

- In this issue:**
- Shakespeare Festival
 - Christmas fun
 - Holiday film
 - Weekend enjoyment
 - Healthy living

www.loddonschool.org

What a year 2020 has been!

It has been a year when we have been challenged to do things differently. We have become so aware of all aspects of Health and Safety. I have never written quite so many risk assessments, and our leisure barn chairs have never been wiped so much as they have this year! As a school the children have still received a wonderful education, doing things differently but not linked up to a video screen as was norm for so many young people in our country this year. Our months of November and December did challenge us to think how we could do all our 'normal' events but COVID safe. I hope you have enjoyed the Holiday film we sent home in place of our regular concert. Our Christmas pictures do show we had plenty of fun working in our houses to meet Santa and to dress up as the nativity characters and sing carols. For nine months we were COVID free but unfortunately the new virus strand has hit us as a New Year's present. Staff have tested positive and have been poorly but luckily, we are a tough bunch, and I am glad to say no one has been seriously affected. Those staff who are not isolating have now all received the first vaccine jab.



Maintaining high standards of education for all our children during very challenging times globally.

'Dress-up' Nativity and Carols



Our regular yearly practice is that each house selects a character from the nativity story and we all gather together in the paddocks to listen to the story and watch it enacted out and together sing carols before heading inside for hot chocolate and mince pies. This year we used the summer house as the stable, listened to the story as the students moved around the nature trail and then having dressed up as all the characters of the nativity within their one house, had a lovely photo taken before moving into the leisure barn for hot chocolate and mince pies. All activities are one house at a time. Each department in the school took a turn to come and carol sing to the different houses.



Shakespeare Schools Festival

Excerpt from comments by the judges:
 "I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to The Loddon School for your exceptional production of A Midsummer Night's Dream as part of the 2020 Shakespeare Schools Festival, One Night of Shakespeare. Against all odds you have shown the world that theatre can be created in the darkest of times, demonstrating the best of yourselves. It was a wonderful performance. I was so impressed with how you managed to tell a complete story arc in just a few minutes, and still have time to spend on setting the scene and creating a magical tone...I am in awe of your boundless creativity, talent and determination."



Holiday Film

I do hope you enjoyed all the varied aspects of the film we put together in place of the normal December Concert. We have missed sharing all the events with you, but they will be even more special when at last we can meet together and celebrate the children's progress.



Continuous enjoyment



The outdoor team were highly creative with Fireworks day giving the children lots of activities to do making firework pictures and crafts.



Artic weekend themes, cooking poppy-like biscuits, delicious sweets and regular outdoor markets have been some of the weekend activities.



Lockdown has not stopped us using our outdoor space and the surrounding countryside for plenty of walks. In 2021 we are moving towards our Healthy Living Award, a scheme that encourages schools to promote all aspects of Healthy lifestyles as we already do so much. Special focus will be on exercise and our diet – please help us with this and think about your treats you give to your child.



Christmas was lovely dinner was shared in each house but was great fun and enjoyment for all. Sheffield School presented an advent calendar for each of the children.



Our therapists have continued to work with house staff, via video links and outdoors to enable sessions to keep going.

“Staff have very high expectations of pupils. They will look for all relevant opportunities to foster pupils’ independence.”



@theloddonschool



The Loddon School



www.loddonschool.org