled from the roof all the way down to the ground passing around 5 storeys on the way down, climbed up various sections of wall with differing heights and degrees of difficulty all under the watchful eye of our 4 instructors giving our interpreters instructions to translate. It was amazing to see how well the children



took to the abseiling and climbing. They were all great and it was so nice to see all the smiling happy faces, even when they were helping with ropes to assist their friends. Particular mention goes to Kiryl for the boys and small Tanya for



the girls who were probably the best despite being 2 of the smallest children. Not to forget

Luda our interpreter who is just a big kid and took part climbing all the way to the top of 2 different walls. Special mention also to Tania who worked very hard interpreting all afternoon.

What a really great first day. Well done to all the team involved Kenny, Martin, Karen and Helen and our 2 wonderful interpreters. A great start to our visit



