

LODDON NEWS

The Loddon School Newsletter

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Dates for your Diary

21st July - **Sports Day** 11am - 4pm

8th December - **Christmas Concert**
(afternoon or evening performance)

Being involved in Charity events

Although The Loddon Foundation is a charity itself we do like to be involved with our charity events as other schools do. Recently we have taken part in the Macmillian cancer appeal - Dress up and Dance event, following a highly successful Wiggle and Dance charity event last term. For activity week we took the theme of music and set the Houses a competition to create and perform their own House song. Wednesday assembly was packed and all the children who were able performed their House song and medals were awarded.

In the afternoon we had a Dress up and Dance disco which was run by our own musical DJ Dave, and an amazing time was enjoyed by so many of the children.

The Loddon Foundation has signed up with easyfundraising.org.uk If you register your email with this company when you purchase something online by entering the site via easyfundraising, they will donate to the school in relation to your purchase. It will not cost you personally anything but will help to raise money for the school. Please register and buy online this way to help the school.



Young people are actively encouraged to play together and spend quality time with staff. Ofsted 2017

Outdoor classroom

On May 18th there was the national outdoor classroom day. This day is designed to encourage all schools to take their learning outside and beyond the normal classroom environment. Although we do a lot of learning outdoors it was yet again another opportunity for all our children to join with the nation and experience things a little differently.

There were a wide variety of activities focused on throughout the day. The sensory adventure playground was in full swing and took a special rainbow fish theme. The arts department worked on the Maori Figure head sculptures in the discovery area. Car washing and ground water slides had plenty of water involved. The nature trail was busy with activities and the natural weaving loom was used by many. Dave our music teacher created a lovely musical classroom in the story circle and the children played instruments to provide sounds for a water based story. Children helped out with the gardening throughout the day. In the afternoon we had a variety of fun sports and Maypole dancing. The day ended with a singsong in the song circle and was a lovely end to a very busy day.



Family Picnic Day

The weather held out for most of the May Day picnic and barbeque day. The children loved playing again this year on the giant inflatable obstacle course, and I think I saw a few parents on there as well.

The kitchen staff again did us proud with a delicious barbeque, plenty to eat and cooked while the sun shined.

The ice cream van was of course a great treat for us all. I think the ice creams definitely get bigger each year. The children do love this special treat so we have invited him back for sports day as well, but as normal it will arrive as the day is drawing to an end. As all had finished their ice cream the rains did come. I am told it is the first time since the school has been doing this event that it has rained that heavily. This is an annual event so pop it into next year's diary- **Mon 7th May 2018.**

Our waking day curriculum

Our aim at The Loddon School® is to be innovative with our learning in order to ensure that the children are always able to access learning. As a school we are known for our waking day curriculum, using all opportunities as learning experiences. Our curriculum provides the full range of life skills that our children require. As the national picture for education changes we see a demand from a variety of schools to access our type of learning. To this end we are doing two things:

1. The education team are compiling a manual to accompany our PLLUSS curriculum which we hope to publish and market to raise further funds and training opportunities for the school.
2. Working with University partners involved in research to make sure we remain at the cutting edge of provision. Aiming always to understand more about how our children learn and what curriculum and learning activities aid them the best.

Learning through play

Last year Emily Clark completed her qualification as a Play Therapist. Her role is to design play activities and train all staff to ensure that play is purposeful and continues to build the skills of each of the children. We recently were given an array of new toys and you may have spotted a new trolley in the library with bead mazes on it and shelves stacked with other activities. These are specially designed for those moments between main activities when the children can quickly become involved in play that helps them to learn. Please feel able to use these activities when visiting with your children.

Emily in her role as Play therapist is this year training as a Forest Schools instructor. This enables the school to run learning activities designed by the Forest Schools organisation as well as train other school staff to run sessions within their schools. We are pleased to see that this is again expanding our links with other local schools and providing opportunities for our children to work alongside other children in the community.



This term we have the Round the World theme with the children having a passport and learning about a country and its cultural celebrations from each of the seven continents of the world. We finish this theme at the end of June and then explore a Science based theme of the Rainforest. We have booked to take some of the children to The Living Rainforest in Newbury. The children will be looking at the animals and plants that grow there and how they are adapted to live in this special environment.

Our physical curriculum keeps expanding as we add new sports as well as continuing with many of the favorites, Yoga remains popular with many.





Competitions and Community events

Every week the children are able to experience a variety of local community facilities and take part in regular community competitions and events.

The Jump Factory locally is a very popular facility with all the children now attending. During weekdays in term time the centre is very quiet and we are able to book regularly and different children are able to use this wonderful place. Rebound therapy (or trampolining) is an excellent balancing therapy for children with autism. After a session they are in greater balance with themselves and ready to engage well with other activities.

Weekly swimming sessions at the local leisure pool happen for the older children and prepare them well for the local swimming galas we are able to attend. Camp Mohawk sensory playground is visited each week by a group of our older students.

In May two students entered the Hampshire PE Day and then gained entry to the Southern regional competition for Boccia and indoor Kurling. In the regional final we came in a very proud third place and again like last year brought home the medals. I was delighted to hear that our staff were so enthusiastic with our children and cheering them on and encouraging our children to support other schools that we very quickly gathered a crowd from other schools. Enthusiasm is indeed infectious.

Each month the children continue to join the local Basingstoke Ramblers club on their walks and we thank them for their ongoing support of the school.

This month the Rotary Club nationally take children to a theme park. Normally Paultons Park has hosted the event. This year the location has changed and Adventure Wonderland theme park in Bournemouth is hosting the event. This park is designed for younger children and is a much smaller park. We will take some of the younger children on 14th June but will also make sure that those children who normally enjoy the thrilling rides get the opportunity to visit Paultons Park at another occasion. The wide variety of opportunities presented for the children was praised by our recent interim ofsted care inspection.



Young people make good progress in their understanding of the world and themselves. *Ofsted 2017*

Another amazing term with all the children making outstanding progress in all aspects. My thanks to all the staff and to the children for all their hard work. *Principal*



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The Loddon School



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