

April 4th 2016

LODDON NEWS



The Loddon School Newsletter

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Themed Weekends

In January we launched the new weekend programme with a theme linked to each weekend. Themes either take a topic linked to the calendar or have a topical interest for the children. Using the weekends in this way further enriches the curriculum we can offer and gives us all plenty of fun and enjoyment. Some of the highlights have been hunting for dinosaur eggs, dressing up as superheroes, Easter bonnet competition, Egyptian crafts, weaving Scottish patterns and plenty of crafts and cooking weekly for every theme.

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Plenty to do and have fun with during our themed weekends this year

Family Picnic Day - 2nd May

Our annual Family Picnic Day (1pm-4pm) is only weeks away now, and I hope you will all be able to join us. Not only is this a great opportunity to enjoy plenty of fun with the family but a chance also to meet with the teachers and care staff.

We hope that the weather will be fine and we will be able to enjoy the inflatable obstacle course as well as play in the leisure barn, follow the nature trail or visit the animals.



A Special Event this term

Panathlon winners - Two of our students entered the Hampshire Panathlon this March, a competition held in Portsmouth with many other schools.

Joining forces with another small school, Lucy and Chris returned to school with three gold medals, one each for being overall team winners and Chris had an additional gold medal as the Javelin winner. We are all very proud of them and look forward to the swimming gala.

An Ofsted inspection

Every six months Ofsted calls to inspect the children's home aspect of our school. We are delighted to report that this interim inspection was very positive and we have maintained our good standards and they have commented on the very positive movement forward on staff recruitment, the improvements made with refurbishment, our continued robust safeguarding procedures, the good work of our therapists, the improvements made to catering and our strong leadership and teamwork which results in continued progress for all the children. I know you will wish to express your thanks especially to Joy Wake (Vice Principal Registered Care Manager) for her outstanding leadership of her team and all they do to provide high quality care.

High standards achieved by our staff

This term we have seen a large number of our staff complete and be awarded a number of qualifications related to their role here at Loddon.

- Level 3 Assessing Vocational Achievement awarded to Jess King and Sarah Cann
- Level 3 Children's Workforce Diploma has been awarded to Anderson Abiodun, Dennis Waweru, Gary Frankland, Clare Gwyther, and Rachel Hurst
- Sima Performance Management award (Accountancy) awarded to Elizabeth Fairhead
- PhD Gill Barrett: I successfully defended my thesis in March at my viva voce examination so have passed my Doctorate



Ofsted said about The Loddon School:

"Young people make good progress...they enjoy a range of themed activities to advance their learning in a fun way."

"Young people enjoy a range of wholesome, nutritious food"





Other Events / News

Last week we saw the digger arrive, the new sensory adventure playground be dug out and the hard core be laid in preparation for the water play, muddy play, sand play, balance play and teepee to be erected. The money for this playground has been raised by staff and other supporters over a number of years and we are so pleased to see work started and the hope that we can use it at the Family Picnic day on May 2nd. We still hope to raise a little more money for an in-ground trampoline in the near future.



Weekend of 10th-12th June is the Queen's 90th Birthday and we plan to have a school picnic/street party style event on Friday 10th June.



During March and April the children have studied China, how the Chinese new year themes were established, their culture and festivals and their food. We have also enjoyed celebrating St. David's Day and St. Patrick's Day. We joined the national event of World Book Day and held a book fair, and took part in Sport Relief events.

We have also introduced daily evening clubs, including a youth club, cooking club, cinema club, messy sensory club, adventure club, and exercise club. These run every evening from 6.30pm.

Look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd May—Family Picnic Day



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