



LOXLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr James Connolly



PEAK EDGE
ACADEMY TRUST

Rodney Hill
Loxley
SHEFFIELD
S6 6SG
Tel: 0114 2344510
enquiries@loxley.sheffield.sch.uk
www.loxleyprimaryschool.com

Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,
Happy New Year!

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year...although it does seem a little while ago now! With the dark mornings and cold, wet and windy weather, it's so lovely to look around school and see such fantastic learning, smiley faces and enthusiastic staff!

What's been happening in school?!

Y4 – The Birch Class



This morning, Year 4 braved the wind, rain and mud (!) to plant a new woodland at Loxley Recreation Ground. It was cold and soggy but the children were absolute troopers – they planted 350 trees and in record time! We had a fantastic time but were glad to get back to the warmth of school in time for lunch. The children behaved wonderfully and were a credit to our school.





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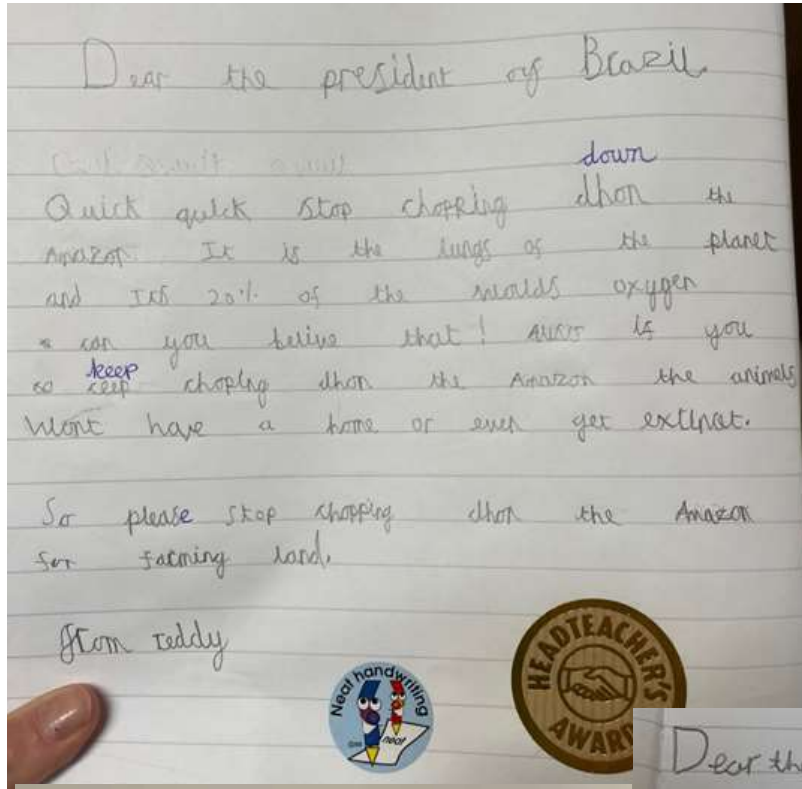
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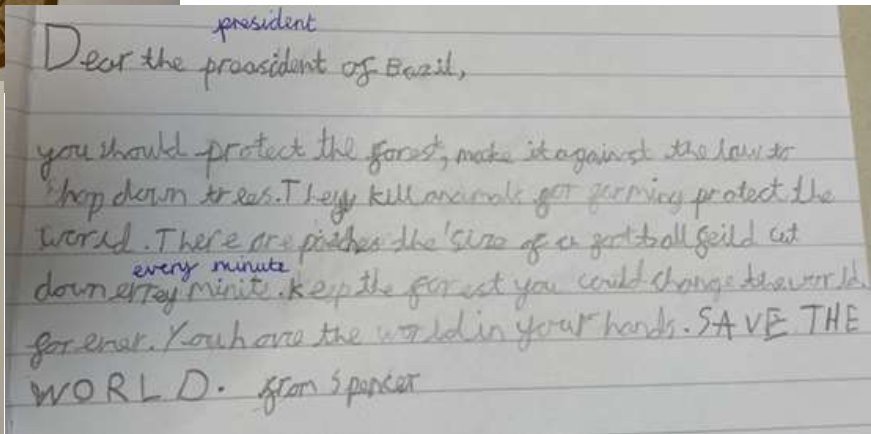
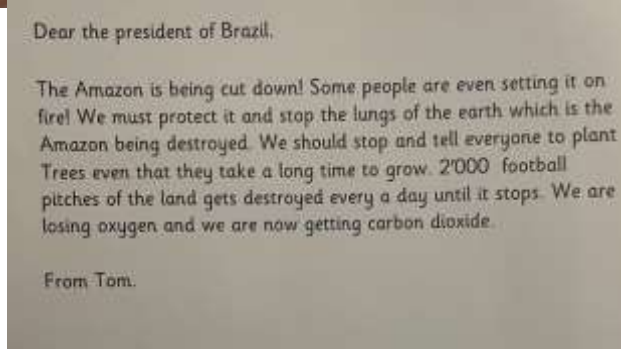
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Y3 – The Sycamore Class – Writing, Weaving and Watering



