

October Half Term Activities

Southampton YMCA's half term activities started with a bang in October as we based ourselves at Fairisle Junior School for a week of fun and activities.

The week was part of our work in partnership with the Lordshill Oasis Academy cluster of schools; part of their extended schools programme. Based at Fairisle Junior School we ran through half term offering activities and workshops for 5 – 16 year olds and their parents. We also had programmes running throughout the week at the Academy's Lower School Site and Shirley Warren School.



As well as joining forces with Active Arts and Southzone dance, we had Southampton City Council's environmental play worker and a team over from YMCA Netherlands who led us in some of their excellent outdoor activities.

Although hard to find in Lordshill, we started the week by constructing a bear trap. Left with nothing but 4 Dutchman, a pile of materials and our imagination we had to build a complex sequence of contraptions each of which set off the next, until, eventually, a box closed on top of a

poor little unsuspecting teddy bear; the fun continued throughout the week with obstacle courses, a gibbon line and, of course, shoe catapults!!

Sports and art and craft were also on the agenda with pencil monsters; cricket; football and word searches all on the programme.

We hope all who came enjoyed themselves as much as we did and a massive thank you to all who helped us throughout half term. Special thanks go to our Dutch YMCA friends, all of whom were volunteers, and to Fairisle Junior School, particularly Gary the site manager, who made us very welcome.

Also, massive thanks to the Jong family for putting our volunteers up (or putting up with our volunteers) for the week.

Our next programme will be taking place over the Christmas holidays, so for more information keep an eye on this site.

