

Our trip to Finland

May 15th – 20th 2022



Arrival/Day 1

15th May 2022

On Sunday we started our journey to Finland. We needed to get up really early, at 2am.

Our flight was at 6am. We noticed that our ears felt funny during the flight. When we arrived, a new looking taxi took us to our special house in Lohja. When we arrived, one of the Finnish teachers invited us to her house for dinner. While we were waiting for dinner, we went for a walk to the lake.

The dinner was yummy - we had chicken, salmon, sausages, cheese, special bread and salads.

After that we went back to our house and had a good sleep.



Day 2

Monday 16th May 2022

On Monday we got up early to get ready for school. We walked to school and it took us 25 minutes to get there. When at school, we needed to take our shoes off, because people don't wear shoes at schools in Finland.

First we all visited the staff room, which had at least four different parts - a kitchen, a quiet space, a working space, a place for talking and a place for making phone calls.

After that we had a big presentation for the whole school. Some children sang songs and children presented their schools. We also gave a presentation about our school!

After the presentation all children went to make their name badges and the adults had a tour around the school. Ruby Mai said that they all worked as a team and followed her instructions.

After that we had lunch at the school canteen. We could choose our own food and the amount of food we wanted. Jonathan really liked the meatballs; Ruby Mai's favourite was chicken burger; Viktor liked drinking milk.

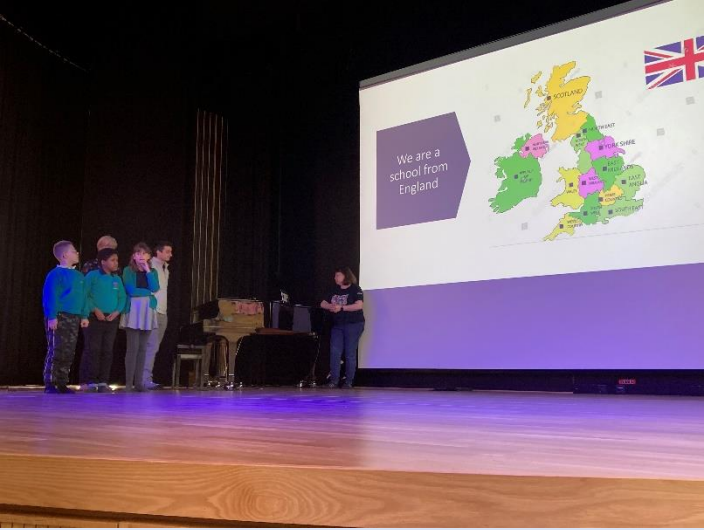
Then we went for a walk around the town. We saw a very old church, a sculptor of a very tired miner, a library and we went to the City Hall where we met with a Head of Education in Lohja.

Next, we went to explore Lohja on our own. We spent some time on two playgrounds. Ruby even went on a jetty which was moving. Before we knew it, it was time for us to go on a church boat. Ruby Mai was very brave and was the only child to go on the boat. All people on the boat needed to row the boat using an oar and slide their seats back and forth. Ruby Mai found that the oar was very heavy and difficult to move, but Julia and Matthew helped Ruby Mai.

Whilst watching Ruby Mai, Jonathan and Viktor were also very brave and went on a wobbly-wobbly jetty.

That is the end of our first very exciting day.





Day 3

Tuesday 17th May 2022

We needed to get up a bit earlier today, because we were going on a trip to Helsinki.

It was very cold and windy this morning and we regretted we didn't bring any gloves with us.

We had a long journey, but we didn't notice that, because the children were all so chatty.

When in Helsinki, we started with visiting Oodi library, which was of a very strange shape - between a ship, a wave and a sail. After visiting the library, we went for a walk around Helsinki. We wanted to visit the Chapel of Silence, but it was closed today.

We had our lunch at a Finnish restaurant. We tried food from all over the world and it was so tasty that we went for a second helping. The ice-cream was so delicious; there was even liquorice ice-cream, which Julia liked the most.

After lunch we went on a ferry, which took us to Suomenlinna island, where we explored Sveaborg fortress. The walls of the fortress were so thick, we could easily walk within them.

The children used the map to lead us from the main quay to the King's Gate.

We walked along the edges of the fortress and saw some cannons on our way.

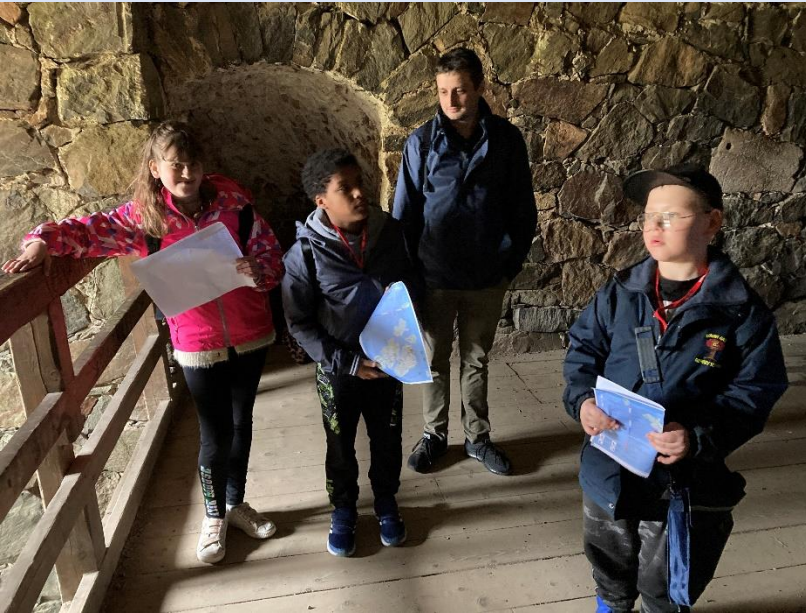
We returned to the ferry, which took us back to Helsinki. We were given one more hour to explore Helsinki and we enjoyed buying some souvenirs for our families.

