

FFWPU UK Children's Summer Camp at Cleeve House Learn About Ohana

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Aloha! This year's Children's Summer Camp, which ran from July 30th to August 4th, had an exciting camp with the theme "Ohana" at our Cleeve House Island. The theme name was inspired by the Disney movie, 'Lilo and Stitch' - "Ohana means family and family means no one gets left behind or forgotten".

There were 4 teams, and their first task was deciding on a name for their "island" to help the children bond, spark the starting point for team unity and put their mark on their team experience. We had the Bic Macanites from Big Mac Island, Genies from Genius Island, Drippynese from Drippy Island and Supremalonians from Supreme Island. Each team was led by two HARP aged team leaders, taking care of their team members and setting an example as older brothers and sisters.



Each day had an exciting daily theme, which was introduced at the beginning of the day with a morning

inspiration by a staff member. The first day was "My Island in the Sun". The study sessions included various activities for the children to think about their identity and what makes them happy. They began studying the story of the Exodus and discussed what is the Sabbath. In the game sessions, the children got to have lots of fun playing games such as matanage, four way football and having time in the pool. The day ended with a summer camp favourite, an evening of Predator!



The next day was "A Shipwrecker's Survival Guide". They learnt about teamwork, co-operation and the importance of everyone offering their individual talent. There were some very exciting activities, including acting out a shipwreck story and making a water filter as a team. In study sessions they learnt about the story of Jonah the Whale and Saint Paul, both Bible stories involving a shipwreck, discussing what they went through and what they may have felt and thought. They discussed who had a better survival story and the importance of keeping faith. In the games sessions, they enjoyed playing relay races, tug of war and many more games. They made team "dens" out of what the "island" had to offer. The day ended with watching the movie our motto is inspired by, 'Lilo and Stitch'. Continued below the video...



Then it was "Hawaiian Rollercoaster Ride", inspired by a song in 'Lilo and Stitch'. We had a "fun day", spending the whole day doing fun activities. In the morning, we set up a funfair style event on the field, with many mini games for the children to take part in and a bouncy castle. They really enjoyed it! We then did a baking challenge after lunch. Then before dinner, we had water sports, a highlight for many. We had a BBQ for dinner and ended with a prayer night. For the prayer night, we all stood around a bonfire, sang a song, and the teams went out into the field and each participant offered a prayer to their team.



The last full day was "My Ohana." We had a fun and inspiring morning inspiration from our three experienced team leaders, Jamie, Mi Hye and Yumi, on what family and community means to them. It was very well thought out and super engaging for the kids! We then had our craft project, which involved each child making their own little island on repurposed vinyl records and clay. The day ended with a family night. Each team performed a skit they prepared, inspired by the stories and themes of the camp. Then we had a few individual performances from the children, entertaining and sharing their talents.

On our last day we ended with the theme "Sea of Memories". In the morning, we made a "message in a bottle", with each child writing a favourite memory of theirs from the camp on a piece of paper and all placing it inside a bottle. In the study session, they did a reflection of what they learned and completed the end of camp quiz. We ended the camp with a graduation, in which the parents attended, congratulating each child with a certificate. We ended with our camp call and response, "Ohana" - "Aloha".

Thank you to all the staff who give their time and hard work to run the camp. Thank you to the parents who trust us with their children. Thank you to all the children for attending and being such a joy to take care of! We look forward to next year! - Miwa S.

