



June Visit 2017



Day 1

MONDAY 29TH MAY

It's great to have the children back for what is our 10th visit in West Lothian group.

After games the day started in earnest with some rules to keep us all safe and have respect for each other. We then went outside to do some practical rules on road safety. We had some great volunteering to show us what to do by Nikita and new Lera. Next it was straight into making thank you cards to hand out during the visit along with a photo and concert invitation to all who help us with activities. All the children were very happy and settled and had fun making great designs on their thank you cards.

Snack was followed by Luda telling the children about some of the items that were planned for the concert and these were met with excitement and laughter. The children learned a new song.

After lunch we headed to Beecraigs country park to burn off some energy and boy they did that, with many sweaty heads on show :) It was great to see the new children so happy and having great fun. On the way home we had a brief stop at the visitor centre to look at the view and also to look at some Highland cattle that were just beside the road.

Back to the hall for some games/songs before most hosts picked up the children sharp due to the Monday holiday.

A great start to the visit.





Day 2

TUESDAY 30TH MAY

The children were reunited with their English teacher, Chris. Chris started with jogging the children's memory to see how much they could remember from previous years then taught them some new things. He sang them a song accompanied by his guitar then the children all sang Old Macdonald. They practiced their alphabet and were then handed out the letters amongst themselves. They then had to think of words beginning with those letters. They were very impressivel They played a game called Do You Like? They were split into two teams - the red car (answer no) and the blue car (answer yes) - and had to ask Chris questions starting with 'Do You Like...?'. Whichever team crossed the line first were the winners. Some of the questions were hilarious! 'do you like swimming with crocodiles?' or 'do you like pigs' to which Chris replied 'to eat or as a pet?'

After snack time, we headed off to the pool where the kids played with the toys and had great fun. Some of them have learned to swim since last year which was great to see. After lunch we headed off to the dance studio where work started on the farewell concert with dance teacher Joanne. The kids were amazing! We then headed back to the church hall to round off their day with some concert practice.





Day 3

WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY

So, today, we had our visit to Bathgate Academy, which is always a day filled with fun for the children. The staff and pupils really made it special for us again this year. We headed straight to the pool for an hour or so of swimming and playing with the toys and floats. The pupils and teacher also joined in. The school provided a snack of crisps, a drink and a piece of fruit. Then it was on to some lessons in art and science. The children were divided into two groups. The science group did a few experiments involving glue and custard powder, which creates a bouncing ball and also some colour changing experiments involving the Bunsen burner!! The art class, meanwhile, had to lie down on a sheet of paper and be drawn round then the children had to colour their outline in. Then it was onto lunch and then presentation of the rucksacks to the children, which is always a highlight, as the children get very excited discovering the contents of their backpacks. After a big thank you to all involved making it another great day at Bathgate, it was back to the church hall for some concert preparation. As the children and interpreters had been inside all day, and the sun had been shining, Luda and Tania decided to take the children to the park to enjoy some early evening sun.





Day 4

THURSDAY 1ST JUNE

Day 4 of the Children's visit began with a visit to Specsavers in Livingston. The staff were excellent with the children testing their eyes and letting them choose glasses when they needed them. 8 children and 1 interpreter needed glasses this year. Specsavers then presented the children with a frisbee and a £10 voucher for toy shop 'the entertainer.'

We returned to the hall for lunch & concert practice then it was off to St John's Church in Bathgate for some games, including the Hokey Cokey! Whilst the children played, 4 at a time were taken to Bathgate Dental Spa where they all had a dental check. 2 had a tooth pulled out and many had fillings. They were all extremely brave even giving the dentists a cuddle on leaving! They were all given a gift bag with some dental health care items and a 'spinner' toy. Then it was back to the hall for a snack before going home. All in all a very productive day with some very brave children.





Day 5

FRIDAY 2ND JUNE

The day started by having English with Chris. After revising numbers and letters, Chris introduced some new vocabulary – battleship, submarine, destroyer (which was initially puzzling and of limited use in a landlocked country). However, all became clear when Chris introduced the children to the game of battleships. They sank ships and submarines by using their numbers and letters on the grid. It all ended with the hokey cokey!

The rest of the morning was spent climbing up and sliding down the big frame at Yo Yos softplay in Bathgate. Yanna headed off for an afternoon at school sports day with her host brother, Thomas & the remaining twenty sweaty and hungry children headed back to Broxburn for their well-deserved lunch. In the afternoon there was no relaxing as Luda and Tania took charge directing concert practice in the church hall. Everyone was totally exhausted by the time they headed home at the end of the day.





