



Snowflake News

A day in the life of a Snowflake by Tara Morgan

All of the children arrive to school at 9:00 a.m. and all the children go to circle time. Each child goes to either the Blue Room, Red Room or Grey Room circle time for fifteen minutes at the beginning and end of every day. This is where some of the children work on sitting in a group, responding to group instruction, social skills and self-help skills. Circle time is lots of fun and all of the children gain lots of skills and enjoy this time with their peers. After circle time it's time for each child to go with their one-to-one tutor to put their lunch in the fridge. Each child helps to put their lunch away. Some of the children even make their own lunch in school, this may be a sandwich, pizza, macaroni and cheese or even Spaghetti Bolognese Now it's time to go to either the table where Intensive Trial Teaching (I.T.T.) happens or to another area of the school for Natural Environment Teaching (N.E.T.) The table is where new skills are introduced and worked on, these same skills are then brought over to the natural environment through fun activities to help generalization. The children enjoy a wide range of fun activities during N.E.T these include, messy play, board games, games in the playground, arts and crafts, water play during summer months just to name a few. Lessons with the schools teacher also happen during the morning period, each child gets one to one or group lessons with our teacher.



These lessons range from 15 minutes to 45 minutes depending on the session. Some of the lessons include numeracy, literacy, phonics, reading, story time, and play skills. The children learn about counting, matching numbers to quantity, letter sounds, CVC words, appropriate play alongside a peer and much more during this time.

We love to go on trips and take part in different activities in Snowflake School and there is something happening each day. Every child in the school gets to attend an activity outside of regular teaching. The children go to swimming, drumming, yoga, adventure playground, flashpoint, dance, and horse riding.

Each day starts as it began with fifteen minutes in circle time, where we might talk about what happened that day, take part in a fun activities, do some singing and dancing or learn self-help skills that go towards ASDAN qualifications. 3:00 o'clock is time to go home and each child gets picked up by a parent or escort. Although we enjoy going home in the evenings we all look forward to 9:00 a.m. the next day when we can do it all again :)



You just can't beat Drumming!

Here we reflect upon a successful term of music lessons
Our Snowflake News reporter interviewed
Patrick McCormick

Q : Patrick tell me about the drumming lessons that the children have been going to.

A: Two groups of our kids go to the drumming lesson hosted by Artpeggios Music and Art Academy near Earls court tube station. They have had two really great teachers at the school – Eduardo and Isaac. Both of them are really great with the kids and have their own styles of teaching. Eduardo engages mostly one-on-one with the children and Isaac mixes it up and does various one-to-one and group activities. The children and does various one-to-one and group activities. The children and their tutors have really enjoyed it and I think the kids are getting a lot out of it.



Q: What in particular do you feel the children are getting out of their drumming lessons?

A: Hmmm...I think the children benefit in 3 ways. They get a chance to enjoy an activity out in the community, away from the confines of the school where they spend so much of their time. Whilst they are out they get a chance to practice in a 'real world' environment the skills necessary to navigate a group setting, such as turn taking, waiting, listening and engaging with new people. They also get to learn some fun new skills like keeping rhythm with music and generally just having fun in a musical setting.



Ian learning the snare drum

Since the start of the summer term there have been two groups attending drumming at Artpeggio each week where they have both individual and group lessons lasting 30 minutes each. Throughout the term they have made great progress and have learnt to play different rhythms on the drum kit as well as engaging in group participation such as waving and clapping to encourage their peer whilst they are having their turn on the drum kit. All the children have great fun at Artpeggio and it is fantastic to see them interacting with and following the directions of the drumming instructor.

Artpeggios
music • art • performance



Physical Education at Flashpoint

By

This term, five pupils have enjoyed weekly visits to Flashpoint playground and activity centre in Chelsea. This has given them a great opportunity to play together, get active and have fun in the community. We go together on the minibus and each pupil has responsibility of bringing a scooter, toy or parachute to share with the others. Everyone enjoys group parachute games, scooter races and pushing each other on the swings. On rainy days we go inside the activity centre and play party games such as 'musical chairs' and 'simon says'. All pupils work on turn taking, engaging with peers and group instruction as well as balance and gross motor skills on the climbing equipment, not to mention having loads of fun. Jenny Watts Tutor said, "The adventure playground hosts a range of climbing frames, swings and slides as well as an indoor sensory room. The children are able to explore and work on their climbing skills for around 50 minutes each week. All the children really enjoy adventure playground and it is great to see them running around and interacting with each other. "

Learning to Swim is fun

By Tom Dibb

Swimming is now part of the National Curriculum. All pupils must be given the opportunity to swim while they are in Key Stage 1 and 2 (5-11 years old). At Snowflake we feel that it is important that all our children are properly taught to swim, therefore we have made an arrangement with Fulham pools for swimming lessons. Every pupil will get the opportunity to learn to swim while they are at Snowflake. Five pupils from Snowflake took part in swimming lessons this term. Hammad, Nathan, Lenny, Sebastian and Assoweh have all looked forward to their weekly trip, catching the bus to Fulham Pool with staff each Tuesday morning. This has been the first time that pupils from Snowflake School have attended group lessons taught by swimming instructors, and all of the children have made lots of progress since the start of the term. They have all tried hard and listened to their teachers: learning to blow bubbles, float on their backs, kick their legs and do lots and lots of splashing!