

ST ALBANS FINNISH SCHOOL

EDUCATION REPORT FOR 2018-2019

This year we had 9 teaching groups, 6 for children and 3 for adults. There were 55 children and 18 adults students with 9 teachers and 5 assistant teachers:

0-3 year olds' **Taaperot** i.e. parent-toddler group, where Anna-Mari Nykänen, with the help of Samira Melwani, sang and played with toddlers and their parents.

3-4 year olds' **Leikkiryhmä (Playgroup)** where Anu Palmer, together with Jenni Himberg-Wild led into topics of me and my body, Finnish seasons and festivals, colours etc. via experiences, creativity, discussions, music, books and play.

4-5 year olds' **Kerhoryhmä (Club group)** where Marjut Liverpool taught by singing, playing games, rhymes, reading books, grafting etc. They chose topics from the children's experiences e.g. travel, hobbies, home, food, family. In addition the group started to learn the Finnish alphabet, numbers, colours and seasons. The assistant teacher Katri Kilpinen-Arifi moved to Finland in the spring term.

5-7 year olds' **Aapisryhmä (ABC-group)** where Heidi Mellor and Irja Howie encouraged speaking, playing new and old games and grafting, while recalling numbers and letters and learning to read. The group used Otava's Hauska Matka Aapinen (ABC book).

7-9 year olds' **Lukukirjaryhmä (Reading-group)** was led by Henriikka Järvi, with the help of Elise-Annette Kokkonen. The group travelled around the world with the help of Hauska Matka Lukukirja (Reading book), contacting different Finnish Schools in various countries via Skype or video. At the end of the year the group visited London Finnish School.

8-13 year olds' **Small Group** was led by Heidi Sundvik. In addition to developing reading and writing skills, the group also learnt more about Finnish grammar.

Adult Beginners Class - Aloittelijoiden ryhmä was taught by Maija Knox. The group used Suomen Mestari 1 –book.

Adult Intermediate Class - Keskitason ryhmä was taught by Pirkko Soundy. They used Suomen Mestari 3 –book, with plenty of references to the earlier books.

Adult Conversation Class - Keskusteluryhmä was led by Virve Streatfield. The group discussed topics of interest using newspaper articles etc.

The teachers gathered together for two planning meetings: at the end of the second school day of both terms. The school was represented at the annual teacher training days in the U.K. in October 2018 and in Finland in July 2019, as well as at the Celebration of the Centenary of Finnish-British Relations at the Finnish Embassy in London in May 2019.

The traditional end-of-year Christmas party gave each group the opportunity to present a Finnish song, story or dance. In December the school also held the annual Christmas Bazaar and Christmas Carol service.

In the spring term the school organised an Art Experience Day for the children. This gave all children of different ages an opportunity to try out different ways to make art. The older children were also introduced to 'Lake Keitele' painting by Akseli Gallen-Kallela, which inspired them to create their own landscape.

At the end of the school year the children enjoyed a theatre production by the Finnish Theatre, which was based on the familiar story of Three Little Pigs and the (not so) Big Bad Wolf. The adult Beginners' group also gave a performance showcasing how much they had learnt during the year.

Heidi Sundvik 10.8.2019

Head teacher