

In this issue:

- Parent Picnic Day
- Outdoor Numeracy Day
- Knights & Castles theme
- National Gardening week
- Sporting competition
- Events coming up

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Outdoor Learning Day - Numeracy

Outdoor Learning Day is a national event which the school has followed for a few years now. This May we made the focus numeracy. It was a great day to introduce a number of new activities related to building numeracy skills to all the children so that throughout the summer term we can practice these and build up our numeracy skills. Mathematics is so much more than just counting, and the fun of exploring patterns, sequences and rhythms brought mathematics alive to all. Mathematics helps all our children to create a sense of order in what can appear to them as a highly confused world. Making mathematics fun is what we aimed to do and we achieved this objective very well.



Numeracy and Literacy skills are taught in a fully integrated way though all activities, learning through play at all times.

Teaching about Autism in Zambia

While the wonderful Parent Picnic Day was happening I was in Zambia with Marion (our Founder) visiting a number of universities, education colleges, schools and meeting with education officials, teachers and parents.

We had been invited to visit the school Marion has sponsored over the past eight years, but while we were there we would be lecturing at the University of Zambia to undergraduate students, and masters level serving teachers who are specialising to teach children with special educational needs. Autism is recognised in Zambia but the general population and most teachers know little about it, so there is a great need to support them.



Photos taken after a parent support meeting and a lecture.

Parent Picnic Day

The sun shone for this year's picnic day and as usual we shared together a great day of food, fun and fellowship. It was lovely to see so many families bringing grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins. It is so important for all of our children to be surrounded as much as possible with their families and to enjoy occasions like this throughout the year.



Sporting Competitions

Again this year we have taken part in the Biocca competition. Two students travelled to Portsmouth to taken part in the regional competition. There were many schools taking part and it was good to be part of this competition and again bring back the medals.

We have also had the wonderful opportunity to send two further students to a coaching workshop run by the paralympic association. In attendance were Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh the gold olympic medal winners at the Rio Games. The students were trained by Kate and Helen and shown the key aspects of the game. We will be looking to add hockey to our curriculum now and definitely attending next year.

Many thanks to Kamila and Kirsty for organising these events, they are such great opportunities for our students.



Knights and Castles theme



Our theme for the past term has been Knights and Castles. We explored a more historical theme, looking at castles around the country and especially at the literature focussing on the Knights of the Round Table, Sword in the Stone and plenty of Princesses in the castle tales.

For the celebration day at the end of term we focussed on a medieval banquet and fair, holding lunch outside on long tables, and then holding hobby horse races, and target practice competitions. The animals from the paddocks also joined in the fun being dressed in medieval style rugs.



Each House designed their own coat of arms and made golden goblets in art. It was a wonderful day and a great experience of history.



“Staff demonstrate a thorough understanding of each child’s individual needs. They see their work as a vocation and enjoy being with the children. The staff approach, using a personalised learning approach across a 24-hour curriculum, is successful. Children have a positive learning experience and acquire useful skills for life.” Osted Dec 2017





National Gardening week

If you have visited the horticultural area of our school by the polytunnel you will have seen that a great deal of change has taken place. Linzi is now able to work full time for us during school term times, which has meant we have been able to increase the daily learning that can take place in this area of the school. The old, large planting beds have now been modified to seven raised planting beds (one per house), which are proving much easier for the children to gain a very positive learning experiences from.

The painting of these beds, in house colours, was one job that was completed during national gardening week. The children then filled the beds with compost and soil, which was a great sensory activity.

They continued by making bird feeders and planting some small plants. Their learning is well documented and is displayed in the polytunnel should you visit over the weekends.



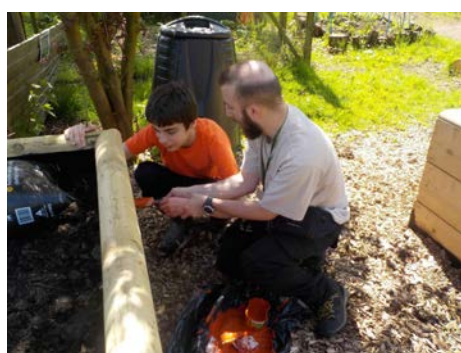
Events coming up

Over the next couple of summer months we have a variety of musical and drama activities the children will be involved with. Working with two actors, and having created our own interactive sensory drama production, this will be visiting a number of local schools. We also have a music festival which will include a number of other schools and will be held on our grounds. We also have our swimming gala and Prom Party.

Please make sure you attend (if possible) - Sports Day and our celebration of 30 years as a school.

On **Friday 20th July starting at 11am** we invite you to attend the Sports Day and our celebration of 30 years as a school. We will have some competition events as well as plenty of games and zorbing for all to join in with. There will also be a barbecue lunch. Please let the main office or your child's teacher, CSM or team leader know whether or not you and your family will be able to attend.

Have a look at our new website film by clicking on the icon on the home page. We are delighted with it and the shots of the school filmed using the drone are amazing.



Hope to see you all on **20th July @ 11am** for our **Sports Day and 30th Birthday party for Loddon School**



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The Loddon School



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