



august visit

2018

day 1 ~

MONDAY
6TH AUGUST 2018

Oatridge campus, Jumpstation

This is our first day at the Oatridge Campus with the August group and a revelation it was too, a massive room with plenty of space and a projector that will entertainment of the troops easy. In the morning we played the game the kids called, Mafia and the rest of the morning was spent doing artwork and making up thank you cards. We then headed out to the rugby field to play a few games until it was time for lunch. After lunch it was off to Jumpstation, the trampoline park. There were lots of smiles and much hilarity amongst all the jumping. We then headed back to base and a film was put up on our fancy screen so it's as good as any cinema!





day 2 ~

TUESDAY
7TH AUGUST 2018

English lessons, swimming and Conifox centre

A great day had by all. We started the day with English lessons with Chris, then onto swimming which they always love. Straight to 'Conifox' for an alfresco picnic then on to the double go karts, tractor karts, trampolines and bouncy pillow thing. We finished off with some lovely ice creams.





day 3 ~

WEDNESDAY
8TH AUGUST 2018

Almond Valley Heritage Centre

We left our base early, as rain was forecast for the afternoon. They started off on the bouncy cow, then we duly found the indoor barn play area. We moved on to the go karts, a big hit with them all, but a few need more practice on their emergency stops! Rain then came, so we sheltered inside and had an early lunch. After it went away we proceeded to the trolley rides, another big favourite, I'm sure each of them had around 10 shots. The zip wires were exhausted with the amount of use they had today, too. Sergei worked hard to aid all the kids with the zip wire. We went back up to near the entrance for another outdoor play area, with games of hide and seek, then a visit to the inside barns, where the children enjoyed seeing goats, rabbits, hens, guinea pigs and more.

Then it was back to base for snack and some homemade brownies and to watch a movie.

A great day out, with plenty fresh air for all.





day 4 ~

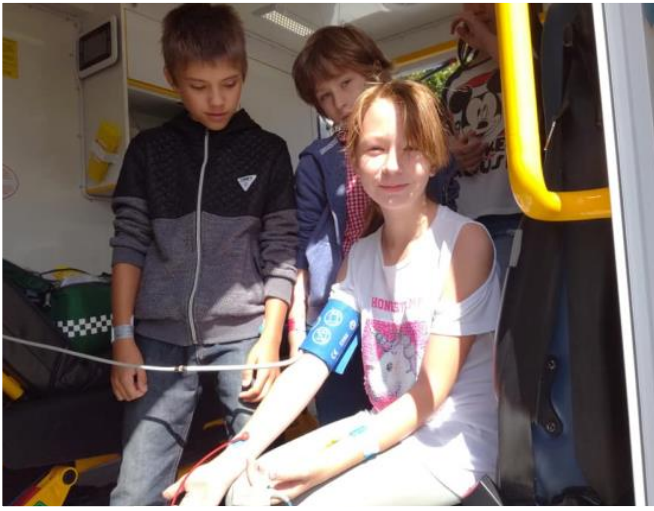
THURSDAY
9TH AUGUST 2018

Livingston Ambulance Station

Another fine day began with English lessons. Then it was off to Livingston Ambulance Station where the kids found out about station life. They loved being in the ambulances, being shown all the equipment and they all had their vitals monitored and were given a printout of their own statistics. However, the highlight was definitely sitting in the driving seat and activating the lights and sirens. Finally they were given a demonstration of CPR and most tried it. They now all have a good idea how to perform it.

The weather was so nice we went straight to Eliburn Park for a picnic lunch followed by much playing and an ice cream which the ambulance staff funded.





day 5 ~

FRIDAY
10TH AUGUST 2018

Riverside Museum and Tall Ship

Good day at the Riverside Museum and Tall Ship today.

Kids enjoyed the old cars, buses and trams and had great fun running around the old tall ship.





day 6 ~

MONDAY
13TH AUGUST 2018

Opticians and Soft Play

This morning began with a trip to Optimeyes Opticians in Broxburn where the staff were wonderful as always then it was back to the hall for some games and lunch. We were hoping for a dry afternoon but with no let-up in the Scottish drizzle we headed to Yoyo's in Bathgate for some soft play fun. The kids had a great time, climbing, sliding & running about crazy.





day 7 ~

TUESDAY
14TH AUGUST 2018

English lessons, swimming then dance lessons

A wet start to the day but activities were indoors today. English lessons were followed by special messages to the birthday girls: Kira's mum Galina and her host mum Pauline. Swimming was good fun as usual but the afternoon activity was fantastic. Many thanks to Jo Tod for hosting us and giving us all lots of dancing and fun. As you can see from the photos, great time had by all.





