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## Themed Curriculum work

As part of our Access to Learning Sphere of our PLLUSS curriculum we incorporate a different theme to focus our key skills of numeracy, literacy, science and the arts around. This term we have had two outdoor learning days when we introduced the children and staff to a variety of new learning activities that we can then continue to experience during the following months. Developing literacy and numeracy in all our learning activities is essential to make sure learning is relevant and enjoyable. As we had made a wide variety of junk modelling musical instruments we had used them to explore patterns and sequences. (Maths is so much more than just counting!) We used our problem solving skills to help us walk like insects and created our own webs and number patterns. Linking to National Outdoor Classroom day we also had a day creating patterns, using different natural materials to print and create crafts with.



*Children have a positive learning experience and acquire useful skills for life. (Ofsted 2018)*



Enjoying the drumming session

### Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural learning (SMSC)

SMSC is one of the requirements maintained schools have to follow. As an independent and non-maintained school we are free to create our own curriculum, but see the benefits of these elements. St George's Day was celebrated this term, and a weekend of English Culture was experienced. Dressing up, designing t-shirts, eating a cream tea - scones, jam and cream was loved. I am glad to see that the staff demonstrated a little cricket as well.

We also had a wonderful African drumming session. This is very popular with the children and we also incorporated some African dancing to add to the drumming. Our Tranquility garden is nearly complete, and we hope that the children will enjoy the rich sensory environment with water, plants, different walking surfaces, covered areas and sunshine catchers.

*"Staff use individual supportive strategies to engage children in their own particular learning style so that they want to repeat the experience." Ofsted 2018*

### Keeping Healthy



We were delighted that three of our young people were able to compete in the Regional Boccia competition in Portsmouth. Our three competitors coped extremely well in a busy, noisy stadium. It has been lovely to see the sunshine again and in the warmer months we are able to open the Adventure Sensory playground. The ground level trampoline has been a great hit, as always, and lovely to see some of our newer students really enjoying the equipment.





Using Numicon number shapes is a great way to provide concrete understanding of number and matching objects within the numicon shape helps the child to build their knowledge.



Our Polytunnel will shortly be on the move, as we are erecting an all weather outdoor classroom close to the Paddocks and moving Horticulture more central to the school grounds area. A donation of money has enabled us to create this new and larger learning space.

## Developing fine motor skills

A popular activity which develops fine motor skills, using both hands and crossing the mid-line, is demonstrated



using beads and modelling wire. This activity also incorporated counting and repeating a simple pattern.

### Dates to remember

**28th June 2019 - Our Loddon Music Festival  
(arrive from 1pm)**

**19th July 2019 - The Loddon School Sports Day  
(11am -3pm)**

***Parents are warmly welcome to attend these activities, please let us know if you intend to come***



Linzi and Emily (our Forest Schools Staff) have been on further training this term and have even more wonderful and creative ideas. Painting with natural dyes, using a wider variety of tools, and making new growing areas out of many different recycled materials are a few of the new elements of their work. I am sure the children will continue to benefit from this outdoor learning. A mud pit will also soon be created in the woodland area, with sides and seating so we (the staff) hope not to fall in! Another great sensory resource for the children.



The pictures above show the children using Numicon, a resource which is very popular in many schools, both primary and secondary. The staff continue to show the fabulous skills they have; Jack who works in the Paddocks has designed and made the wooden signs around the school and has also created a lovely set of numbers for the children to use.

You may notice the next time you are in the grounds that our Teletubby hill has now steps and a seat. This we hope will help those children who like the sensory feeling of being high - but a little more accessible for us all. Thanks to Sonner and Jack for making these.

Looking After our Planet theme has included looking at the natural world as well as thinking about ways we can work to help our planet. We have replaced disposable cups with personal reusable ones, a hand drier in the staff/visitor toilet instead of paper towel, and more recycling bins.

## Being part of our community

The themed curriculum this term of 'Looking After our Planet' has allowed us to visit a number of linked sites to explore and learn.



A group visited the Butterfly farm in Swindon.



A group visited the outdoor Sculpture Park in Chichester, which was displaying a variety of exhibits made from recycled materials.



Being out in the countryside is a regular trip, and we have added visiting farms to look at a variety of different animals as well as enjoying those in school.



Silchester, along the Roman Wall is a favourite walking spot for us all.



Our Occupational Therapist and Speech & Language Therapist have been able to link in with many of our activities building skills in situ.

**Hope to see you at the Music Festival (28th June) or Sport's Day (19th July)**



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