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A very unusual half year.

As the Lockdown started in March so we also started our building project. Hidden behind a wonderful fence the bungalows have been growing and now we can see them above the fence line as the roof is assembled. The start of the new year we should see them completed and we aim to move in shortly after that.

It has been a great opportunity to develop some of our learning around construction and building as we have watched large cranes work, and now able to see the builders above the fence line. Over the past weeks we have run a number of sessions in the mud kitchen and in the field building dens or using large tonka toys. Thanks to Gabriel's mum we have also been able to dress the part with hard hats and high-vis vests. We have continued on as best we can ensuring that we balance keeping all safe and well while moving forward in education and school development.



'Loddon is the standard by which all special schools should be judged' Comment from Ofsted report July 2018

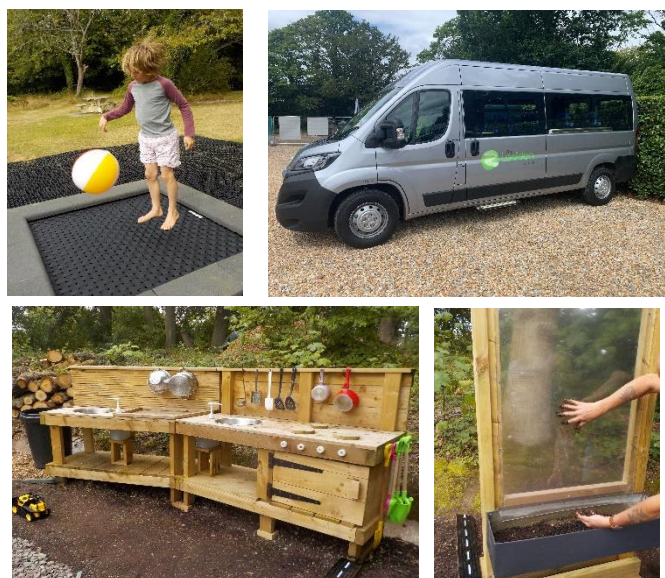


Regional Sports

This year due to COVID 19 we have not been able to attend any regional interschool sports competitions. In their place they set schools particular sporting challenges to complete. The first were a series of exercises over a week, with each house taking part and adding up the scores. The second round were sporting challenges which were less physical exercise based and more group game orientated. We took part in both.



During the summer months we have continued to ride Annie our horse, both around the school grounds and in the adjoining field.



New developments

Our ongoing drive to keep our environment up to date has continued with the addition of a new trampoline in the grounds close to the multigym. We have purchased a different type of trampoline which is firmer, but already is a firm favourite with some students; one who was ready at 8.30am dressed and holding the picture. We have also purchased a new minibus lite – similar to our other one which all staff can drive on a standard licence. Mickie has been busy creating another new play area within the school our new mud kitchen with additional space for water play and tonka toys. The area is located close to the green Forest Schools hut.

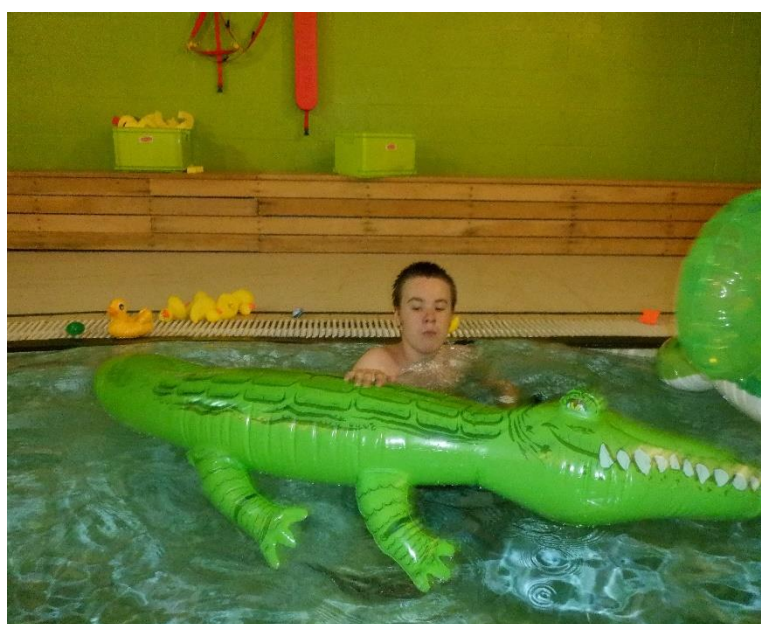
Swimming Gala Success

This Year in order to keep within our COVID working restrictions we held the gala day over several days giving each house a session in the pool and then plenty of time to clean the areas in between. This worked really well and we saw children come and swim and use the pool who have not for some time.



We purchased a number of new inflatables for the summer season and had great fun racing in these up and down the pool. Sometimes the staff were working harder than the students but a great amount of enjoyment was clear to see.

We now also have two members of staff trained to teach swimming on site so we can continue this without having to use external teaching staff. It has been a long tradition of the school to attend regional competitions and this we hope will continue now.

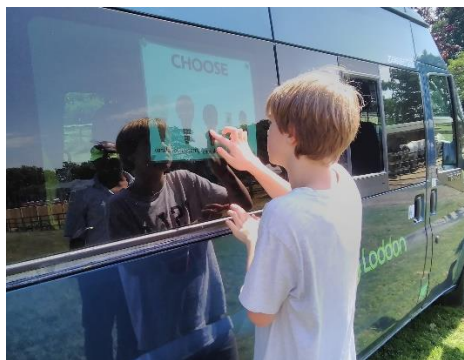




Making fruit punch



Enjoying time interacting with the animals in the paddocks.



Our very own ice cream van!

Summer Holiday fun

As normal our summer time has been filled with a multitude of amazing leisure activities taken from our PLLUSS curriculum.



Opportunities for the children to experience camping, plenty of arts and crafts, outdoor play while also having some relaxing times.



Each week has had a theme allowing for the children to gain a rich variety of new leisure experiences while also maintaining plenty of the regular daily routines. The weather has been reasonably kind to us allowing the children to get out and about in the countryside.



Thank you all for all your support and understanding for the school during lockdown. It has been tough but we have all been safe.

"Pupils' personal development is exemplary. Highly-knowledgeable, multi-disciplinary teams make life-changing differences for pupils."



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