



Evolution Academy Trust
Progress through Partnership

Spring 2022

Welcome from our CEO

Welcome to our first Trust newsletter.

It is uplifting to recognise the fantastic staff we have across our Trust and to see the opportunities for wider learning for pupils across the trust emerging again. All our schools found creative ways to ensure pupils continued to have engagement with community events and wider curriculum events, but it is wonderful to see the full and varied life of a school back in action. We know that the last 2 years have taken their toll and we continue to be overwhelmed by the dedication, resilience and energy of staff and pupils from across the trust and the sample of staff collaboration and children's learning in this newsletter today is a testament to this work.

Thank you again to all pupils, staff and parents for your hard work, commitment and support for our schools.

Lynsey Holzer

CEO

Evolution Academy Trust



Social Media

Follow us...

twitter 

All of our schools have individual websites with a range of useful information on, but we are also working hard to have other social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram. We currently have all schools on Twitter too – do Follow us:

@EvolutionTrust
@PoplarsSchools
@Eaton_Primary
@Costesseyprima1
@Bignoldprimary
@AngelRoadJnr
@AngelRoadInfant
@wensumJunior
@NelsonInfants
@PrimaryElmTree
@ColdfairS
@PrimaryDell
@FilbySchool

Did you know that we have 12 schools in our Multi-Academy Trust? – see our website for more information:

<https://www.evolutionacademytrust.org.uk/>

Thank you to our staff

It has been a really positive but challenging half-term for all of our schools. Our Headteachers, school leaders, teachers, support staff and central team have all worked incredibly hard to try and resume some pre Covid-19 normality. However, the reality has been that the virus is still impacting all that we do in schools and local communities. On behalf of all of us at Evolution Academy Trust, we would like to say a special thank you to each and every staff member across our Trust. Without their hard-work, commitment and support, our children would not be able to thrive at school.

Welcome to our new Headteachers

I am delighted to introduce three of our new Headteachers. Steve McLean (left) has been working with Poplars Primary School over recent weeks and ensuring a strong handover with Ali England– we all wish Ali the very best in her retirement and thank her for all she has done at Poplars. Steve brings previous headship experience and an absolute commitment to improving the lives of children. Anna Catlin (centre) has an abundance of energy and passion and benefits from already working at Nelson Infant School in senior roles, as she now formally takes the reigns as Headteacher after Easter. Finally, we are delighted to introduce Debbie Henderson (right) who brings six years' experience as a Headteacher and cannot wait to start working with the Angel Road staff team, children and local community. A warm welcome to our Headteachers and other colleagues who have recently been appointed across our schools.



Steve McLean



Anna Catlin



Debbie Henderson

Staff well-being and resilience

All of us take well-being of our staff very seriously and leaders at all levels work hard to ensure this. We are about to launch our **biggest ever** staff survey to gather the views of all staff and we look forward to responding and sharing in due course. We are also very excited to be launching 2-day Mental Health First Aid training for staff centrally and in all schools on the **25th and 26th May 2022**. These colleagues will then represent our Trust well-being group.

School pages – please look at the following pages to see what children have been doing across our Trust as a result of the hard work from our adults...

THANK
you for
THE FANTASTIC
job you do
EVERY DAY.

Staff updates

- **Trust Networks** - thank you to our Headteacher groups, EYFS, SENDCO, Maths and English Leads for their collaboration over recent months. The power of these leaders from 12 schools coming together is incredible and we are grateful for all of their work.
- **Early career Teachers** (ECTs) are newly qualified teachers who have just entered the profession. We are very excited to be hosting our first ever ECT conference on the 8th June 2022.
- **Staff development** – Developing our people is a priority for us! From schools specific CPD, National College training, NPQs to Apprenticeships and secondments – do get involved!



Angel Road Infant

World Book Day



We welcomed families back into school this half term for World Book Day to promote reading for pleasure at home. Families enjoyed a light breakfast and shared books together before sitting down to listen to top tips on listening to children read. We are keen to increase the frequency of reading at home so we used this as an opportunity to introduce our new reading record books and showed families how to complete them. In Nursery, our focus was around parental involvement. We gave out free book bags and discussed how to choose and share books with your child at home.



Angel Road Junior

Enrichment Opportunities



After the restrictions of Covid, we have been so excited to be able to enrich our curriculum again with a wide range of visits and visitors. We really value this as a way to bring the curriculum to life, to broaden our children's experiences, to engage them in the learning and to deepen their understanding. There has been such a variety.

