



Summer 2022

Welcome from our CEO



Welcome to our end of year newsletter!

When you read the stories of opportunity for our children represented throughout this newsletter, it is clear to see that whilst our schools are diverse in location, curriculum and communities they serve, they are also unified in a strong ethos of providing a breadth of activities and opportunities for the pupils in our care. Our schools do not just provide a strong curriculum in maths and English, but create learning opportunities in the things that matter to children, communities and our society. I know that the opportunities mentioned are a small part of the whole offering at the schools and I want to personally thank every member of staff for making these possible and for providing this rich and broad curriculum which is central to our beliefs across the trust.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank Elm Tree for hosting the first trust wide sporting event. It was brilliantly organised and a real celebration of cooperation and sportsmanship – a highlight of this term and hopefully the start of many trust-wide celebration events.

We also celebrate the work at the teams at Dell and Bignold. It was powerful to see the hard work and dedication of the whole staff teams recognised in both recent 'Good' OFSTED inspections, and uplifting to see the happy and high achieving communities that both schools have become. Well done Dell Primary and Bignold Primary schools.

Thank you again to all pupils, staff and parents for your hard work, commitment and support for our schools and enjoy the Summer!

Lynsey Holzer - CEO

Evolution Academy Trust



Social Media

Follow us...



We share so much more on social media pages. We currently have all schools on Twitter too – do Follow and share our posts:

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

Did you know that we are a primary specialist Multi-Academy Trust? – see our website for more information:

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



Well done to Dell Primary School

A massive well done to everyone at Dell Primary school who recently achieved a 'GOOD' in all areas following an Ofsted inspection. This was a great achievement for all, as the school was previously graded 'Requires Improvement' prior to becoming part of Evolution Academy Trust. The report can be found here: [Dell Ofsted report](#)



Evolution Academy Trust – Trust sports event

It was fantastic to see so many of our schools come together on June 15th. This was our first ever Trust-wide sports event, where schools competed at Elm Tree Primary, Lowestoft – taking part in a range of sporting events. The day was a real success and a sincere thank you to Julia, Dawn, Dan and other staff at Elm Tree for hosting. Children really enjoyed the day – well done to all.

Well done to Bignold Primary School and Nursery

A massive well done to team at Bignold Primary school and nursery. The school achieved a 'GOOD' in all areas following a recent Ofsted inspection and this was a fantastic achievement for the staff and parent community. The full report can be found here: [Bignold Ofsted report](#)



THANK
you for
THE FANTASTIC
job you do
EVERY DAY.

Other updates

Staff well-being

We have created our first Trust-wide staff well-being group, with one representative from each school. This group provides another channel for ensuring we are supporting our most important asset – our people. The group all recently completed the two-day Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course.

Early career Teachers

We were very excited to host our first ever ECT conference on the 8th June 2022. A fantastic network of teachers new to the profession.

Listening to our staff...

We recently conducted our biggest ever staff survey with over 400 responses. Listening to the voices of our staff is integral to our future planning and we want to thank all colleagues for their hard-work and wish everyone a restful summer break.

Angel Road Infant and Nursery and Angel Road Junior School



Angel Road Infant and Nursery School and Angel Road Junior School celebrated A Day of Welcome as part of Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary. This is a day of solidarity and learning in schools that aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for refugees and asylum seekers, spreading the message of sanctuary and inclusion. The children learned more about why and how refugees travel to other countries and how we can make everyone feel welcome. Younger children listened and discussed stories about the experiences of refugees and older children attended inspirational webinars with famous authors, such as Michael Rosen and Miriam Halahmy. These fantastic workshops inspired the children to write their own poetry, demonstrating both empathy and understanding.

Norwich is a City of Sanctuary and Angel Road Infant and Nursery School is recognised as one of their Schools of Sanctuary. The award is given to schools who are committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all. The Junior School is currently working towards achieving this status also. We will continue to celebrate our wonderful and diverse community together, as we enter into the next academic year.



Bignold Primary



It has been a really exciting summer term so far and we have been able to organise a number of events across the whole school to enrich our curriculum. We have had a 'Healthy Week', an author visit, a visit from a farm and trips for different year groups including our Year Six residential and lots more. We believe that for children to achieve their very best they should have the opportunity to experience a variety of learning beyond the classroom.

An event which we have decided should be an annual event was our 'Healthy Week'. This was a great success and it was wonderful to see parents back in school and joining their children for our early morning sporting activities.

There were so many highlights during the week including Year 6 spending a lovely day at Whitlingham Broads where they went on a mindful nature walk and then learnt how to kayak - with every child and member of staff getting quite wet!



