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## What have we been doing?

Well, what indeed have we been doing over this Lockdown period? Firstly, we have not stopped and all credit to our amazing staff team we have kept things going for over a year now. January was particularly hard as the virus crept in and saw many of our staff having to isolate. Thank you so much to those parents who were able to take their child home when we were dangerously close to not having enough staff. We managed to get through the worst of this last year and have come out tired but still smiling.

Our landscape has however changed and what was hidden behind a large fence, (we cut the turf the day before the March 2020 lockdown started), are our two new buildings shining out across the car park. We are so pleased that the builders have been able to carry on and we will be able to move Eagles and Falcons houses in during the latter half of this month.



We officially cut the turf, then the access road was built from the school gate along the back of the school site – which will become new car parking spaces. The diggers came in and dug large holes in the ground, and then the slow process of the foundations and suddenly they were built, and landscaping could occur. We are delighted with the final product. The village green concept is slowly emerging. We have started the planning permission process for phase two which will see the coach house demolished and three smaller bungalows and a communal kitchen/dining room built to house the three houses in the main house currently.

*The Loddon team has been truly amazing throughout this year long lockdown period.*



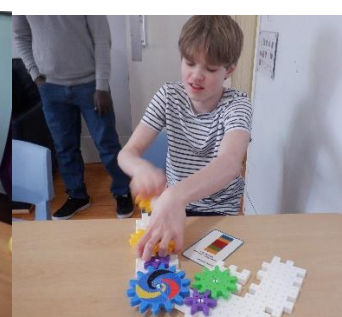
## We kept working hard.



Although each house needed to do most of its work and learning with their own house teacher and together as a house group, we kept our routines and learning activities going as much as we could. We have not been able to do shopping trips, but we have completed many miles in the local fields and lanes. Our theme since the start of January has been 'People who help us' and this has included all the emergency services, local services in shops and the community as well as adding a special re-visit to superheroes! Our artwork has continued to flourish, and all children are working on the national Art Awards. We have increased the amount of sensory equipment we have – Sensory tents have been a hit especially the black out tent in Penguins and children are accessing this frequently. Our numeracy toys have become more complex, while some of the familiar puzzles and sequence games remain strong favourites. We were awarded the Silver certificate, national recognition for this year's Shakespeare schools festival, and level 4 certificate from RHS.



Our theme this term has been 'People who help us' and has led to lots of new crafts, stories and activities. Next term we explore – the world around us – and include mini beasts as well.





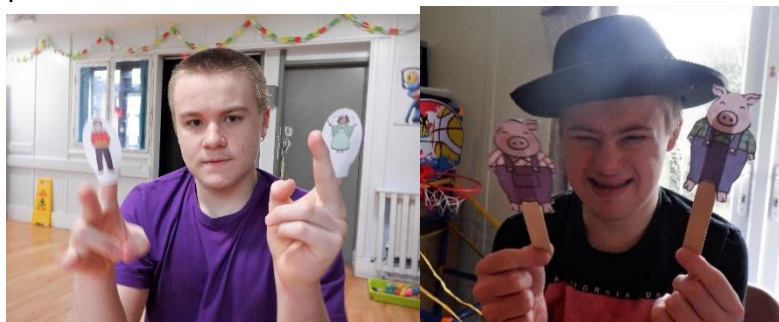
## Weekend Themes



Our Harry Potter themed weekend is a favourite, there is a love for the making of the potions and for the dressing up.



Themes of Spring and the Jungle have also allowed us to explore different animals and the world around us.



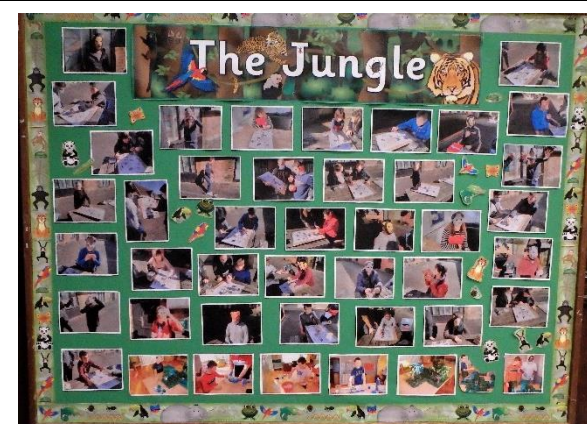
Cooler wintery weekends gave us plenty of time to explore the well-loved traditional stories from around the world.



I am delighted to announce that The Loddon School features in this year's edition of The Parliamentary Review.

We are extremely proud to have been asked to contribute to this journal and tell the country all about the way we do things differently with great results. If you wish to read the article you can find it on the web by following this link:

<https://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/the-loddon-school>



At the end of each weekend, we like to display all the fun we have had on our display boards in the entrance hall. Helping us all to remember what we have got up to. The three weekend boards rotate around so we can always recall what has happened in the last month. Our staff are so creative that we experience so many different themes.





New interest boards around our nature walk and horticultural areas.



Lockdown has meant that many people have had a clear out and we have benefitted from some lovely donations.



More in house sensory circuit equipment has been purchased.

## World Book Day



We followed the work of the Spanish artist Joan Miro; his work entitled The Garden and created a large story book with pictures the children slowly added as the story developed – ending in the full artwork. Then we created our own artwork in the style of Miro. Art and literacy work well.

## The work of our therapy team



Our therapists have remained active throughout lockdown managing as safely as they could to run sessions or teach the house staff how to run sessions which developed fine motor skills for example. Other therapists 'zoomed' in and yoga has become very popular with Sarah from her living room and our staff and children in theirs. So, we have experienced some 'on-line' learning. It is great to start to see more sessions running face to face even at a safe distance.

**A date for your diary: Sports Day and Staff Awards – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July.**



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