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A new era – return to ‘normal’

For two years I have read the Government daily bulletin to see what actions we must implement to keep us safe and in line with national regulations and guidance.

From 1st April we were told that all saliva testing was over and the lateral flow tests we received on 31st March would be our last. At school we are continuing to test while kits remain. Guidance now states that if you are feeling unwell and/or have flu symptoms you should remain at home until you feel well again. This is really how it has been throughout my life. COVID 19 has made us more aware about how germs spread, and I hope as a nation the high levels of personal social hygiene are maintained.

If you are visiting use lateral flow tests while you have them but once they have gone only visit if you are fit and well. If we all maintain high levels of preventive practice, we should all keep healthy.



Our term packed full of learning, new experiences, and opportunities

Experiencing the Arts



Once again we have been very busy being creative. We have entered three national competitions:

- Dance – video clip on Facebook.
- E-Scapes a film which shows imaginary story developed with a number of the young people.
- A film showing the creation of our outdoor art installation shown in the photo.

We had a lovely Peter Pan week which drew together our Fantasy and Adventure theme for this term. Lis'nTell story session which involved the pirate scenes in Peter Pan, the creation of a giant crocodile which used up many of our collection of egg boxes, a fairy hunt around the leisure barn and a sensory interactive story time.

IMPORTANT

On Picnic Day, please collect a gift, a wonderful painting from your child which has been framed.

All colours and compositions are the children's own work and celebrates their individual expressive and creative energy.

On Monday 2nd May we have our annual '**Parent Picnic Day**' which is now a barbeque so no need to come loaded with food, school will provide the Barbeque. **12.30pm – 3.30pm** we will have a barbeque in the grounds, with a large obstacle course inflatable, a chance to visit our new therapies centre in Willow Green, new sensory room and shop. A chance to tour the grounds and visit the animals. The ice cream van arrives at the end of the afternoon.

In additional to this session our partnership with **Sherfield Oaks Golf club** means that we are offering a sports session for family children (and parents) to relax together meeting up with our other families who are parents in the school. **The club is offering archery, boccia and golf skills. The coffee shop will be open** as well if you just wish to chat with other parents before joining your child at school. I have also asked if any golf playing adults might be able to play nine holes – I would hope to join in myself. The

Family Days

session for families would be from **11am – 12.30pm** before going on to school for the barbeque.

Please can you let the main office know:

- If you are coming to the barbeque and how many so we can cater appropriately.
- If you would like to join the 11am sports/café session for families at Sherfield Oaks. Numbers (and ages of children) who would like to take part in sports or who wish to join us in the café.



Out and about again.



What really makes it feel 'normal' again is being able to get out and about in our community and local region. We have had plenty of walks during lockdown but we have continued to explore new areas. Recently we visited the New Forest again. We have a new link with Oxford Quins rugby club and we enjoy rugby skills and a cycling session there.



Pub trips are back in our sequence of trips. Camp Mohawk with its indoor sensory rooms and the outdoor play and adventure playgrounds adds well to our week.



A weekly visit to Atmosphere is on the timetable for a number of our young people who visit during the quieter moments of the school day. Shopping is now once again on the timetable linked to shopping, list writing and preparing a meal with the ingredients purchased. We also visit Cycles 4 All weekly, Active Life and the gym session in Basingstoke is now available. We have also been able to take a number of our young people on train trips which they have loved.



"Congratulations to The Loddon School on the release of their outstanding new Shakespeare adaptation. It's a delight to be offering my sincerest congratulations to The Loddon School for your brilliant, filmed version of The Merchant of Venice. I was so impressed with the passion, hard work and ambition that shone through every frame of your film"

**Shakespeare Schools' Foundation
March 2022**



Taking part in an interactive story time.



Linking up with national special events.

It is so important to our school that we keep our young people fully immersed in the world beyond school, we therefore make sure we link up with as many national events and special days.



National Outdoor Learning Day, and Apple Day enable us to use all our wonderful facilities and show others all that our students can achieve. Story telling week linked in with World Book week and we were able to have a different story every day, as well as just sit quietly and share a book with others.



We were pleased to link up with a national group for Autism Awareness week who created us some great t-shirts and a number of companies wore Loddon branded t-shirts on Autism Awareness Day. Red Nose Day was great fun with a host of fun activities being enjoyed by all the houses. I even wore a red nose head band to assembly. Science week followed the theme of change, and the children explored the life cycle of a frog.



Monday 2nd May – Parents Picnic Day – Barbeque, 12.30-3.30pm, let us know if you are attending.



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