

## Outstanding in Care and Education

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

Inspections are always tough but in this present climate it is hard to maintain such high standards, but here we have. Ofsted was praiseworthy of all we do and especially our ethos and approach. "Pupils thrive emotionally, socially, and academically here. Relationships between staff and pupils are extremely kind and caring." "Leaders have created a highly nurturing and safe environment. Leaders have high expectations." "Right from the moment they walk through the school gates, pupils embark on an extraordinary journey of achievements. This results in exceptional accomplishments in all areas of their lives". Well done to the whole team for creating such a wonderful school that can be described by inspectors in this way. We truly believe in all that we do, ensuring that every child does have a life changing experience, preparing them well for their next steps into adulthood.



*'Staff simply work miracles ' Ofsted Nov 2022*



## Christmas Events

At the end of November, it was that special time of year for our Christmas market which we were also able to open to parents – we will invite you again next year. We started December with the switching on of our tree lights in the centre of school, followed shortly after by our Winter concert – A Blast from the Past. Lovely to be able to invite visitors back into school for this event once again. Christmas Jumper day and a delicious Christmas lunch followed in the next week. Santa Day was a great success with our Santa's Grotto and a ride on the Polar Express. Ice on the line did slow travel a little but Howard battled through. It was definitely, 'in the bleak mid-winter' for our Live Nativity – the coldest musicians have ever played a 'gig' but even with frozen fingers we sang out and then enjoyed mince pies. We have been blessed by many gifts of chocolates, biscuits, cakes and goodies and we thank you all for your kindness to us all at Loddon.



## Our Founder celebrates

We marked a stage in our Founder Marion Cornick's MBE career and are allowing her a little more of retirement giving her 'Founder status', this role allows Marion to enjoy all that we do at Loddon – without all the jobs. We have given her 'Freedom of the Foundation' and this is in full recognition of all that she has done to create an amazing world for so many. Marion had the vision for Loddon, she saw the need to bring about a new way of working, to go 'beyond the sacred classroom' and to give back to children with severe autism and complex learning difficulties - dignity, quality of life, and a place which they could grow and thrive in, as they prepare for adulthood. The impact she has had on so many young lives and those of their families is truly amazing, beyond belief, and perhaps much greater than she ever imagined back in 1988. Marion's work has spread across Britain and now stretches out globally. The small ripple she made originally in 1988 is now a tsunami of change.





## Awards



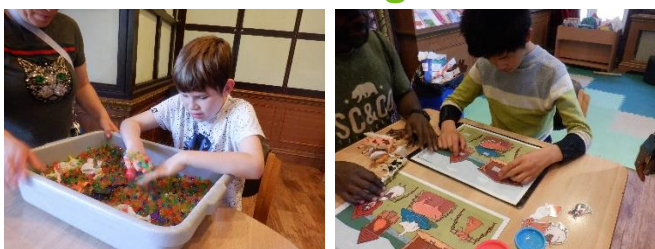
**Unique Art Awards** are funded by the Mouth and Foot Painting Trust Fund. The Unique Art Awards is an Art Competition for disabled children between the ages of 7 - 21 years old nationally. We won first prize for our film and third prize for our art installation.



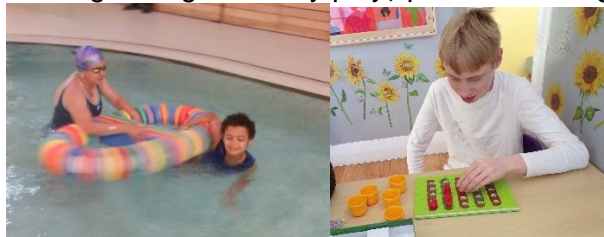
**Shakespeare Schools Festival** we entered again this year, and you can find our film on the SSF web site:

<https://www.shakespeareschoolsfilmfestival.org/films/the-loddon-school>

## A wealth of learning



Learning through sensory play, problem solving,



plenty of physical exercise on and off site, turn-taking, and sequences are some of our learning activities that make up the Loddon day and weekend.



Horse riding is enjoyed throughout the week by a wide variety of our students, building balance and core strength, as well as following instructions.

## We have a work experience programme.



Delivering the local parish magazine.



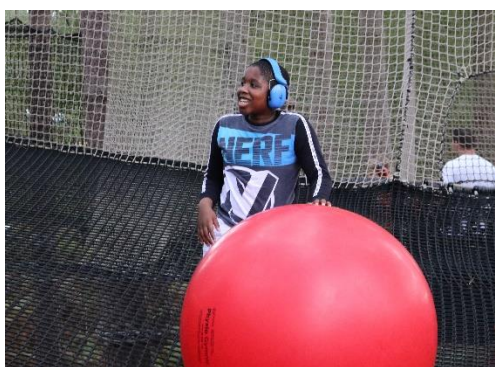
We invited into school **@Reptiles etc** a company that provides reptiles for film work but also workshops for schools. Snakes, giant snails, rats, gecko and hedgehog.







Whole school trip to Go Ape was a new venture for Loddon and great fun.



The netted area 2 metres in the trees offered a safe space for our students (and staff) to gain the thrill of being amongst the trees, looking at the world from a very different viewpoint. We definitely will return again to Moors Valley Country Park to Go Ape!

## Community activities



Pumpkins a local farm who grow sunflowers and pumpkins held a pumpkin festival this year and invited local companies and services to create a scarecrow. When we visited before Halloween to collect pumpkins, we found our scarecrow!



Eagles house visited Aldershot dry ski slope and enjoyed a morning whizzing down the slope in large donuts. They followed all this exercise with a picnic. This was a great experience both learning lots of new skills and working together as a team especially when you needed to drag your donut up the slope.



Loddon Staff and Students wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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The Loddon School



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