Day 8

MONDAY 5TH JUNE

Today we visited Broxburn Primary School where we were met with Mrs Barnett (Jacqui as we all know her) and Miss Austin. We also had 3 of our host brothers with us Stuart Gebbie, Billy Currie and Alexander Barnett. The children met with all the P1 & P2 classes and had a question and answer session and lots of fun playing with construction toys. We then all gathered together in various classrooms to enjoy a great variety of snacks including crisps, fruit and sweeties which all went down very well. Afterwards we went out into the playground for break time and had lots of fun playing games with the other children. Following break we split into 5 groups and joined the P1 & P2 classes where we had an art lesson learning how to draw McMoo pictures similar to those of artists Colin Brown and Jennifer Hogwood! Some of us also attempted to draw tartan. At the end of our visit we sang Yellow Submarine and some of the boys and girls from Broxburn Primary School joined in. We very lucky to receive colouring books, pens and bubbles. A big thank you to Broxburn Primary for a great morning". There was a trip to the park in the afternoon followed by concert practice. The day ended on a high with the much loved meal & disco at Livingston Football stadium in the evening where host families joined the children to party!





Day 9

TUESDAY 6TH JUNE

This morning we started the day with a lesson from Chris covering the months of the year, learned about different activities & hobbies that we might like and to round it off we tried to play a game of Chinese whispers (which caused a lot of confusion). We then headed off in the rain to have fun in the swimming pool, a lot of the kids were more confident from last week.

This afternoon we went out in the rain again to see Joanne at the dance studio. All the children did a warm up & then completed a dance for the concert. We then headed back to practice other parts of the concert and play some games.





Day 10

WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE

The day started with an English lesson from Chris, covering letters of the alphabet, colours and “do you like?” Then we headed off to Hatton Tennis Club. The sun was shining and the kids were able to practice some simple tennis skills. Helpers had to be on the lookout for tennis balls which did not always go in the direction intended! After we finished on the tennis courts, it was back to base for lunch. With some strategic planning, we had glasses to collect from spec savers for 8 children and Tanya, plus a dental appointment for 3 children in the afternoon. So, off to Livingston we went, whilst the remaining children headed down to the local park to play. After we had finished at Spec Savers, we dropped into the Entertainer toy shop to say “thank you very much” for the gift bags, then off to the dentist for 3 of the children! On our return to the hall, there was time for some concert practice before the children went home.





Day 11

THURSDAY 8TH JUNE

Our day started with an engaging English lesson from our charismatic English teacher, Chris. The kids love these English lessons and have a great deal of fun as they learn. The main activity planned for the day was the much anticipated annual trip to M&D's fun park. However, the heavens had opened and the forecast for heavy rain caused us to postpone the trip to next Wednesday. We spent the day indoors at YOYO in Bathgate instead, who were wonderfully accomodating. They gave us a private area to base ourselves and eat our lunch, plus 4 hours of fun on their 3 tier soft play arena and nerf gun zone. The kids had an absolute blast. We returned to the hall at 3pm for some concert prep and crafts. A wonderful day was had by all.





Day 12

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE

The day started with some concert practice to warm the children up. We then headed off to Conifox Nursery and Garden Centre and in particular to their wonderful adventure park for children. The children had great fun on the go-karts, the trampoline and playing foot-golf. We stopped for a picnic lunch and the children couldn't eat their lunch quickly enough to get back to the adventure park for more fun. After a second play session we made the short journey to the control centre for the Forth Bridges. We were met by Bob, Gerry and Jane who had very kindly arranged the afternoon, some sweets, goody bags and a donation for the charity. The children then had fun with Elaine learning about the bridges and building their own structures to see how high they could get them. They also tried on some protective clothing. We finished off the visit with a walk on to the existing Forth Road Bridge. We didn't venture too far as some of the children were a bit freaked out that it was actually moving under their feet. A great day to finish off our second week of activities





Day 15

MONDAY 12TH JUNE

The day started with an English lesson from Chris. This consisted of much fun learning about instruments and singing the music man song with actions. Also do you have a

After snack we went to The Scouts adventure place called The Craigs. We enjoyed time on the adventure playground before lunch and then split into teams to do go karting, crate building and labyrinth. Great fun. Yanna and Zhenya also went to dentist. Back at the hall we met Martin for a practice on the bagpipes





Day 16

TUESDAY 13TH JUNE

Once again the day started with an English lesson with Chris with the children learning how to say their birthday amongst other things. At 10.30 it was off to the much loved swimming pool in Broxburn where the kids splashed around & had lots of fun. After lunch our lovely translators couldn't wait to get the children started with more concert practice and from the rehearsals it's clear that it's shaping up to be another fantastic concert!!





Day 17

WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE

After an English lesson from Chris, we headed out to M&D's theme park. The kids had a great time! A few disappointed faces for those who weren't tall enough to go on some of the rides! Once they found a ride they really liked, it was hard to get them off it! The weather was warm and we were able to have our picnic lunch outside. There was time for more rides after lunch before heading back to base for some concert practice and crafts to end the day.





Day 18

THURSDAY 15TH JUNE

The day started off with some concert practice and singing, which the children fully engaged with. We then set off for the Falkirk Wheel, where we met up briefly with friend of FOCC Sandy Paton. We did the full experience at the Wheel, going on the tourist boat up on the Wheel and along the canal for 30 minutes. We enjoyed our packed lunches in the sun and the children played in the fantastic play park. The sun was so hot the children all put on sun cream. We finished our trip off with some yummy ice cream at a discounted rate. On our return to the church hall, the children finished off their day with a snack and some more concert practice, with our very own Bruno Mars, Ali MacPherson, helping to teach the singing. A most enjoyable day was had by all.





