

October 2021

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## Returning to the community

After eighteen months of visiting outdoor parks, going on long country walks and bus rides we have at last been able to re-instate our favourite community leisure centres back into the timetable. Cycles4all, Atmosphere (the old Jump Factory) and Camp Mohawk are all up and running and we are now enjoying weekly trips for our children and young people to these leisure centres.

To re-introduce Atmosphere to all children we booked a private 2-hour session in September. The lights in the café were switched off, staff manned the exits and 24 of our students managed the short journey and a jump session. A handful of students stayed the full two hours. This was a wonderful occasion for both staff and children. A lovely feeling that things were starting to edge forward. The staff at the centre were so impressed with the engagement of the children and the tremendous encouragement support staff gave.





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## Our Arts Curriculum

We are back in full swing this term providing opportunities for theatre visits while also inviting in a theatre group. Two music events have taken place, African Drumming, and a specialist music for autism session.



We continue with our film making work and recently have created a film for The Schools Shakespeare Festival – we will release times for you to watch on the web as we are told nearer the time.



Lauren our Occupational therapist led a sensory day which explored new activities with the children and helps to train up our house staff at the same time. Each house has sensory circuits to start the day and a wealth of sensory equipment specially designed for each child to use throughout the day. Our aim is to make sure that every child is 'alertly calm' and ready to learn.

## Our Therapies

We are truly blessed with a great therapies team, comprised of Speech and Language, Occupational therapy, Play therapy, Yoga specialist, Aromatherapy, music therapy, Osteopath and psychologists.





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## Outdoor Learning

Many opportunities this term to learn outdoors with our timetabled work in Horticulture and Forest schools and in the Paddocks. We added some national special days – Apple Day – to celebrate the harvest of the English Apple.



We continue to use the nature trail for numeracy, PE, Story time and Environmental Phonics, listening and looking, and recording.



Daily walks in the school, the fields and local community have been plentiful during the good early autumn weather.



The new houses are providing good access to a courtyard and grassed area which has been a good place for learning. Numeracy when the sun is shining, allowing our students to be relaxed and therefore more willing to engage with learning tasks for extended periods of time.

“Pupils thrive at Loddon. They make exceptional progress in all aspects of their learning.”

“Pupils’ personal development is exemplary. Highly knowledgeable, multi-disciplinary teams make life-changing differences for pupils.”

“Staff have exemplary insight into the abilities of individual pupils. Assessment is outstanding, including the analysis of pupils’ unwanted or unsafe behaviours. There is nothing that leaders and staff do not think about or provide for pupils.”

*(Comments from Ofsted Report)*



The staff continue to be highly creative providing a rich curriculum which is interesting as well as teaching all the essential life skills and coping strategies our students need as they move into their adult lives. The polytunnel is producing a wide variety of salad and vegetable produce.



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Counting objects and matching numbers.



Science week – exploration using a Sensory Space tray.



Using numicom pieces our students are helped to change the abstract concept of number into a concrete shape allowing them to understand numbers better and transfer this learning to help with everyday tasks.

## Numeracy, Literacy and Science

Following the Early reading, writing and mathematics framework our students continue to enjoy and engage with a variety of learning activities which develop their communication skills, phonetics, explore books, develop mark making and writing skills, discover number properties and mathematics patterns and sequences. Staff are highly creative using a wide variety of resources to develop this learning.



Students learn to recognise numbers and to sort objects related to a particular number – very useful skill when shopping or following a recipe. Learning the shapes of numbers, placing them in order while also using fine motor skills to align puzzle pieces makes enjoying puzzles a great learning and skill development task.



During national science week the school joined in the event with a week of science exploration using a wide variety of resources. The room was dark one day while the students explored stars and shiny objects. Other days focused on the planets, the sun, and space travel. It was wonderful watching the students move around the library exploring the different stations. Many staying for extensive periods of time.

**Winter Concert is on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – one early evening performance for you to enjoy.**



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The Loddon School



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