Year 6 worked with a Norwich based graffiti artist and used the techniques to create their own original pieces of graffiti artwork. They also had the opportunity to fire questions at our local MP, Chloe Smith who was impressed with the depth and range of their knowledge and ideas.

Year 4 visited City Hall and had the opportunity to meet the Lord Mayor, ask him questions about the democratic process and watch the Commonwealth flag being raised.



Year 5 visited St Peter Mancroft church in the city centre whilst the Gaia exhibition was on and listened to the presentation about space and the planets. They have also been using the local area to do initial sketches of cityscapes which will feed into their art project on comparing and contrasting landscapes.

Year 3 have re-established our close link with the local church and have made several visits to enhance their RE knowledge and to work with members of the church community.

Bignold Primary

Aspiring our young people

At Bignold we believe that every child should have aspirations and the opportunity to find out about the world beyond the classroom. This has been limited by COVID-19 restrictions but as the world slowly becomes more open we are embracing every opportunity we can! This term in Year 5 & 6, we have worked in collaboration with UEA and Norwich City College to promote a range of different jobs and careers. Our pupils have had the opportunity to interview different professionals to find out about their education, career paths and ambitions. These have included careers in banking, architecture and television production.

In our school, we believe in the importance of pupil voice. There are many opportunities for children across the school to achieve this. We have a Sports Council, Play Leaders, Library Squad, Science Ambassadors and Team Captains. The children involved in these roles take on extra responsibilities including leading assemblies and working collaboratively on projects which will improve our school and hopefully the wider world.

A recent example of this was in response to the conflict in Ukraine, one of Year 5 pupils wanted to do something to help. Working with school leaders she discussed her proposal, then went home and created a plan, communicated this to all pupils in an assembly and wrote a letter to parents. The fundraising was an amazing success with the school raising nearly triple the amount of money normally raised. We feel that involvement of pupil leadership helped contribute to this success.



Coldfair Green Primary

Community, Aspiration and Resilience in action



These are our three curriculum drivers at Coldfair Green Primary School and pupils were able to demonstrate how important all three are, when participating in the recent Britten Pears Arts Event at the world-famous Snape Maltings.

Pupils from Class 6, prepared the song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams, to perform at this amazing venue. They also attended workshops with other schools and professional musicians on the afternoon of the event. This culminated in two fantastic performances on the night, in the concert hall in front of an audience of over 800 people! It was an amazing opportunity and the children made us so proud. Truly awe and wonder!



After a challenging time of not being able to plan educational visits or invite visitors into school to inspire us, this term is especially exciting as we can plan these important things once again. As well as the event mentioned above, so far this term, pupils have already: participated in public speaking competitions, poetry recitals, learned about may pole dancing in readiness for a jubilee event, formed a link with a school in Zambia, met a therapy dog, played quidditch, made a whole school mosaic, planned a residential, a sailing trip, prepared an interactive art exhibit for the upcoming Leiston Spring Festival and

won a tag rugby tournament (to name just a few!) and this is with only 143 pupils!



We are so excited to be able to give pupils all of these enrichment activities and make them central to our Coldfair Green curriculum.



Costessey Primary

The importance of breakfast



At Costessey we are always looking at ways in which we can support our families which in turn will support our children to be the very best they can be. We have recognised that approximately 20% of our children come to school every morning without having breakfast. It is proven that breakfast consumption in children has been found to:

- Improve cognitive function, particularly memory, attention, and executive function
- Improve academic performance, including school grades and achievement test scores
- Increase on-task behaviour in the class



We have teamed up with the National Breakfast Programme to make a pledge to provide all 600 of our children the opportunity to have a free breakfast on their way into school. Each morning, our children are greeted on the gate by a member of the senior leadership team and they are offered a bagel. We have offered this for the last 6 weeks and we can already see the impact! We have seen a decline in the number of children who are late for school and our attendance has improved. One child told us 'I love the bagels, they are



delicious and they help me focus in class!'.

This initiative demonstrates our desire to break all barriers to the children of Costessey being the very best they can be! Now we are looking what else we can add to our offer to support all families and all children.