Miss Stead, our PE Lead, organised Quidditch for the children in Year 3, 4 and 5. This was a real treat and they really enjoyed this; only the sticks were missing from this wickedly good time! Year 3 and 4 participated in a trampolining, aerobics experience which looked very, very active. The Reception and Nursery children loved their relaxing yoga experience. It was lovely to see and smell so much cooking around school as Design & Technology was a whole school focus. Our KS1 children had the opportunity to work with expert coaches from Norwich Football Club as well.

Can you believe that we had goats, chickens, sheep and rabbits on our field? Our parent teacher association organised for a farm to come to Bignold. It was amazing and all of the school community loved the opportunity to find out about animals which live on a farm as well as spend some time with the animals in the cuddle corner. For some of our children this was the first opportunity to see these sorts of animals up close. What a lovely experience!



Coldfair Green Primary



Our Wider Curriculum

This term at Coldfair, there has been a continued and exciting focus on the wider curriculum, enrichment activities and making sure that these valuable opportunities are part and parcel of our curriculum offer.

As we plan for our next two year curriculum cycle, we are looking forward to all of the new opportunities we can build in and also celebrating some fantastic activities which the children have enjoyed and learned from over the past term. As well as having our curriculum drivers of community, aspiration and resilience in mind; we are also thinking about other key life skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration, compassion, coordination, control and leadership skills.

Teamwork skills shone through at the recent Evolution Academy shield event, where we brought home the award for sportsmanship. Thank you so much to Elm Tree for organising and hosting this amazing event.



Our Y5 and 6 experienced a fantastic residential visit to Eaton Vale, as well as this week going sailing and back to Snape Maltings to play the grand organ.



Our School Council members have also had the valuable experience of attending a Governors meeting this term, to report on their achievements- which include improving our recycling capability, being involved in our recruitment process and becoming confident at showing visitors around our school.



Costessey Primary

Jubilee Celebrations

Children and staff at Costessey Primary had a fantastic afternoon celebrating our Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On the last day of Summer 1, Friday 27th May, all children made their way onto the school field, through corridors decorated with bunting made by the classes and balloons of red, white and blue, to take part in the celebrations as a whole school together.



Each class enjoyed a special 'Afternoon Tea' with finger sandwiches, homemade scones with jam and sausage rolls. In addition to this, every year group organised a stall which the children could visit to enjoy traditional British games and crafts. There was an array of things to choose from including: making crowns, pin the tail on the corgi, croquet, making clay medallions, a tennis tournament, face painting and more!

Whilst this was all happening, Chilly from Chilly's Party Entertainment, made sure all there was a brilliant party atmosphere. It was wonderful to see everyone, including staff, dancing, doing the Conga around the field and singing the National Anthem. After such a long time of not being able to hold events such as this, it was, in the words of so many, 'what everyone needed'. A time to all be together as a school community and celebrate such a momentous occasion, a real once in a lifetime opportunity!

The children learnt all about Queen Elizabeth II and her reign for the past 70 years and are still talking about this today. As a school, we loved spending the time together and look forward to having more of these events in the future so we can spend time with children and help make memories they will cherish forever.



Year 5 Teacher: *'Thank you for all your hard work, it was such a lovely few hours! After Covid, it was so lovely having all year groups together and seeing siblings dancing! Everywhere you looked there were smiles so thank you! :)*

We actively encourage our children to try something new to further develop interests and talent. As a result, this year we have been inspiring our older pupils with test driving university life through a scholar's programme and teaching water sports! Created by the The Brilliant Club, the scholars programme is designed to inspire children to take up higher education. A group of Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in sessions with a PHD tutor from a local university, to work towards a 1000-word essay! This provided an opportunity for detailed study of a specific area and write an extended creative piece, based on their own interests. The results were phenomenal and the tutor was incredibly impressed with the quality of writing produced. These remarkable children recently 'graduated' from the programme, which is recognised is a national virtual ceremony. The world truly is their oyster and we can't wait to see their future successes.



As our school is in a coastal town, teaching water safety is a priority, as is building links with our community. Further to this, many of our pupils were keen to try a new sport and had not had opportunity to engage in water sports previously. This term we offered the opportunity for KS2 to take part in a water sports programme, including paddle boarding and kayaking. Some children had never been in the water before and are now confident kayakers. Incredible!



These opportunities have not only taught children valuable new skills, they have provided inspiration when thinking about the next steps in their education and beyond.



Here at Eaton, we are HISTORIANS! We want our children to love history. We want them to have no limits to their ambitions and grow up wanting to be archivists, museum curators, archaeologists or research analysts. In history lessons at our school, we give children opportunities to develop their skills of enquiry, investigation and analysis

During the morning of the recent Jubilee celebration day, all children undertook historical enquiries linked to the Queen's Jubilee. Some examples are below:

Year 1: What is a monarch?

The children used fairy tales and traditional tales to look at illustrations that told the children that a character is a king/queen or a prince/princess. They compared this (similarities and differences) to images of British monarchs from different eras. They found out about our queen using film archive of the queen as a young child and learnt about her life. They then looked at recent footage and pictures of the queen and discussed why she is a significant person and mapped her life out on a timeline.

