

## In this issue:

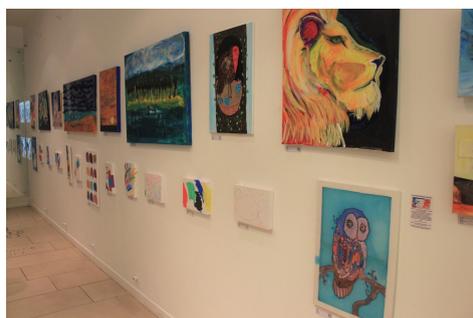
- Planning ahead
- Our amazing Arts
- Themed curriculum
- Festival
- Special events

[www.loddonschool.org](http://www.loddonschool.org)

**Don't forget Parents' Picnic Day**  
**Bank Holiday Monday**  
**7th May from 1pm**

## Making our Mark in the Arts!

Over the last year our Arts Team have been moving forward with their Platinum Arts Mark. This is the highest award which shows that the school is a leader in the arts. Making partnerships with other schools has been key to this award as we share our good practice with other special schools. We have been delighted to also make a special partnership with a local art gallery in Basingstoke, a Theatre arts company - The@trical and Boogie Monsters. It was a lovely opportunity to display our students' art work at THAT gallery just before Easter. Please look at the article in the Basingstoke Gazette on-line to view more artwork. We are also currently preparing an interactive drama workshop that will tour to other schools, and have now enjoyed two concerts with Priors Court and the Boogie Monster. Some children attended The Anvil theatre in January for The Gang Show which was very enjoyable. All children have just taken part in our Space Film which concluded our term's Space theme.



*"They have great ambition that children can develop to their maximum potential in every area of their lives." (Ofsted 2017)*

## Festivals & National Days

Over the past few months there have been plenty of events for us all to be involved in. You can keep up to date as each happens if you follow the school on Twitter (link up with us). Burns night was fun in January with a very Scottish feel to the weekend. Shrove Tuesday did not pass without our traditional pancake races, they become more difficult each year. The pancakes survived the many tosses, drops and nibbles during the fun. For lunch we did enjoy pancakes as our sweet thanks to the catering team.

As members of the RHS and RSPB we have been involved in The Big Grow project, growing cress aliens and The Big Garden Birdwatch, where we were involved in many outdoor activities finding out about British Birds and recording what birds we found in our grounds during that day. We have sent off all our findings which are included in the national survey.

Currently we are looking into our ECO schools award, thinking about our recycling work, our bird boxes and feeders, composting, growing plants in our polytunnel and learning about our environment in our outdoor classroom. We hope to have our bronze award reasonably soon and then work towards silver and then the Green Flag award. Linking with national projects are so important to all schools and I am so pleased that our children can be involved in so many as well.



## Sports Relief Day

Being involved in the major charity events is fun and engaging, helping others to live better lives. For Sports Relief Day we ran a number of obstacle course races, crawling through tight spaces, balancing, throwing, jumping and even walking with very large funny feet.



A few staff also trained very hard for the Reading Half marathon raising money for the children so we can purchase an interactive floor projector. Unfortunately snow cancelled the race but two staff members ran on the treadmill instead.

## Out and about

With our focus on Space, Spring and the festival of Easter we have been able to visit some very exciting new places over the past few months.

With the focus on Spring a group of children visited Millers' Ark Farm and were able to see the sheep, donkeys, pigs, ducks and hamsters.



A visit to the Planetarium at Winchester Science Centre fascinated a group of children who sat through a 30 minute light presentation.



**“Children enjoy positive and fun relationships with staff who demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of their individual needs. It is obvious that staff enjoy being with the children and this is their vocation as well as their job.”**  
*(Ofsted Dec. 2017)*

To celebrate Easter we took a few children to the local Good Friday Service at St. James' Church in Bramley. This was the first time that the church has led a special service for families on Good Friday. The children listened to the Easter story and made a large Easter garden.

On Easter Saturday a larger number of children visited The Vyne as staff ran three trips to the National Trust house who were hosting a special Easter Egg hunt around the grounds. We received our large donation of Easter Eggs again this year from a local company so all children and staff on Easter Sunday were able to enjoy another Easter Egg hunt around our own grounds, as well as plenty of cake making and chocolate fun.





## So much learning happening.

Since January the leadership team have been working with PMC a consultancy team who are evaluating and proposing land use options as we plan for the school accommodation over the next ten years, making the school sustainable for future children to live and grow in. We aim to upgrade all living accommodation, budgets willing, to the standard of Cherrywood. We will keep you posted as the results are presented to trustees in June.



Our curriculum continues to develop, the teachers continue to create new and wonderful activities, and we add to our therapies having trained staff in Rebound Therapy (Trampolining), Lego Therapy and Assisted Animal therapy. This term we have also moved forward with our PLLUSS curriculum extending the external certification for it. For key stage 3 and 4 students continue to gain the AQA unit certificates, and now in Key Stage 5 (16+) students will be able to gain the ASDAN award. Although both are similar and link so well to the PLLUSS curriculum, ASDAN is a more nationally recognised award for 16+ students.



We have seen the snow at least a couple of times this term. The staff have been brilliant and many of us stayed overnight sleeping in the upper stairs staff room and key offices on air beds. The snow did provide a new environment to learn in. Transitioning across the snow brought new challenges for us, but this was swiftly overcome during the Forest Schools sessions as the children followed a rope trail around the study area, focusing on the rope rather than anything else seemed to work wonders. Snowman building was enjoyed, more successfully with the second fall of snow as the first was far too dry to form the perfect ball for the head of our snowman.



The wet weather has also provided us with plenty of mud and writing in mud is so much more fun than on paper. Being able to write your own name in symbols as well as letters was a great Forest Schools session. Many of the children are improving their writing skills using these non-conventional methods.

**“Overall experiences & progress of children and young people at The Loddon School is outstanding”**



@theloddonschool



The Loddon School



www.loddonschool.org