Dell Primary

Leadership



At Dell we whole-heartedly value the work of our pupil leaders; moulding leaders of the future, ready for work, ready for the world. We believe in a pupil led culture where children take on key leadership roles to have their voices heard and make whole school decisions; in collaboration with our whole school community. In addition, an integral part of our curriculum development is through feedback from our subject specific pupil leadership teams. All leadership teams have had support from adults and are now independently leading initiatives and having impact across the school. Here's a flavour of some of the things our wonderful children have been doing...

Core Value ambassadors have been planning and delivering our whole school celebration assembly, including the organisation of rewards, through pupil voting. Health and Safety and Play leaders have conducted numerous site surveys, to ensure our school is safe and secure and alert adults to potential hazards. They have also been instrumental in the development of our outdoor provision. Dell News Editors are busy researching and writing this term's newspaper and the Dell Radio DJ's have streamed a live segment into the dining hall for children to catch up with school news and enjoy some music whilst eating lunch. Eco-Warriors have been litter picking, writing a persuasive letter to governors for plants in school – the benefits are endless! As well as, designing bird feeders and being very vocal in their encouragement to recycle. Amazing work!

Next term pupil leadership teams will begin to interview and recruit new leaders ready to expand the teams further. Exciting!



Eaton Primary

Science Week

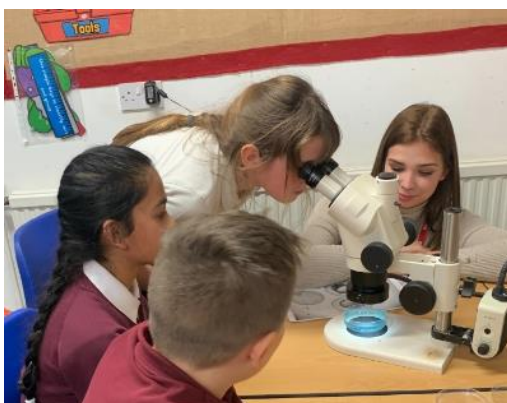


At Eaton we are keen to develop enquiring minds through high quality experiences. By providing opportunities for children to question, experiment and discuss their findings with their peers, we aim to develop curious learners who enjoy school.



During Science Week, Reception classes made mini greenhouses in plastic gloves and were challenged with taking care of the seeds they had planted, and observing what changed over the course of the week. In year 1, our children were investigating changes which happen to the human body as we grow older. In year 2, the children imagined what life is like for Gentoo penguins and used tweezers and pegs, acting as beaks, to build a nest made of natural resources which could withstand wind and rain.

Year 3 investigated the impact of diet and exercise on the growth of human bodies. They worked in teams to create their own outdoor exercise classes. Year 4 investigated the micro-habitats which can be found around existing living things. Year 5 were curious about adaptation, and applied this knowledge when designing creatures which were well-adapted to survive on Mars. In year 6, the children investigated the role of amino acids and protein in the body. They explored amino acid sequences and had a go at building their own microscopic protein machines.



A professor of genetics and reproduction, and her team, visited year 6 and conducted a fascinating workshop about the research they conduct on zebra fish in relation to their reproduction, adaptation and genetics. During this session, the children compared fertilised and unfertilised embryos under microscopes, observed live zebrafish, explored the skull adaptations of different animals and heard first-hand what life is like as a scientist!

Science week has given our children the opportunity to awaken their scientific minds and we are so proud of the engagement, interest and curiosity they have shown.

Elm Tree Primary

Projects



Elm Tree Primary School works as a family, a team, a community. Every child is an individual, every voice is valued and every classroom is inclusive. Our children are given opportunities to make decisions about projects to support the community, charities to raise awareness of, and crucially their learning and their well-being.



We are delighted that our school Charities Committee, Reading Ambassadors, Prefects and Pastoral Pupil Forum have been able to meet to discuss the issues which matter to them. We have learnt that they would like a forum to discuss our curriculum and so we look forward to our inaugural Junior Leadership Team meeting, which aims to bring our committees together and to broaden our children's responsibilities further.

This term, our Community Projects have included: awareness of environmental issues, support for the East Anglian Children's Hospice, eco-warriors, animal welfare and work on fund-raising for a local defibrillator. Community Project days are valued and eagerly anticipated by both adults and children. The children are responsible for the direction they take and the methods used to raise awareness of the causes they choose to support. Borne out of the pandemic and the concern for mental well-being, these projects have become a vital aspect of the personal development of our young people.

