

Tuesday 6th October 2026

PGL Day 2

Miss Laurence had the best nights sleep, except for the 12:30am wake up call of loud voices coming from Tommy S, Charlie, Ryan and Thomas' room. Quick to investigate, Detective Laurence jumped out of bed and stood at the open door for 5 minutes listening before daring to go in and discover what they were up to. Low and behold, as she opened the door, she was greeted by a very cheery Tommy S declaring 'Good morning, Miss Laurence, we're ready!' Confused, Miss Laurence looked around to then be told her eyes looked a little bloodshot. Once she had recovered, she had to break the news that it was indeed the middle of the night. Thomas decided on the sensible option of getting back into his pyjamas, but this was too much hard work for the others who decided it was best to climb into bed fully clothed and ready for the day ahead.

Alex, our group leader, arrived bright and early at 7:15am to find a grumpy Miss Lewis having been woken repeatedly by the heard of elephants living above her and Mrs Cheeseman and Mrs Arnold blissfully just awaking from a beautiful night's sleep at the other end of the corridor. Miss Laurence had got dressed immediately so by this point not one child had noticed our matching pyjamas... lets see how long this game lasts! The things we have to do to keep ourselves sane on residential. We think Alex believes we're crazy??

Breakfast consisted of bacon or veggie sausage / chicken sausage, hash browns, beans, unlimited cereal and toast and was once again washed down with copious amounts of mildly fizzy water or as Mrs Arnold describes it 'fizzy but flat' and set us up for the day!

Activity 1:

Group 1 scurried into the woods to practice axe throwing as a replacement to stand up paddle boarding due to a distinct lack of water. After learning the correct stance, each child had the opportunity to throw 'angel axes' and a tomahawk. Samvith threw the angel axes with skill, getting the most in whereas Freya was the only one in the group to get the tomahawk into the board. Mrs Arnold beat Mrs Cheeseman quite considerably but was hugely disappointed at the lack of celebration from Mrs Cheeseman (apparently, I booed her... I believe this to be untrue).

Group 2, led by Miss Laurence threw themselves into a game of aeroball – basically jumping on a trampoline whilst attempting to play basketball. Obviously, Miss Laurence (team name the best) was the most competitive of the bunch, but Charlie pushed through to beat her. Team 'alien feet' and 'water benders' battled it out but failed to win. Unfortunately, Miss Laurence cannot remember who actually won so we feel we need to clarify with the children! David was her player of the day as was a dark horse and shot beautifully.

Group 3 threw themselves into archery with Miss Lewis, but they unfortunately missed out on watching Mrs Cheeseman's amazing skills – group 1 get the opportunity soon! The children were awesome following instructions clearly, however palm to the sky proved one instruction too many! Charlotte, by far was the best archer. After the children had learnt the difference between a big chicken wing and a shy chicken wing, they were given their bows and arrows and, to varying degrees, fired their arrows. It was evident that some misunderstood the aim of the activity and rather than aiming at the target, aimed at the fence behind it. The highlight of Miss Lewis' day was when Vitalina was asked to show how she stands ready to throw an axe but stood to attention and almost saluted Tobias (their leader) instead. Miss Lewis apparently surpassed herself with her axe throwing upon which the children were advised to listen to her as she has a 'mean throw', or was that she is just mean?? I guess we will never know.

After lunch groups 1 and 2 took on the 'giant swing'. Each child was harnessed up before being strapped to a metal bar in a pair or 3 and winched up as high as they dared. One child then had to reach behind them and pull the rope to let them go. Layla tugged on the rope and seemed surprised, despite the explanation, that she was catapulted through the air. Geralt was all smiles and laughter until the realisation hit before he went flying through the air. Misha had an amazing time, despite his nerves and we were so proud of him. Ben was keen not to take part but helped our leader Georgia with an important job using a rope for 6 activities before trying to

explain the role to Freya and calling out to Georgia 'I literally have no idea what I was doing.' At the same time, Srinitha decided that she looked like a tourist wearing a hard hat and safety harnesses. Meanwhile, in group 2 the children were disagreeing on the definition of height and making links between their own height and how high they could go on the swing. We did wonder, from the other side of the activity, what took them so long to start! The photos are hilarious.

This afternoon's sensory trail was hilarious! Picture this... our children, holding a rope in their left hand, right hand on the shoulder of the person in front (or the elbow / hip as we had significant height differences). They then had to walk forwards as one big train. Moments later they had to put on their blackout 'minion goggles' and hike across a field into the woods, listening to Layla shaking a tin to guide the way! Once in the woods, the children, still in their blackout minion goggles, had to make their way to a roped obstacle course. Upon turning around and hearing the high-pitched chatter, Mrs Cheeseman was convinced she was being followed by a troop of minions, including Miss Laurence (who earlier on today was definitely channelling her inner blind mouse with the sunglasses and walking stick!) The obstacle course included climbing over, under and through different things. Mrs Cheeseman convinced Ruthwik and Sidarth they were going through a high tunnel with snakes hanging down whilst Miss Laurence convinced them that the low tunnel was a lot longer than it was. Sidarth was hilarious with his response when he realised!

Waiting for Alex this evening in order to start our last activity of the day, we were somewhat confused by the green splodge making its way to our accommodation. It turned out to be Alex, dressed as a cactus! Our cactus explained we needed to make a contraption to stop our water balloon bursting but first we had to complete a series of challenges to earn coins and buy resources. Challenges included being a chicken and laying an egg, running celebrating a winning lottery ticket and showing then the disappointment it was not a winner (Miss Laurence believes she deserves as Oscar for her performance rolling around on the floor and reminding us of 'sadness' from inside out!) and working as a team to draw a picture (one little bit at a time for each person) of Alex. One team named him as the best leader for extra brownie points whilst another didn't give him a body and the third gave him a very round stomach and some dodgy looking toes! Group 3 were the victors and had the most resources but alas all three groups failed with water balloons bursting everywhere! We did however achieve the following today:

- 1) We apparently have a new way to stop everyone talking – particularly Miss Lewis... thanks Tommy D 'Zip it, lock it, shut it.' We feel this will be used for the rest of the week.
- 2) It turns out that out of between 700 and 900 children here, the instructors are telling Alex he is lucky to have us as we are the best school. We were even told some have been fighting over us and then had the pleasure of Connor announcing to his own school group that we were better than them! This is all actually true by the way, we haven't made it up!
- 3) We survived another day with 31 children!

I hope you have enjoyed the crazy ramblings of 4 teachers in matching pyjamas at 10:30pm and are looking forward to tomorrows edition of 'probably getting lost' – whilst parents enjoy 'peace, quiet and luxury.'

P.S. We now have a tally of 8 children who have noticed the pyjama situation, however believe we are stealing each other's pyjamas?! Benjamin had to count us and commented that the odd one out was that Miss Lewis was wearing socks.

Goodnight!