

Wednesday 7th October

PGL Day 3 update

7:15am, Alex walks in to what can only be described as the Marie Celeste. Not a soul awake, not a sound to be heard from Bannister class. Eventually, he was greeted by a fresh-faced Mrs Cheeseman and a not so fresh-faced Miss Lewis. It turns out that Miss Lewis and Miss Laurence drew the short straw with the comfy mattresses.

Breakfast was loud... despite choosing to sit in the 'smaller and quieter side' we feel that our children did not get the memo. The noise reverberates around the entire 'small space' and sounds more like we have brought a troop of howler monkeys than 30 small humans. Memo for next year, bring staff noise cancelling headphones! Sausages, mushrooms, hash browns, beans, cereal, toast and Miss Laurence's porridge went down a storm before setting out into the beautiful English weather.

Rain, rain, rain, rain I think that sums up the weather, moan moan moan moan sums up some of the children! Interestingly, two children, who shall remain nameless, claimed that their parents neglectfully forgot their coats. Many thanks particularly to the parent who emailed us the location of said coat without us needing to ask. It was almost as though they were a fly on the wall!

Group 1 and 2 ventured off into the woods to the trapeze, which was not what was advertised! Instead, the children had to climb (whilst harnessed) up a telegraph pole before throwing themselves off and trying to hit a white buoy. The team work was not up to scratch with most children asking when we going to go back to the rooms, but eventually we all rallied round and cheered each other on. Special shout out to Livia for her incredible energy sharing and camaraderie! At the same time, group 3 disappeared to a proper getting lost activity – orienteering! After trying to work out which direction was north, the children were sent on a mission trying to find certain numbers on trees. Clear instructions were given... stay together... apparently these were not clear enough as George promptly set off in the opposite direction to his team. Fortunately, unusually for Tom and Seb, they noticed a member of the team had gone missing and quickly retrieved him. Miss Lewis was pleased to realise that she knows the children well. Having predicted, with our lovely instructor Connor, that the boys would be ok she was more concerned around the two teams of girls. Within seconds of setting off, both teams quickly came back with no understanding of where they were or where they were meant to be going. They hadn't even got out of sight! Connor quickly sent them on their way with extra clues.

Swap time! Group 1 and 2 had their attempt at orienteering... attempt is probably the best word to be used. After several arguments and some really random team names, Connor set them off for the same task as before. Not only did Lyra pull out a completely wet and ruined piece of paper that they were meant to be stamping it turned out that her team hadn't quite grasped the fact that they were supposed to visit one number and then come back. Let's be clear though, there was one team we were beginning to worry about... with 15 minutes left of the activity Miss Laurence's team finally emerged into the clearing. We assumed, due the time they had been gone, that they too had visited many numbers... alas we were wrong! They had only found 1. Only later did we hear (and see evidence) of the fact that Miss Laurence and her team stopped to have a long conversation with Miss Lewis and her team on the zip wire. The evidence was one dodgy looking photograph of Miss Laurence and 5 children standing in the bushes some distance from Miss Lewis with big smiles on their faces! Shout out to Olivia D, Olivia, I, Lorenzo, Layla and David for not letting on about the giant detour!

Group 3 spent the rest of the morning on the zipwire! Big shout out to Isabella, Akane and Vitalina who all found harnessed activities extremely challenging, however they faced their fears like true, wet, soggy warriors! Our children don't seem to have the understanding that you run when you hit the ground rather than running in air and stopping when they land, instead hitting knee first into the gravel. We are still questioning what our children's obsession is with gravel? It has been commented on by every instructor? Answers on a postcard please parents!

Lunch consisted of jacket potatoes or chilli non carne or if you were Miss Laurence a mountain of Ikea flat pack sandwiches. This gave us the chance to warm up and for some change into a pair of pyjamas... Tommy D then refused to take his off so threw his outdoor clothes over the top!

This afternoon... climbing or should we call it human pinball? This was not our forte – across the whole class. Not only did we have children traversing the wall at speed, or at minimal speed, some going high as a kite and others going 50cm but the descent leaves fear in our hearts for tomorrow's abseiling session. Maria (in group 3) gets the award for the most random place to get stuck on a descent. Not only did she slide down the wall but managed to do so facing the wrong direction! Not only did she slide down the wall on her back, but she got herself stuck on the only hook possible and had to have 2 instructors climb up to hoick her off and bring her back down. Maria's amazing personality saw her through and meant she could laugh at the whole situation, much the same as all the staff! We feel this might be the talk of the team tonight! Blake also chose to come down the wall like a cartoon cat that had run into a window and slid down at a slow speed, hitting every foot hole possible. Both children tried again and this time succeeded with a more improved, graceful descent – well maybe not graceful! Lorenzo tried so hard to follow the instructions and walk down the wall however did not quite manage it, instead like a moth to a flame his nose and forehead helped him walk down the wall rather than his feet. On relaying this to Mrs Le Page on the phone this evening, and having 4 teachers laughing hysterically (Lorenzo found it hilarious too and was not hurt!) Mrs Le Page very seriously felt the need to check in that he was not injured and did not require first aid. Aleta gets the bravery award for the day, after tackling the heights and although clearly scared managed to get just above Mrs Cheeseman's height on the wall.

The challenge course... hilarious! Given how wet the day was, the equipment was and every human being in PGL was, Izzy declared 'I'm not actually too wet and don't plan on changing that'. Roll on bum shuffling across the beam, leading to her joining her classmates in having some very soggy trousers! The instructor Kerry, was amazing and even told Mrs Cheeseman and Mrs Arnold that there was a piece of information that needed to go into this newsletter... So, prior to group 1 throwing themselves into the course, group 3 had their turn – led by Miss Lewis. Kerry turned to her and exclaimed that she gives off Alan Carr vibes – we had to agree, especially with her laugh! Mrs Cheeseman joined in with the course, though the first obstacle (a frame covered with tyres top and bottom) almost proved to be a problem as her trousers started coming down slightly and she had to use her problem-solving skills to figure out how to get off this equipment gracefully (yeah right!) whilst sorting out the wardrobe malfunction – she gave up and simply flopped off the end in a heap of laughter. Not only is Mrs Cheeseman now mostly called Cheesy, but her group has now nicknamed her 'quavers' so chants of 'quavers, quavers, quavers' rang through the woods!

Dinner – lasagne, vegetable bake or chicken nuggets, which Maria questioned if they contained actual chicken. Tommy D used Mrs Cheeseman as a hand dryer so she got her own back by wiping her wet hands on his face! Cue another noisy mealtime with the fizzy but flat water.

We have had an interloper throughout the day. We aren't sure where he comes from or where he goes but suddenly George leaves the room and the interloper arrives. He looks like George, he sounds like George, but he cannot possibly be George because he isn't wearing a winter hat. We have named him Neorge! We are hoping to bring George home and leave Neorge behind!

This evening we had PGL games in the dark on the field, luckily George came – not Neorge! This left the children absolutely exhausted and ready for bed. As of 23:12pm it is all peaceful here, well actually that's an absolute lie as we have 4 staff laughing hysterically.

Tomorrow morning will be a shock as we have breakfast at 7:25am – send help! And on that note, we need to go and evict Mrs Arnold for farting whilst we are finishing the newsletter. Someone's sleeping in the corridor tonight!

Good night, see you tomorrow for the final episode of 'probably getting lost' whilst parents enjoy 'peace, quiet and luxury.'