

LODDON NEWS

The Loddon School Newsletter

In this issue:

- Awards for many
- Our theme days
- Competitions
- New additions
- Reports
- The summer fun
- Visiting Loddon

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She made the honours list

To Loddon School Marion Cornick has always been on our honours list but we were delighted to hear the news that her lifetime's work had received such acknowledgement to be recognised in the Queen's 90th Birthday Honours list. Marion Cornick MBE puts it down to teamwork but we know it has been her drive, passion and determination to make life changing differences in the world of education especially for children with autism that has marked her out as a very special person to so many.

We congratulated Marion in a very special Loddon way by presenting her with a star award and holding a cream tea. This was a packed occasion with all the children and staff coming to congratulate Marion and of course have scones, with jam and cream, which were enjoyed by all.



Marion Cornick MBE - received recognition for her lifetime's work

*At The Loddon School “activities are first class, they have a wide range of pastimes to participate in.”
Ofsted 2015*

Street Parties and Seaside

The summer term normally hosts a variety of outdoor events and this summer has been no different here at Loddon. We have hosted a number of barbeques, a camping weekend, celebrating the Queen’s 90th Birthday with our own street party, picnic day and a very special day to draw together the summer education theme of sea and ocean. This day the weather was not so kind but we experienced a sand castle competition with a few added drops of rain, but headed into the barn for our special fish and chip lunch seaside style in a takeaway box. In the afternoon we enjoyed beach games and even had a fun photo shoot - seaside style.



During our celebrations for the Queen’s birthday we were delighted to have six members of the cycle team who annually raise money for the school on ‘Peter’s Route’. James Robins, his mother and friends attended the party and barbeque and presented us with a cheque for over £2K which we have used to purchase a new in-ground trampoline for the sensory adventure playground. It was wonderful to meet the cycle team and for them to see our school. We are extremely grateful to all who sponsor the school in many different ways enabling us to have a few ‘extras’.



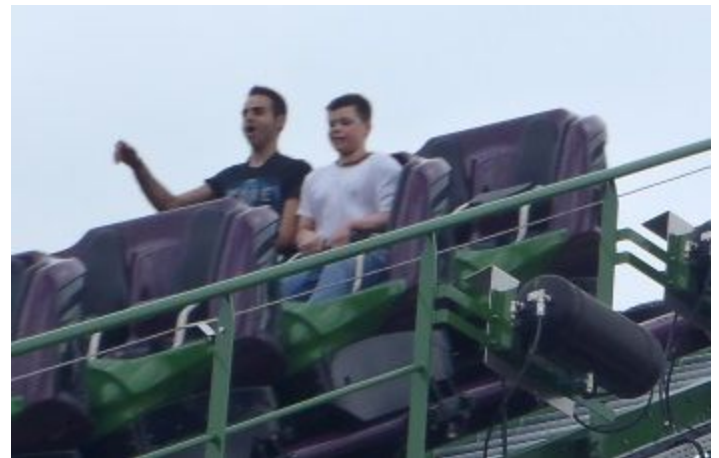


Juice Bar

Our daily morning Juice bar is now very popular with all the students. They love to prepare the juices and to experiment with different combinations of fruits.

I am delighted to see so many of the children trying different fruits to eat. The variety of berries the children like to eat is very encouraging. Mango milkshake is a special delight offered some Mondays.

On a Friday our Osteopath Howard works with the children and cooks recipes for cakes and biscuits that are dairy free and use vegetables, fruits and seeds.



The school calendar divides the year into terms and each term we have activity weeks which link with some of the mainstream holiday weeks providing for our children a sense of work and play pattern and these activity weeks all focus on a particular type of activity. So far this holiday period the students have had sensory play week, food week, art week and sports week. The focus for each week being a particular type of leisure activity alongside plenty of opportunities to try new activities or to visit leisure activities in the community.

Paultons Park Trip

We were delighted again to attend the annual trip to Paultons Park sponsored by the UK Rotary Club. As you can see from the pictures the children had a lovely time, and so did the staff! All rides were tried by those who wished to, and some rides experienced many times.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are delighted that another group of children are close to completing their Bronze award. This summer a group completed their practice expedition and will go in September to complete the final expedition and finalise the award.

Swimming gala

Loddon had two 'firsts' this year, our first time to enter the Hampshire Special Schools swimming gala and the first time we held our own in school gala. Four children attended the Hampshire gala and we were delighted that we brought home medals for a third and participation. Coping with this type of event is a major step forward for the children due to noise levels and unfamiliar people and surroundings.

New Additions

Our sensory adventure playground is nearly completed, with some balance beams to be installed and some more astroturf to be placed around the trampoline. The water wall and deck have had plenty of use over the summer, and the teepee is a great new venue for story time and sensory stories.

We have applied for a small bid with the lottery funding to help equip the outside courtyard to enable the children to engage daily in a sensory circuit aimed to prepare the body and mind for the day.

Eagles has new Kitchens installed, and Falcons will follow shortly. Falcons house have also had some air conditioning fitted to help in the bedrooms.

In September we will have two new teachers - Nicola who will go into Kingfishers and Roy who will work in Robins. I am also delighted to say after a mammoth recruitment campaign we will be fully staffed by September. I am delighted with the graduates we have been able to recruit from Spain, all have degrees in Social work or Psychology and are looking forward to work at our school and to gain vital experience. All have very good levels of English.





Team races on the school race track.

Student Blogs

At last we have launched the student blogs which hopefully you all have received passwords for. Monthly (during term time) the teachers will post photographs to show elements of the work achieved and progress made by your son or daughter. I hope this will add to the regular updates you gain from the weekly student letter, and also provide you with a little more information about progression, rather than awaiting the review meetings.

New items on the school curriculum

For September we are adding a few more activities into the weekly timetable for all children to experience. We have piloted a Discover and Explore session (Science based activities) and Jo will lead these sessions weekly. PE lessons will see a few new activities as we add racket skills, table tennis and athletics into the current programme. We will also reintroduce life story sessions, and story massage sessions which a number of teachers have been trained to lead. All the previous elements will continue to be offered but our aim is to always widen the offer to enrich and progress skill development.

Please sponsor us.

I have entered the school into the Gung-Ho race which takes place in Windsor racecourse on Sunday 10th September. We will be running a 5km course which also contains 10 of the world's largest inflatable obstacles. The course ends with a massive slide. So not only do we have to run we also have to complete the obstacles so let's hope it is dry, warm and we have all had plenty of training. I will be running and am currently trying to train.

Please go to [The Loddon School Just Giving site](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/LoddonLoons) and sponsor us - it is for a great cause and new play equipment I hope - the staff as normal will be fab!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/LoddonLoons>



Exploring and discovering with our many light and sensory toys



Kirsty (teacher) leads a sensory story in the new teepee.

"I have been completely blown away by the kind and friendly atmosphere we experienced" Visitor July '16



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