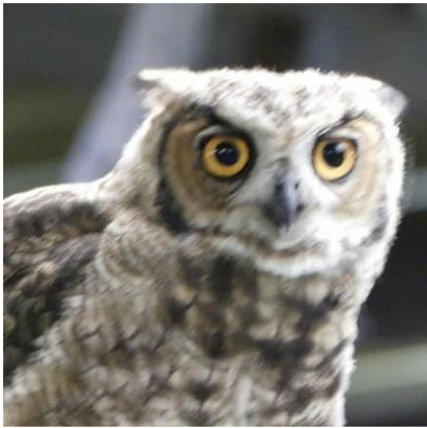
day 8 ~

WEDNESDAY
15TH AUGUST 2018

Potter Around and the Owl Sanctuary

The children have been enjoying a slower paced relaxing day so far, watching a little movie, playing with Hama beads and chatting away. Due to the crazy weather earlier, we made a quick call and organised a surprise visit to Potter Around in Kirknewton. The children spent a great time making decoupage objects and the staff gave them juice and some crisp snacks, which was so lovely and kind. We then set off to the Owl Sanctuary and the kids enjoyed seeing the owls again and met a baby (18 1/2 weeks old) that was huge. We then had lots of fun in the park as the weather turned nice and Sergei got to keep up his keep fit regime!





day 9 ~

THURSDAY
16TH AUGUST 2018

English Lessons, Scottish Dancing and Dentist

All things considered, a pretty good day. English lessons followed by bagpipes and Scottish dancing by Martin Smith and family and the kids all took part and tried the pipes. Many thanks Martin! After lunch it was time for the dentist which is rarely fun but they were all very brave. Many thanks to Broxburn Dental Practice for their kind donation of their valuable time and for treating the children.





day 10 ~

FRIDAY
17TH AUGUST 2018

Museum of Flight

Fantastic day at the museum of flight today. It was worth the drive just to see the look of amazement on the kids faces when they first saw the Concorde. Great excitement to be able to see and touch the display aircraft and it was (just) warm enough to sit outside for lunch. Highlight was wee Lisa singing all the way home on the bus - despite requests to stop from all the other kids. Great fun.



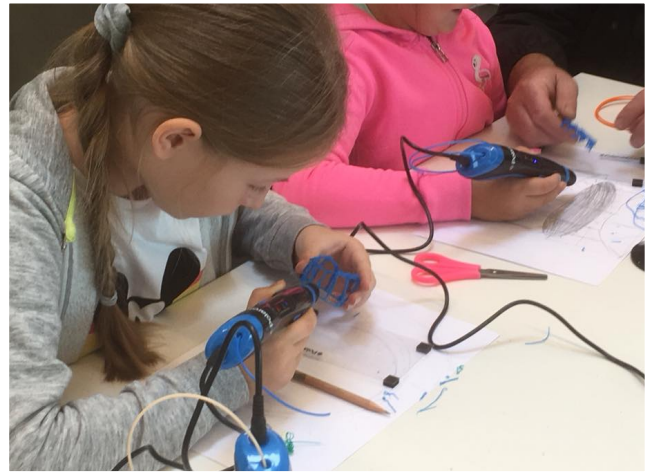


day 11 ~

MONDAY
20TH AUGUST 2018

Engine Shed and Stirling Castle

Started off the day at the Engine Shed in Stirling to learn all about Scottish buildings through the ages and materials used in their construction. The children designed their own buildings using 3D pens with everything from swimming pools to football stadium designs. Then they got to investigate loads of building materials and had a go at building more. Lunch was spent at Stirling Castle where we met with a group from Ukraine -10 girls here for a month through the charity Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Ayrshire. Then we were given a tour round all of the various areas of Stirling Castle, finishing off with the opportunity to dress up in period costume, which went down as well with the adults as the kids. Finally we celebrated Martins birthday today with cake to round off a great day.





day 12 ~

TUESDAY
21ST AUGUST 2018

English Lessons, Swimming then Beecraigs Park

Today started with an English lesson with Chris, then off to Broxburn swimming pool where a great time was had by the kids. After lunch, they enjoyed an afternoon of fun in the sun at Beecraigs Park





day 13 ~

WEDNESDAY
22ND AUGUST 2018

Hopetoun House and Aberdour Beach

Today started with a little creativity. The children were drawing and making cards followed by a little concert practice with anyone not participating banished from the room. After a little snack and due to the weather conditions not being the best we headed to Hopetoun House. We were looked after on arrival by Robina McQueen who directed us around the Hopetoun House. Another staff member, Catherine Ward took us down to the pantry where most of us dressed up as servants and worked under the instruction of our new boss for the morning, Dima.

