

# The Christmas Season

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

This year we were able to enjoy a number of activities throughout the month of December. At the start of the month the Christmas lights were switched on. Many children also were able to go out for an evening drive to enjoy the many streets and houses decorated with lights. Our Christmas market was once again a great success, a lot warmer this year although a little wetter. A growing number of staff shared their crafting talents and provided many items for the children and staff to buy and enjoy. Santa arrived this year twice, with the garden centre opening especially one afternoon so our children could visit and then he also arrived at school bringing with him the Polar Express and allowing us all to enjoy the special Santa Grotto ship experience. We hope you all were able to watch the Winter concert film, which currently is still on the new web site home page if you have not.



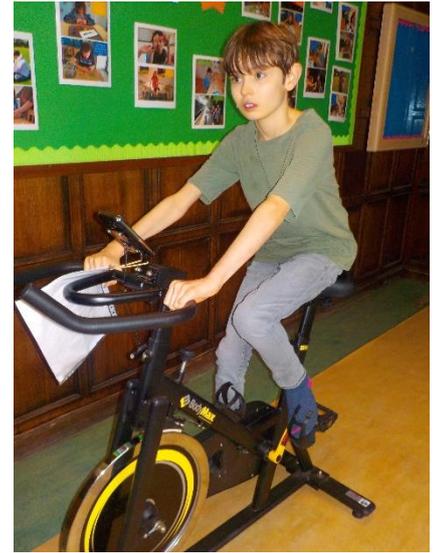
*We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing – George Bernard Shaw*

## Children in Need Day

Children in Need this year was focused on the Rickshaw ride throughout the length of the UK. We joined in with the ride using an exercise bike and cycling each day across the two weeks of the sponsored event. We also held a cake sale and enjoyed a lot of fun activities making a large Pudsey bear and other craftwork.

On the day of the event, we were delighted to host Radio Berkshire and to broadcast live from the library as the children pedalled away and got involved with many of our activities.

The breakfast show had a number of interviews with members of the team as we described our school, how we were getting involved and why it was important for our school to be part of these larger charity events. I am delighted to say we also raise over £400 for the Children in Need charity and thank you all for your support.



**BBC**  
RADIO  
BERKSHIRE



The therapies team are on the move in January and are relocating to Willow Green, which was Eagles house and now has been refurbished and we have a wonderful suite of rooms for our Therapies team and Welfare team. The massage and sensory room will be relocated over to this area leaving more rooms available for parent visits in the coming months.

## National Outdoor Learning Day

A regular national event we take part in is the Outdoor learning day which was on Bonfire Day so we included activities with a fireworks theme. Using different tools is also part of the Forest Schools curriculum.



## OT Week Developing Sensory Circuits



Highlighting the work of the Therapy team, while also building the skills of the house team to incorporate more sensory therapy work was our focus in November.



**“Children make exceptional progress at this school. This can be attributed to the high standard of care and education they receive which is underpinned by a philosophy and ethos that focus on understanding the needs and individuality of each child.”**

**Ofsted April 2021**



Lauren showcased a wide variety of sensory activities, some regularly used in houses and others new to staff helping them to use the OT based sensory work more throughout the waking day, further enriching the curriculum offered and continuing to build up staff skills.



## Weekend – the learning continues

Shapes, Gingerbread Houses, Winter, and pantomime have been some of the recent weekend themes. Plenty of craft activities, games and sensory play are key to a successful weekend of learning.



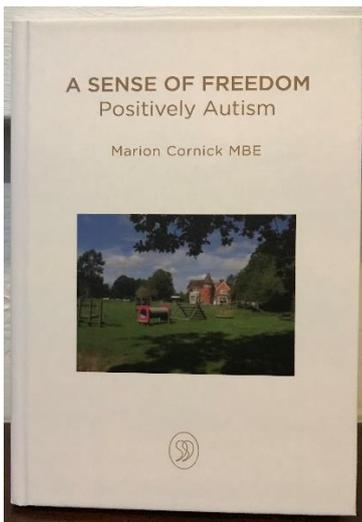
Our winter theme creatively used outdoor materials to make pictures.



Every weekend has a theme with a member of the teaching staff leading activities for all to have fun with, while re-enforcing learning.



Plenty of story time, painting of a large Gingerbread House and of course cooking took place just before Christmas as we picked up on the Gingerbread theme.



## Our Founder Marion Cornick MBE in print!

We are delighted to announce that an autobiography of the life and work of our founder Marion Cornick MBE is now in print. In chapter 8 'My Message, the present and the future' she writes this:

*"My message for any parent with a child with disabilities is to take it slowly and stay positive. Love them for who they are, not how they are."*

**Date for diary – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Family Barbeque and a morning of fun at Loddon Oaks Golf Club**



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The Loddon School



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