Tuesday 23rd September 2025

It is with the deepest regret that we start our day 2 recount of Bewl by announcing that we made a mistake with the score and recount of yesterday's canoeing and collecting the tennis ball game and now start this with a disclaimer. As Miss Hughes needs to fight for the Team 'Free Spirit', we must put this situation right. It was not Mr Furey and Mrs Thompson who won the ball canoeing challenge as we thought, with a humble score of 4 and no children on board, but alas Miss Hughes and the girls with an impressive score of 9 which, rightfully so, I was called out on. We apologise for misleading everyone on this important piece of information. I hope that Miss Hughes, the girls and yourselves can forgive me.

Day 2 started with the children enjoying a full continental and English cooked breakfast in an all you can eat fashion. It was then time to face the challenge of sailing but before that, there was an even bigger challenge.

The *wetsuits*.

Oh yes, the wetsuits. (Mrs Cheeseman was not so secretly celebrating escaping this segment of the day having done it several years in a row!) Some braced this challenge with gusto, whilst others thought they were going to die from the tightness of the suit round every part of their body. We unfortunately had a terrible tragedy of one staff member losing some fingernails trying to help the children into said wetsuits, a truly awful experience for them. However, in true TWFS fashion, we overcame the challenge, and 30 children were ready to set sail after what felt like 3 very long working days. Just when we thought the dressing was complete, we then had to add waterproof clothing along with a buoyancy aid to complete the ensemble look of: I'm ready to sail!

I have to say it was wonderful to watch the beautiful teamwork that progressed in moving the boats, booms, daggerboards and rudders. Every single child threw themselves into this task even though it was full-on and required a lot of physical activity. The children's pairs were announced, and they all embraced the challenge of taking their boat out into the water. The first activity was relay races to the buoys and back, which involved the children diving into the water and navigating the boat with just their partner for company and support – I'm not sure how supportive they generally are but, on this occasion, I am so pleased to tell you that this was hugely successful. The children did us proud. However, I did wonder why one child thought we would have a croissant ready for them despite no visible patisseries on the shore and the huge breakfast that was consumed.

For lunch, the children had a selection of hot baguettes followed by watermelon, which they demolished incredibly quickly, and we were surprised we didn't have heartburn concerns! The children did really well at this point as they had to keep their wetsuits on for more sailing in the afternoon, everyone powered through wearing this rather tight and wet attire (dripping everywhere on the floor!) and enjoyed their lunch.

The afternoon was one for the books. The sails were attached and the children were ready to sail "proper" (to France, as Miss Lewis kept proclaiming to which Mr Furey questioned if this was possible given we were in a man-made reservoir lake with no sea in sight)! The level of skill on show was a sight to behold and even those children who were really scared, embraced the

challenge and discovered they could do something they had never done before. The sailing concluded with another relay race, this time in teams and we once again saw a level of compassion that was moving and inspiring. One child fell into the water, and another child went in and pulled them back onto the boat as if it were a scene from a Hallmark movie or Baywatch but even more wholesome and it really made the adults swell with pride. We did have to reassure some children and possibly a member of the staff team of a fear that the moon can't cause the tides to come in as were not near the sea but a man-made reservoir and also that Bewl water does not have a resident crocodile!

Dinner was a delicious meal of chicken curry followed by chocolate cake. The children enjoyed their snacks straight after dinner (obviously!) and Mr Furey was then seen to be leading an impromptu exercise class and catwalk trying to get his steps up before it quickly digressed into something that was no longer a catwalk but perhaps a dog walk? Bedtime was a calmer affair as the children settled into the routine, though many requested for the white noise playlist from Mr Furey to help doze off to the land of nod.

And now it's time for the adults to sail off to the land of nod too.

Good Night!