It has been all about the Amazon Rainforest in Year 3! They've had a tremendous time learning about the rainforest in their geography lessons and the different species of fauna and flora that live there along with native tribes. In their final lesson, the children have focussed on why the Amazon Rainforest is important and they were shocked to find out that the previous president of Brazil had decided to change laws protecting the habitat of thousands of animal species. Looking at both sides of the argument, the children decided on what **they** wanted for the future of the Amazon to look like and they wrote some strongly worded and persuasive letters to the president to share their views.





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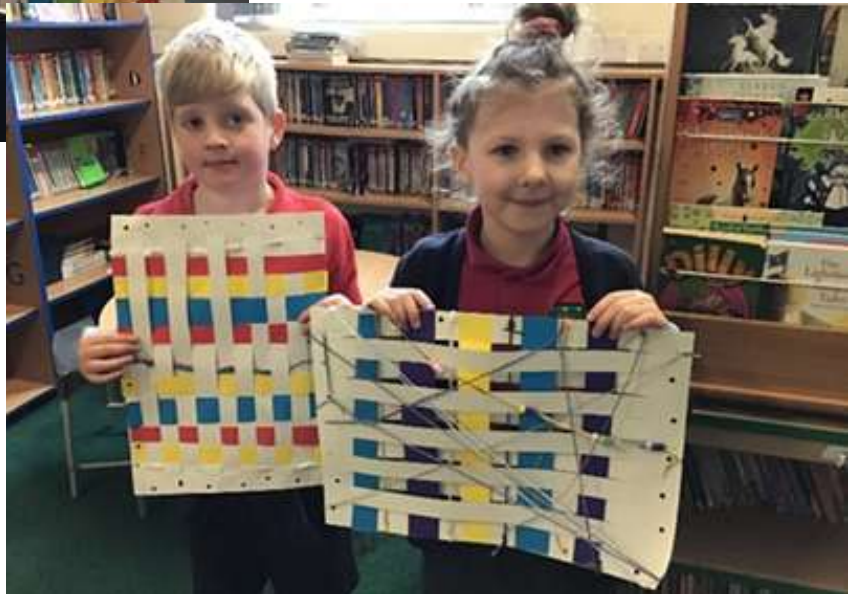


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In Art, the Y4s have also been looking at artwork based around the Amazon Rainforest. They have listened to some native music and the sounds of the rainforest, noticing it was a very lively place. Studying the artist, Michael Brennan-Wood, the children looked at how art can be busy too using lots of mixed media. Brennan-Wood uses lots of weaving techniques in his artwork so we decided to try this technique out to make some of our own. Do you like our weaving artwork? Some of us even managed to plait and braid!





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Studying flora from the Amazon Rainforest with Mrs Thornhill, the children have discussed different plants that live there and they have created careful observational drawings labelling the different parts of the orchid plant.