Our newly revamped PSHE, including the RSE curriculum, is something the children talk animatedly about. We are thrilled with the positive impact the work on respect, diversity and relationships is having on the social and moral growth of the children. They have come together after a challenging period and are learning to empathise and support each other as a community.

We believe that it is essential to build these life skills, whilst striving to develop the critical and creative thinking skills that will transform our children into life-long learners.



Filby Primary

Art



At Filby we have been working hard on the quality of learning in Art and Design. Our children have used a variety of techniques and skills, the most recent of which has been 'digital art' where an image taken with a camera is used as the base image for the artwork.

In these examples you can see the sequence of progression through our school. Starting with the mixing of primary colours in our Reception class to produce 'spring-like' pastel colours, through to using basic collage techniques, creating characters linked to Greek mythology in Key Stage Two, onto using graphite pencils to alter an image and create decoupage for our eldest children.



We are incredibly proud of our children's work and as you can see we really are educating the artists of the future!

Nelson Infant

Ukraine Crisis



At Nelson, we have been thinking about the humanitarian crisis that Ukrainian families are going through at the moment. We wondered if we could do something in school to show solidarity and help give any children who are hearing about what's going on some clarity on the situation.



Led by Becky Edwards, our new Cultural Capital lead, we ran a creative fund-raising day on Friday 11th March and raised £309 for the appeal! Several children shared that they had paid directly out of their own pocket money, representing one of our key values of kindness. The children made sunflowers and hearts to respect the Ukrainian's national flower and colours, which can now be spotted all around the school site. Children planted sunflower seeds in their forest school sessions, and donated money for the appeal to come dressed in blues and yellows. Have a look at our beautiful and thoughtful creations!

Poplars Primary

Going Green



At Poplars, we are developing the next generation of environmental leaders. Our Eco-Committee was formed this year, and we have one representative from each class.

Our pupils have helped to protect the environment in a number of ways. They have:

- Planted daffodil bulbs for Lowestoft in Bloom at a local allotment;
- Reviewed current practices in the school, focusing on energy and water use, biodiversity, litter and the school grounds;
- Written to the headteacher, requesting recycling bins for all classrooms; and
- Suggested how to improve the school grounds through growing flowers and vegetables.

The pupils are keen to become more involved in decision making that affects our carbon footprint, sustainability and eco-friendliness.



Wensum Junior

School Trips



How Hill Visit

At How Hill we did lots of different activities. We did dyke dipping, orienteering and pond dipping. We were looking for the different deer hoof prints and we saw lots of deer poo! We also had lunch in the wooden classroom.

We had to follow our leader, as they knew what we were meant to do and where to go. We had lots of fun there. I really enjoyed bird watching on the broads. Our leader showed us how deep the mud was on each side of the pathway. It was really deep and as she pulled out the long stick, it felt like it was never going to stop! The mud level was taller than all of us and the adults. Our leader said that it would be deeper but she couldn't find a long enough stick! I was so surprised that it was deeper!

By Emily Mann in Phoenix class



Space Centre Visit

I really enjoyed going to the space centre. When I woke up I felt tired and excited at the same time.

The building looked like a giant pickle made out of bubble wrap but if you looked close up from outside you could see the rocket inside. But what I loved most was the planetarium but sadly our chairs didn't lean back! The whole ceiling was a giant screen and I felt like I was in space! My second favourite thing was going in the space capsule replica, it was awesome.

By Leo Ferguson in Sphinx Class

Thank you



Hi everyone!

I hope that like me you have enjoyed reading about all the fantastic work which has been going on across our schools, in this new-style Evolution Academy Trust (EAT) newsletter.

After such an extended and unprecedented period of disruption for our children, our schools, and the community at large it is lovely to see the beginning of a return to normality for the children and their education. Their resilience never ceases to amaze and witnessing this, as well as seeing some of the creative activity underway over the past few months, inspires us at EAT and reminds us once again why we are here.

On behalf of trustees, I would like to recognise the dedication, commitment, and hard work from EAT staff across all our schools as well as those in the central team. To parents and carers, I hope that your children are settling in well to a normal school life and enjoying their time with friends and teachers.

We are an ambitious trust and will continue to strive to do the best for the children, to make their time with us productive, rewarding, and enjoyable. We look forward to bringing you more news in summer edition of the newsletter.

Wishing you all the very best for a happy Easter break.

Drew

Drew Whitehead
Chair of Trustees

