

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 42 – 01.06.18

We have just concluded an excellent Activities Week which involved a wide range of activities to provide interest, fun, sensory opportunities, personal development and achievement.

The programme for the week was:

Monday – Dunbar swimming and John Muir Birthplace – a huge success involving getting the bus, the wave machine and seeing John Muir’s birthplace.

Tuesday - National Museum of Flight – very popular with staff and pupils, lots of space to move around, even though the weather was dull.

Wednesday - Yellowcraigs and Archerfield – the dry weather made this an exciting and rewarding day with plenty of activities geared to the range of need of young people.

Thursday - Blair Drummond Safari Park – a highlight for everyone was watching the monkeys jumping on the bus, and, of course the animals especially giraffes and Rhino. Personal achievements for Declan Scott who pushed beyond his own anxieties about being in crowded places and had a fantastic day and Danny Stewart who overcame his fear of heights to go on the Flying Fox.

Friday - Meadowpark Sensory Explore - the hottest day this week and a chance to be together, play together, talk together.

We recognise that while not every young person was able to manage every element of each activity, the majority did get involved and some challenged their own anxieties about going somewhere different, possibly being in a different group, and managing away from the safety and familiarisation of Meadowpark. Public transport was used on Monday and Tuesday which gives me great confidence that we can build on this to develop independent travel.

Every day I have smiled at the tired but happy faces of staff and pupils coming back to school with stories of personal achievement and development. Today I had a tear in my eye as I looked at one young person, Declan, whose personal journey to full integration has been successful. It has taken a full year and a tight team around the child, but every small step has been worth it.

I have to say a huge thank you to **every** member of the Meadowpark staff team who worked extremely hard to ensure that pupils had a wide and varied experience, all risk assessments and planning put in place, tireless phone calls to negotiate costs, availability, transport and suitability. We will evaluate the success of this week with a survey to be collected from pupils, staff and parents because we recognise that there are always areas for improvement and we work hard to be as inclusive and creative as possible.

Finally, a special thank you has to go to **Drummohr Taxis** who kindly donated two of their larger taxis to take pupils to Yellowcraigs on Wednesday.

C. Prime 01.06.18