They also had great fun looking at the functions of the stem of a plant - investigating what happens when food colouring is added to the water and why the flowers change colour.





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Reception Nativity

Stable Surprise



The Reception children went over and above with their Nativity performance of 'A Stable Surprise'. It was a delight to see so many smiles around the hall; children, parents and staff! Thank you to Riley and Nia in Y5 for narrating the story – they spoke loudly, clearly and confidently.



The most difficult task of all was choosing which photos to put in the newsletter!



Loxley Primary School is part of Peak Edge, which is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England with company number 11650747.



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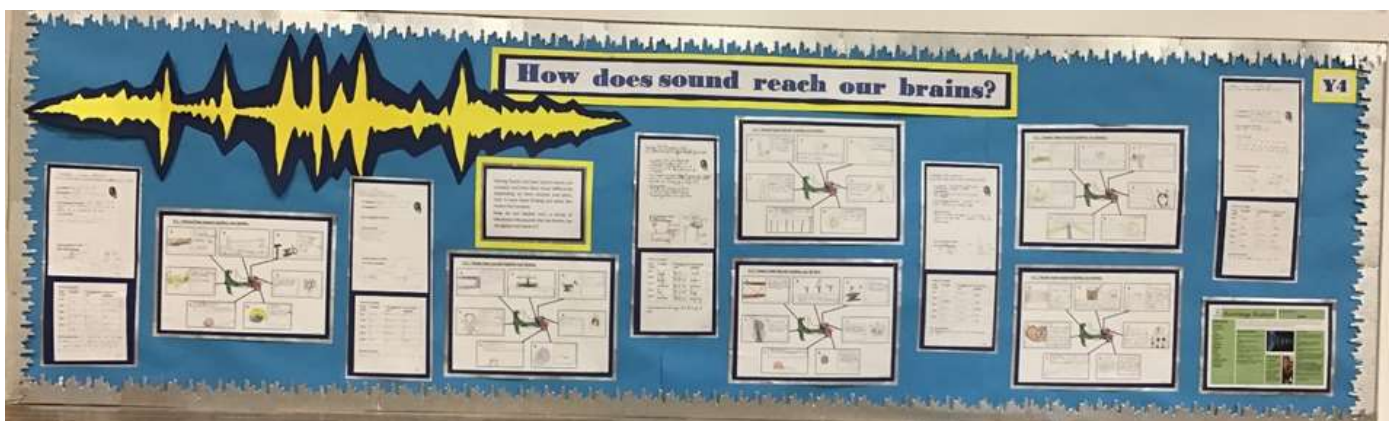
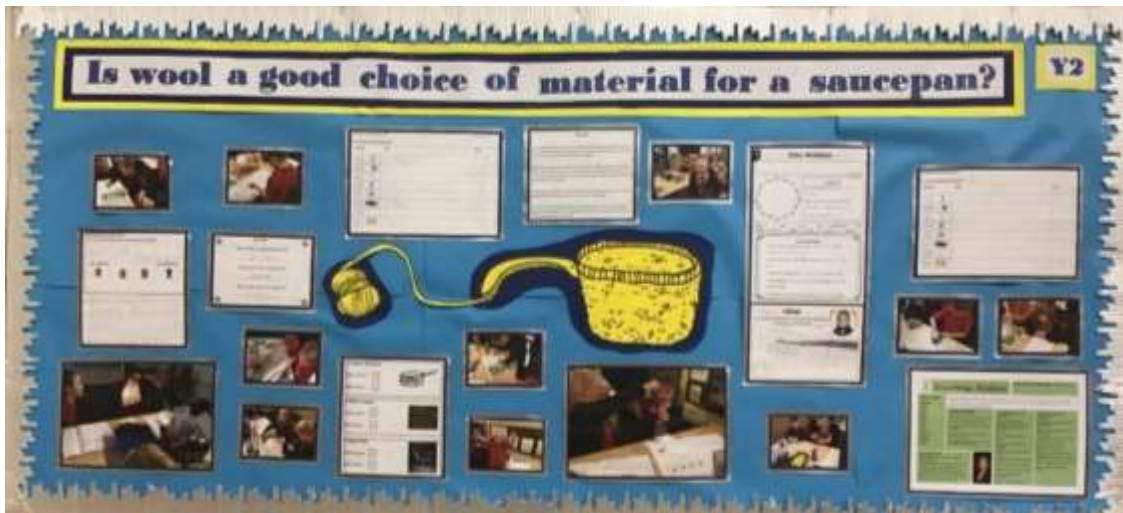
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Science Display Boards