Day 19

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE

Today we went to Albyn Park where Leigh put on some games. It started with a choice of football, croquet and pétanque. The kids had great fun with all the activities with everyone joining in with a game of football at the end. It was then a quick photo opportunity with Ross before having a snack inside. We then went back outside for some races. The kids were in four teams and had great fun running individually, in teams and with hula hoops. The kids were then given a gift from the club of a Broxburn United football club water bottle and toothbrush which they were very grateful for! It was then back to the hall for lunch and concert practice-kept top secret from the host helpers! It sounded great though and we are all looking forward to seeing it next week!





Day 22

MONDAY 19TH JUNE

Today we started with a fun English lesson from Chris, we were all learning "What time is it", most of the children recognised the O'clock times. This was followed by concert practice and an early lunch. We then headed off to Jump station for an hour of trampoline fun. Jump station was quiet so children were able to use all the various trampolines and climbing equipment, Janice and Luda also enjoyed taking part! We headed back to the hall for a well deserved drink and snack flowed by a yoga class with Anna who was great with the children. The day was finished off with some fun at the local play park which is always a favourite with the children.





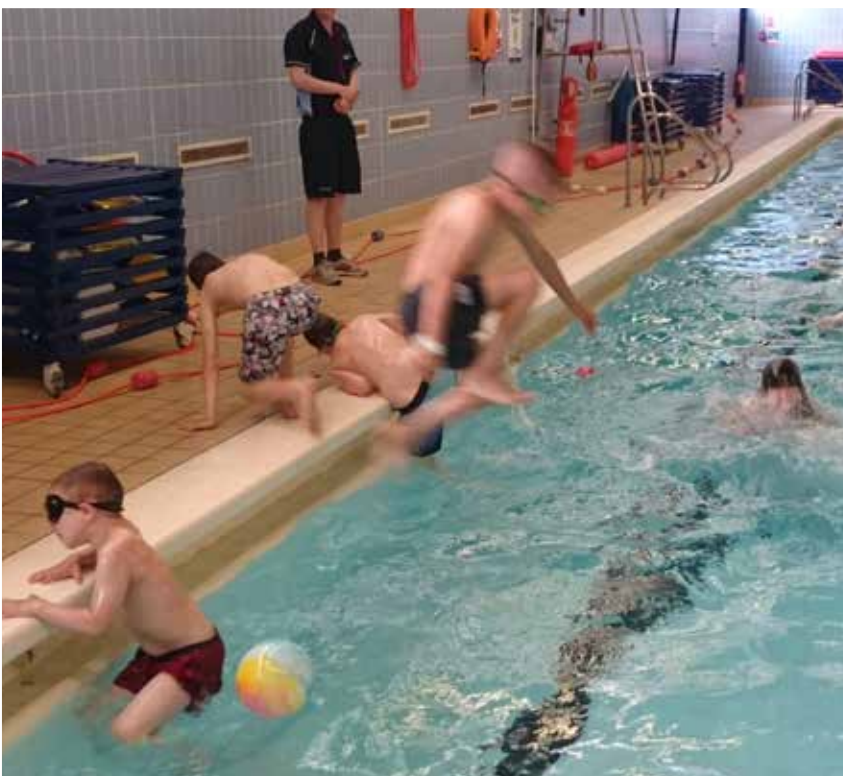
Day 23

TUESDAY 20TH JUNE

Today was the last of the English lessons for the children. Chris has a great rapport with the children and they certainly seem to react well to his style of teaching. There has been good progress with the children's grasp of English, more than can be said of their host's grasp of Russian with one or two exceptions.

Then it was time for swimming, or at least being in the pool. There was some swimming, a lot of splashing and more jumping in than anything else. I think the lifeguard's whistle will need a new peal! We just told him the children didn't quite understand all the rules. Of course there was also another trip to the dentist for some of the girls, we've had almost as many dentist visits as concert practices on this trip.

This afternoon it was concert practice, it's getting near performance night and the show is coming together, I'm sure it will be great.





Day 24

WEDNESDAY 21TH JUNE

Today the children enjoyed LOTS & LOTS of concert practice. All their hard work was rewarded in the evening with an absolutely amazing performance at the "Thank You" concert itself!





Before our 2017 Visit



Aliona



Anya



Daryna



Ksusha



Lera



Lera



Luda



Tania



Luba



Maksim



Marina



Matvey



Nikita



Palina



Sasha



Sasha



Sergei



Sergei



Sveta



Vlad



Yanna



Zarina



Zhenya

Thank you for helping us to restore hope

After our 2017 Visit



Aliona



Anya



Daryna



Ksusha



Lera



Lera



Luda



Tania



Luba



Maksim



Marina



Matvey



Nikita



Palina



Sasha



Sasha



Sergei



Sergei



Sveta



Vlad



Yanna



Zarina



Zhenya

Thank you for helping us to make a difference



Friends of Chernobyls Children
West Lothian (SCO44448)