Then the coach took us back to Lohja, where we did some more shopping and had our dinner at Hesburger.

After dinner we went on an adventure and took a different route home. We found a lovely play area by the beach, where spent some time. We then followed the path along the beach and through the woods to our place.

It was another exciting day!





Day 4

Wednesday 18th May 2022

Today we have had a fun filled and actioned packed day. It was a bright and sunny morning and after our breakfast we walked to school- we know the way to go now and sometimes Natalija and Matthew and Julia encourage us to lead the way!

When we arrived at school we went straight into the gym and we took part in not one but two dancing classes. The first class was a Finnish Country Dance, we started off with a partner, then joined up to make a four and then an eight! We even joined up into one massive long line and made a spiral shape with all the people and also with some galloping all the way round the hall! It was fun! After a short break and a snack of apple bread we were back in the gym to do some Line Dancing! It was really, really hard, and really, really fast! The grown ups found it pretty tricky too! Everyone made mistakes and we all laughed a lot.

We then had a chance to visit a class of Year 4 and 5 children(In Finland they are called Third grade) We joined in with their computing lesson and practiced our typing skills. Jonathan managed to get through three levels which was pretty good as the program was in Finnish!

All too soon it was time for lunch- we had fish fingers or veggie burgers, potatoes and peas. We had to eat quickly and get ourselves sorted as we then were on the coach for a short ride to the sports complex.

At the sports complex we walked through the forest for 1.5 kilometres and arrived at a special camp beside a lake. Andreas lit a fire and we played for a little bit. The older children played on the jetty and some of them got very wet!! When the fire was hot enough, we cooked our own sausages on the fire- we put them on a long wooden stick which Andreas had sharpened with his very sharp knife. It was really smoky but at the end we got to eat our sausages with ketchup! Then we all sat and talked with our friends in the bright sunshine.

Before long it was time to walk back to the coach as we needed to get back to school to do our next job! All the children from the different countries went to work in the Home Economics Rooms to make dinner for the grown ups(who had to go to a meeting!) Ruby was in Team Meatballs(and she made meatballs) Jonathan and Viktor were in Team Smash Potato- guess what they made?

In the end we had a delicious meal of Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes grated carrot and rye bread followed by Blueberry Pie and ice cream! We all sat down to eat together and the grown-ups said that it was delicious!

We left school to walk back to our house, stopping at the playground by the lake for a quick play before we went home. Then it was time to have a shower because we all smelt very smoky indeed.





Day 5

Thursday 19th May 2022

We had a very busy day today. On day 5 of our trip, we visited a mine. It was quite a long walk, but we were very excited, so we made good time. When we got to the mine, we had to wear these very funny helmets. They didn't clip together like the helmets we have in the UK. Instead, they use magnets to clip together. It was a bit like magic. Once we had our helmets on, we were ready to visit the mine. The mine was very far underground and we had to take a very special elevator to get to our location. The elevator lit up when we were in it and moved very fast! Once we got into the mine, we had the chance to explore and learn about some of the things that limestone is used in. Did you know that they use it in toothpaste? The mine was quite cold and spooky, but that didn't bother us as we had lots of activities to do. One of the first things we did, was look for special rocks in the sand. It was very tricky, but we kept going and we found quite a lot in the end. We even got to keep one of the rocks we found. After finding special rocks, we had a chance to do a bit of mining ourselves. We had to break up some limestone rocks using a small hammer. It was quite hard to do as the rocks kept moving about. The adults had to use a really big hammer. It was so heavy and awkward to use, but Julia did a great job and managed to break her rock into small pieces. As we got to the end of the mine, we went looking for a scary goblin. We were all very brave and looked down a very big hole. We shouted for the goblin to come out in Finnish and he played us a very funny tune! After that, it was time to return to school for some lunch.

Once we had finished our lunch, we completed two workshops. In the first workshop, we made a keyring. We had to design the keyring using a computer and a special programme. It was quite difficult drawing on the computer and we had to draw a picture of the country Finland. In the second workshop, we made a collage to help cheer someone up. We used the iPads in this workshop and the programme sketchbook. We had to practise lots and lots, but we were able to create some lovely collages in the end. After finishing our workshops, we had a bit of spare time so we went for a walk down to the beach. It was very sunny today, so we had some very tasty ice cream. We played for a very long time and then we had a second ice cream, but don't tell anybody that. The ice cream was very good. It was soon time to head back up to school. When we got back to school, we listened to a Finnish girl sing some beautiful songs and had some dinner. Dinner was lovely today. It was called Pot Luck. Lots of people brought in food from their houses and we got to choose what we ate. It was a bit like a buffet, but with loads of tasty treats and foods. After dinner, we had a party. All the adults danced except for Matthew, but Ruby Mai wasn't having that and insisted that Matthew do some dancing too. Before long, it was time to collect our certificates. Everyone gave us a big cheer when it was our turn. We did some more dancing before heading home.





