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A Chinese Restaurant

At the end of our themed curriculums we have a special event and for our China theme we celebrated with a Chinese New Year Dragon Parade and a Chinese Restaurant experience.

At the end of our assembly we paraded down to the leisure barn with our giant Chinese dragon and Chinese lanterns we had made. On arrival at the leisure barn we entered into our special Chinese Restaurant with specially prepared Chinese food thanks to our amazing catering team. A great experience for all as we shared a wide selection of foods and listened to Chinese music.



Celebrating Chinese New Year with a dragon parade and a Chinese Restaurant

Sensory Adventure Playground

As the June activity week progresses our students have been able to experience the fun of our new Sensory Adventure Playground. The theme for the holiday fun was Pirates working into our Ocean and Seas theme for this term. Using the new water platform the children played a game to stop the water fountains spraying (stopping the ship springing a leak). They looked for buried treasure in the mud and sand in the specially designed mud play bench, and they chased the water down the waterwall, using the water jugs to fill the funnels linked to the network of pipes.

To relax after the mud and water sensory play they enjoyed time hearing stories in the very large tepee. Coming soon to complete the sensory playground we have a large rowing boat sand pit, and a maze of sensory balance beams and a covered seat.

Thanks to Micky and Jamie who have designed and built the majority of the playground for us all.



Exploring the movement of water on the new water wall.



Enjoying our local countryside at the weekend

Engaging with our community

The Loddon School has recently linked up with Mencap and National Association of Special Schools to assist with some research work sharing our good practice with transition work and reporting. It was good to review the work we do with social stories, visits made to school and home visits.

You may have recently seen that a Basingstoke shop worker helped a mother of autistic twin girls, one of whom was having a 'meltdown' during the shopping trip. In the shop worker used her skill to distract the girl and showed her how to scan the shopping in. At school we were all greatly impressed by her quick thinking and sent her one of our weekly star awards specially adapted for her as a community award and thanked her via twitter as well for raising awareness.

Students achieving awards

We are delighted to announce that Lucy has completed her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. This is a massive achieve for any young person and for our students this is a tremendous achievement and we should all be so proud for her. I wish to thank Filip Duda and his team of staff who weekly support the students, and take them out with the Explorers club.

Lucy is now the third student to achieve this award joining Hari and Chris who were awarded their Bronze award a few months ago.

Explorers club continues to flourish and a new group of students are working towards their award and we look forward to celebrating their success soon.

The Loddon School becomes an Arts Mark School

We recently had a visit from a representative from the Arts Council as we have explored becoming an Arts Mark School. This mark is awarded to a school who take seriously the arts subjects. Our visit by the representative showed us how we assess the current level of our art delivery and standard of work and then work towards achieving the next highest award. We have been assessed currently as being at Gold level so we will be working towards the Platinum award the highest level and then every two years reapplying for this top standard showing that we are maintaining the highest standard of arts curriculum delivery in the school.

The Arts Council work to encourage schools to include the widest curriculum of the expressive arts and we will be working to include more technological art, as well as further developing music, drama and literature. The representative spoke extremely highly of our visual art work already delivered by Michael within the school and we hope to be a Flagship school in this area.

Students achieve national awards for their swimming

As a further development to our physical education curriculum we have added an additional level to our swimming curriculum allowing our students who have skills to swim in deep water. Those who are able to experience a community swimming pool are weekly attending a full length community pool and have been able to progress onward and swim extended distances.

Chris, Lucy, Hari and Katie have all been awarded Amateur Swimming Association certificates for 100, 200, 400, 500 and 800 metres.

This is again an amazing achievement and they have coped very well in the community swimming pool and enjoy their weekly visits.



Students experience all types of art sessions

“Thank you to you and colleagues for allowing me to visit last week, to learn from your wealth of experience at the Loddon School. It was a really enjoyable and useful visit, giving me plenty of insights for our research.”

Anne Penney - Researcher



Visiting the local community pool weekly for a few of our older students.



Learning to plant seeds



Amazing drama session telling the story of St. George and the Dragon



Face painting, dressing up, making lightsabers was all part of the fantastic Star Wars weekend fun.

Weekend themes continue to thrive

Our weekend teams have had some superb weekends this term and have provided our students with some great new experiences helping them to enjoy their leisure time as well as learning through play.

In April the weekends had themes of:

- **Spring** - making craft flowers, a lovely nature trail walk looking at the spring flowers.
- **Under the sea theme** - this weekend helped the students with the launch of the school based theme of Oceans and Seas. The students enjoyed a lot of water based activities and our catering manager helped the children explore new tastes with fish based cooking activities.
- **The Greeks** - this weekend offered the children a great look at some of the Greek history and some wonderful craft and sensory activities helped them explore this theme.
- **St. George and the Dragon** - this was a lovely weekend which took on a strong dramatic feel as the children prepared props and the backdrop for the dramatic presentation of the story of St. George and the Dragon.
- **The circus** - a weekend of crafts, circus skills and cooking. Plenty of clowns were present at the celebration event on the Sunday afternoon.
- **Gardening and Growth** - a lovely way for the children to engage in the discovery and explore curriculum through planting seeds and small plants and exploring craft activities using different plants and fruits.
- **Vehicles and journeys** - a fun weekend with trails, journeys all using a wide variety of vehicles. There was plenty of opportunity for the children to design and build a car or bus, boat or plane.
- **Donkey weekend** - linking well with the National Donkey Week some lovely donkey games from around the world were experienced, and craft activities of donkey collages.
- **Star Wars** - a chance to build your own lightsaber and dress up and enjoy drama on our very own mount.

“Learning through play, learning through new experiences and having great fun.”



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