Our display boards surrounding the hall are looking amazing! All the staff, and particularly Mrs Torrington, have been busy bees this week selecting science work and photos to put on the their class display. The boards all begin with an enquiry question title. The Y2 question is a funny one; "Is wool a good choice of material for a saucepan?". The Y2s have been finding about the properties of materials and their work started with a look at Michael Rosen's poem; 'Woolly Saucepan'.





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Y1 – The Oak Class



As part of the computing curriculum, the Y1 children have been working together in groups to program Beebots. They have been learning about how to instruct the Beebot and that these instructions are called algorithms. The Y1s have been learning about directions too such as left, right, forwards and back in order to be able to direct the Beebot around an island.

Bikes and Scooters

Please remember that any bikes and scooters brought into school should have an adequate lock to secure them in the bike shed.

Attendance

Following new national guidelines for schools, we are now working more closely with families of children with lower attendance and have tightened up rules on holiday requests in term time. Please remember that applications for exceptional leave should only be for events which are exceptional circumstances. Examples of this could be the day of the wedding or funeral of a close family member. Requests for holidays during term time are now rarely authorised when following the new policy. Under the policy, it is now our responsibility as a school to request the authority to issue fines for leave which does not fall within the criteria of the Attendance and Absence Policy. Please see our website for further details.

<https://loxleyprimaryschool.com/policies-and-documents>

We understand that there are legitimate reasons for absence but ranges for the categories below indicate the impact on learning of different levels of attendance;

- Excellent - 97% and above
- Satisfactory - 95-96.9%
- Becoming a concern - 90-94.9%
- Concerning – Below 90% (This is the national threshold for persistent absence.)





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Adverse weather

Just a reminder that as we are in the season of potential snow falls, if we need to make an announcement regarding late opening, early pick-ups or (as a last resort) school closures, we will do so via sQuid text/email or our Facebook page.

Forthcoming events:

Year 4 Swimming starts – Monday 6th February

Year 1 Conisburgh Castle – Tuesday 24th January

Year 5 – National Space Centre – Monday 23rd January

Reception, Y1 and Y2 Parents – Please Help!

The school census will take place **Thursday 19th January 2023** and will be completed by Mrs Capper in the school office. On census days we hope to encourage a higher proportion of children to have a school dinner. Here's why:

The important figure on census day is for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) which children get, regardless of household income (ie. all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). If, for instance, we have five children from these years off sick on Thursday then our funding will be reduced by five pupils' worth of meals! You may think this seems very unfair but unfortunately this is how funding is allocated nationally.

We receive funding for children who qualify for free school meals regardless of whether they are in school on census day, and whether or not they have a school meal so their numbers remain unaffected.

In 2021/22 the amount allocated to us from the government was £2.34 per pupil per day, while we were charged £2.50 per meal by our catering company. Therefore, a decrease in numbers of dinners on census day (eg. through absence or having packed lunch) then directly affects our funding for the rest of the year; this is why we often have "special" menus on census days in order to encourage more children to have a school meal.

If your child could have a school meal on census day we would be very grateful as it helps our school have more money to provide for the needs of all children in school.





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20mph Speed Limit

Just before Christmas, near the school, a black 4x4 was driving extremely fast and appeared out of nowhere. A child has to be pulled back from the curb in a near miss. The parent of the child has asked for a reminder to go out to parents that the speed limit is 20mph around school. Please could everyone be mindful of the reason for the speed limit when driving past school.



Kind regards

James Connolly and Margaret Helliwell

