

COVID-19 but we carry on.

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March 2020 will be a month that will be remembered for many years but unfortunately for all the wrong reasons. As the country went into “Lockdown”, guidance from the government for residential schools and Children’s Homes asked us to try and carry on providing our service. There have been major alterations to the way we are doing things but in the main I strongly believe that life for the children has moved forward smoothly. Where we have not been able to do our regular events, we have found alternatives. We are very house based, teams remaining static and teachers offer sessions to their own houses now although materials are provided by the specialist for each house to use. We have re-parked the buses so the children are not upset that they cannot go out, rooms have limits on them to aid social distancing as much as is possible. We have all learnt to clean our living spaces and to wash and wash and wash our hands!



Our indoor shop, outdoor gym, lane walks, sensory play, keep fit sessions, art, literacy & numeracy sessions are some of the things keeping us busy

Discovery Club

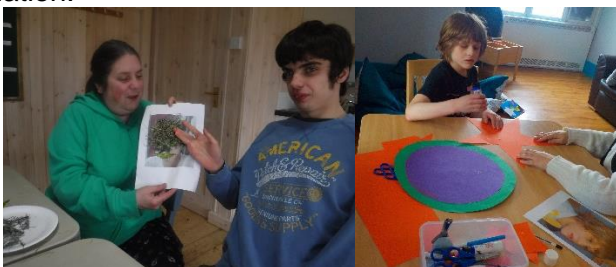


Bringing more Science into our curriculum has been a very positive move. Linking each session with the theme, the children have experienced sessions looking at their face in a mirror, an outdoor session using all their senses – looking at things, touching and smelling. Looking at items using a magnifying glass was fun. We had a very special session to introduce washing our hands. The children tried out different solutions to wash off germs that had been drawn onto water filled rubber gloves. They learnt that they needed to wash and rub well to get the hands clean. They were then able to watch a video of washing your hands and while watching this practice, washing their own hands. Using hand sanitizer was also introduced to them -rubbing it in and letting it dry. We have introduced 17 additional sanitizer points around the school as you move between houses and when you come into the main house from all external points.

Keeping school germ-free is vital to us all. We are all taking many precautions to stop the spread of the virus.

Our theme this term

Our theme this term has been our body, well before we knew about COVID-19 we aimed to focus on ourselves, changes over time and keeping healthy. So, the theme has blended very well with the current situation.



Using photographs of themselves they have created natural material collages; in art they have made star pictures showing themselves and things they like.



Using gentle paint blowing Kingfisher's house created germ pictures. The children have learnt the various parts of the body and face building play-dough faces and playing matching games.

Weekend themes

With the stopping of home visits and parental visits, our weekend themes have been rather important to keep everyone busy and well distracted about what they are missing in their usual routines.

The staff have been amazing and designed so many activities and got the children so well engaged, that our days throughout the whole week and weekend have gone well.

Harry Potter weekend



Harry Potter weekend saw the children dressing up and making some wonderful potions.

Irish Culture weekend



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, the children enjoyed printing shamrocks, building leprechaun pictures and a little bit of Irish dancing in the leisure barn.

Spring weekend



Lots of craft activities and local country walks this weekend in our first 'stay in' weekend.

Tales and stories weekend



Story massage and sensory bag stories were a great hit in the sunshine over the weekend.



"Thank you for all your continuing hard work at this challenging time and the lengths to which many of you are going to provide education, care and support for our most vulnerable children and young people"
"I wanted to write to everyone who works with the Council's social care providers to personally thank you for your dedication and hard work as we face these challenging times together."
Messages from local authorities.



Not being able to go out to buy the weekly treats could have been a major problem had the CSM's not planned for this once we appeared to be moving towards a lockdown. They created a list of what children normally purchased and bulk bought it. We now have a pop-up sweets and drinks stall in the summer house. We needed to house it somewhere, once we return to our normal routines, different to our normal café or Juice bar. It is working well and over the weekend and once in the week they can purchase a little treat.



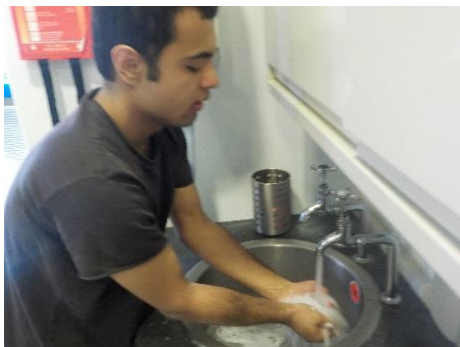
Sandy Sutton (Artist) visits Loddon



Sandy Sutton an artist that encourages young people to create art pieces from the things we throw away. Picking up our Green theme again we had the opportunity to work with Sandy. Inviting along two other schools, Addington School and Brookfield School each school was able to create letters decorated with plastic throw-away toys. The letters for our school were jointly made by the children. Sandy encouraged them to select a couple of colours and they found items in those colours. Using a glue gun, the children were able to fill the letter. We are delighted with the results and will be mounting them near the Leisure Barn entrance for all to see.

Building Project

We have signed the contracts, cut the turf and for two days the builders were on site – COVID-19 has halted the work currently.



A final word to say we are all fine. If anything changes, I will be in touch with you directly. As you can see above our love for water and soap bubbles comes in useful!



“The staff team maintains an environment and conditions in which the children feel safe, secure and free to learn and in which they can develop and enjoy their surroundings” Ofsted



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The Loddon School



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