As the weather had started to improve, we headed back to the bus for a quick lunch and then we went to Silversands beach at Aberdour. Despite many of us not being prepared for the sun suddenly popping out and with no swim wear or towels - we went into the water regardless. Some children were buried under the sand for a short time also and we all had lots of fun. The bus home was renamed, 'The Commando Bus'..

Back to base with just a little time left to play with Hana Beads. Another fabulous day!





day 14 ~

THURSDAY
23RD AUGUST 2018

M & D's

Today started with English lessons with Chris then some outside playtime before heading along the motorway to M & D's theme park. It was dry when we got out the minibus but just as we were heading into the park it started to rain - heavily! An impromptu visit to the amusement arcade kept everyone busy until the rain stopped, then the real fun began. Everyone had a fantastic time, having a go on as many of the rides as possible. As FOCC tradition demands the end of the visit was finished with as many rides as possible on the log flumes leaving everyone suitably drenched. It was then back to base where we celebrated Stas's 10th birthday with a piñata and cake.





day 15 ~

FRIDAY
24TH AUGUST 2018

Park and Games then Swimming at Bubbles

Hamma beads, archery and football. It was a morning packed with fun and games then after lunch it was off to Bubbles swimming pool for some flume action.





day 16 ~

MONDAY
27TH AUGUST 2018

Edinburgh Zoo

We all went to the zoo today, the zoo today, the zoo today and saw mostly lots of grass, trees, bushes and dirt. Seems a lot of these animals don't appreciate Scottish weather and decided to stay indoors having a sofa day watching Netflix instead of entertaining our gang. The kids saw a bearded dragon and a snake, saw some chimps and burst out laughing when two chimps tried to make more chimps, time to move on we said. The tiger was sleeping, the lions awake and the pandas nowhere to be seen. The penguins paraded, the monkeys screeched and the rhino was splashing in water. What a great bunch of kids, good fun and two excellent interpreters.





day 17 ~

TUESDAY
28TH AUGUST 2018

Optician, Family Meal and Concert

Today Ercamo, Alina and Kira went to Optimeyes to collect their glasses. Thank you ☺

The day was also filled by English lessons, last minute concert practice and preparations then a visit to Mountain Warehouse for some photo's to be taken for the West Lothian Courier.

The main event today though, was the evening family meal where we has a lovely dinner followed by a concert put on by the children and lastly some party games. Thanks to everyone for having a fun time.





day 18 —

WEDNESDAY
29TH AUGUST 2018

Livingston Fire Station

The day began with a tour of the fire engines then a hold of the breathing apparatus so the children could feel how heavy it was. The Firemen taught the children a special dance they use for moving through buildings which were on fire before they all got a shot of the water hoses. Did we mention the children could get wet?... very, very wet. ☺





Before our 2018 Visit



Alina



Alina



Dima



Ercamo



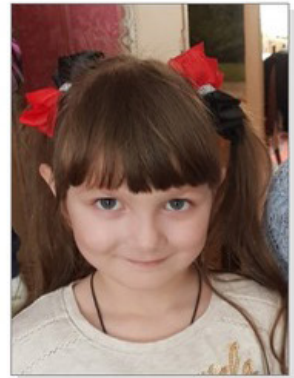
Katia



Kira



Lera



Lisa



Sergei



Ira

FOCC West Lothian

August Visit 2018

(before)

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Maksim



Nastya



Stas



Daryna

Thank you for helping us to restore hope

After our 2018 Visit



Alina



Alina



Dima



Ercamo



Katia



Kira



Lera



Lisa



Sergei



Ira

FOCC West Lothian

August Visit 2018

(after)

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Maksim



Nastya



Stas



Daryna

Thank you for helping us to restore hope



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