

LODDON NEWS

The Loddon School Newsletter

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Our Australia work

During January and February, while it has been cold and wintery here in Britain, we decided to study somewhere warm. We explored the art, music, dance, culture, animals and landmarks of Australia. Playing new musical instruments, wearing cork hats, and using traditional face paints was great fun and so important for learning to tolerate new experiences. The aboriginal art allowed for some fantastic visual and tactical expressions of a very different culture. Some of our art creations will now be displayed at the Loddon Training & Consultancy headquarters at Field House Barn, for others to enjoy.

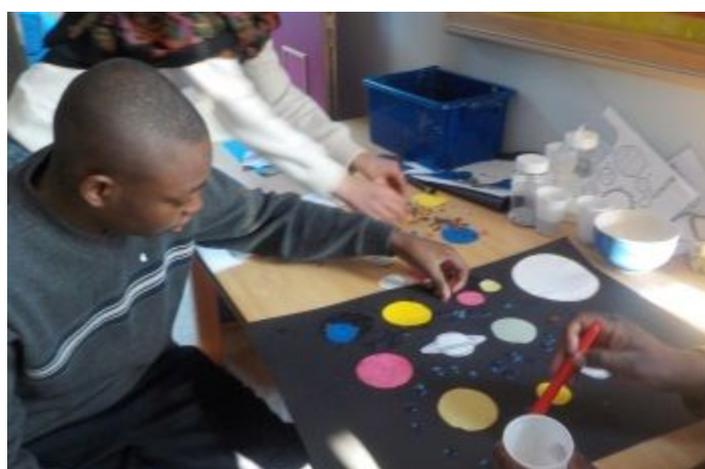


Exciting the imagination through a wide and enriching curriculum 24/7.

The weekend Fun

I am delighted with the richness of the children's weekend experience. Our aim is to allow them all to have leisure time fun, while practicing skills learnt in the week through a different theme. All the themes are linked to events happening in the national calendar and world events. The steady structure and routines of the weekends make for happy, fun and calm times. Recently the children have delighted in the Vikings, Dinosaurs, our own bake-off, Chinese new year, Scottish theme linking with Burns night, space, and healthy eating.

It is always a delight to see parents visiting us. Please remember if you wish to use the parents room to book ahead.



Our very own 'Bake-off' weekend.



A weekend of healthy eating

Artsmark work continues to grow in strength

The Arts team, lead by Michael, have always been strong but over the last year I have seen a further massive step forward in the provision of visual arts, music, drama and dance.

Each of our termly themes is rich in the arts, and the children this term have experienced breadth in exploring key concepts. One drama lesson explored size by looking at things in Australia that were small and in contrast were very large, acting out and feeling the difference between smallness and being very large.

Black Youth in UK - a History Film Competition



Last month, using our Green Screen equipment and expertise, the Arts team entered the school into a national competition celebrating the black youth culture of the UK.



We decided to look at snapshots of the history and culture over the decades and divided the film up into sections. Each house took one decade (1940's to 2000's).



The staff researched and devised a screen to illustrate the key message of black youth culture in the decade for their house. The screens included themes of: immigration, HMS Windrush, music, dancing, civil rights movement, iconic films, and key political events.



“Young people continue to make exceptional progress in this school.”

Ofsted Report





Training for all

National Professional Qualification for Middle Leaders

In February, four of our teachers applied and were accepted on this national programme part of the National College for Teaching and Leadership. The NPQML is a qualification to further develop middle leaders in their leadership skills within an educational setting. Nnenna, Michael, Kirsty and Kamila have attended their first taught session day (of which there are four), these are supported by the school holding additional sessions, on-line learning and a research project.



NVQ Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Child Care

The five of the Children's Service Managers have also been accepted to train for their Diploma in Leadership and Management and are registered with Basingstoke College of Technology, on their mixed learning package.

I am delighted by the commitment shown by our middle leaders especially as much of their study will occur after work. I know we all will benefit as we continue to strive to offer a consistent high level of practice and service for all our children here at Loddon.



Working with a University to provide BA (SEND) degree and QTS

I am closely working with a university to enable us to offer BA degrees for staff while they work with us and on the job assessment for teaching assistants to gain qualified status.

New Staff and some promotions.

Lauren Boon (OT) will start her maternity leave soon and Sarah Johnson will be covering for her.

Lea Garcia - has been promoted to Positive Behaviour Manager replacing Dan.

We have a number of staff promoted to be mentors, and two new posts created to support Outdoor play and Sports.

Date for your diary - Monday 1st May (Bank Holiday) Parent Picnic - from 1pm - bring all the family.



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