Year 3: Who is Queen Elizabeth II?

The children created a 'circle of influence' to discuss different perceptions and why they arise (how we see people); They looked at portraits and photo sources to discuss royalty and looked at a timeline over the decades. They completed a virtual museum to commemorate different aspects of the life of the queen

Year 6: How well does the Queen reflect society today?

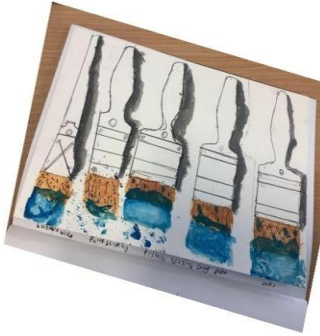
The children explored how being famous differs from being significant. They compared this with how historians have defined the concept – e.g., according to historian Ian Dawson, 'A person or event might be considered significant if it/he/she: 1. Changed events at the time they lived 2. Affected many lives by improving them or making them worse 3. Changed people's lives 4. Had a lasting impact on their country or the world 5. Had been a good/bad example to people of how to live and behave'. They then debated how significant the Queen is to us? How much power or influence does the Queen have? - Is the Queen just a figurehead?



The Royal Picnic

Our parents were sent individual royal invitations with a royal seal (designed by pupils Seren, Poppy and Amy in 5H) so, at the end of the morning, the whole school gathered outside for a huge picnic with parents and family members. Once picnics were packed away, everyone gathered by the outdoor stage and the afternoon was filled with variety acts from each year group. This included comedians, dancers, singers, artists and then ending with the national anthem and a whole school rendition of 'Sing', one of the queen's favourite songs. As a commemoration of the day, each child given a seed packet with labels designed by one of our pupils (photo);

Elm Tree Primary



This term, Elm Tree Primary School has continued to build on enriching the wider curriculum to enhance personal development. Through our subject-themed weeks, educational visits, and sporting events, we have allowed our children opportunities – inside and outside the classroom - to build confidence in new situations, form positive relationships and to discover new interests and talents

Our two Art and Design focused weeks allowed pupils from EYFS to Year 6 to delve into the disciplines of painting and sculpture. Painting week culminated with children creating artwork to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a sculpture trail for family and friends to enjoy was the product of the children's 3D work. Children across the school spoke with confidence about the vocabulary, knowledge, and skills they had gained, and more importantly were proud of their achievements.

Away from the classroom, children have had opportunities to explore their locality, step back into history and to experience residential visits. One of the important parts of getting back to 'normal' has been learning through field trips. Year 3 geography took place at Oulton Broad, and Year 2 explored history at Framlingham Castle. Our children were fully immersed in their learning and were keen to demonstrate their understanding as they explored new environments. Away from home, our UKS2 children showed resilience, friendship and responsibility. At Hilltops, Year 5 pushed themselves to climb higher, swing further and work closer together: they succeeded on every level. In Year 6, the residential trip to York allowed children time to socialise in new situations, to support each other and to share new memories.

At Elm Tree, PE is a strength. We celebrate children's efforts and attitudes in lessons and in the wider opportunities they are given. This year, all children represented their houses and competed in our phase sports days. It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers attend and cheer everyone on. This term, we hosted the inaugural Evolution Academy Cup – an inter-school athletics tournament. It was fabulous to welcome schools from the Trust to compete and celebrate achievements together. Opportunities to work together, in classes, phases and as schools are invaluable as they allow children to work as part of a team – a skill vital for life beyond school. We look forward to more events which allow us to come together.





At Filby we have worked hard on improving the opportunities for our children to have a voice and represent the views of their peers. Not only is this important in teaching them the value of democracy, but also it is developing our children's leadership skills.

We had an established School Council, but have added to this with a separate Eco Council, Arts Committee and Sports Committee. All groups have regular meetings where they discuss projects and share the views of their classmates; they take responsibility for organising events and ensure our school has equal opportunities for all children in their area of leadership. This year our School Council have learnt about the role of democracy in society, being invited to share afternoon tea with the Mayor of Great Yarmouth, following taking part in a debate in the Council Chambers. They were also instrumental in the planning of our sponsored walk and activity day last week which has raised a significant amount of money for our school.

Our Eco Council have set up recycling bins in the dinner hall to allow us to separate out food waste. They are looking after our new wormery which will enable us to turn our food waste into compost for our school growing areas. Furthermore, they will be taking a leading role when the Britain in Bloom judges visit our school in July.

The Arts Committee were established last term and have been tasked with ensuring we have a range of Arts based opportunities across the school as we look to secure the Artsmark accreditation. Their first task has been to design our artwork competition and they will be judging the entries next week! Our Sports Committee are the most recent addition to the pupil voice team. They have met already, planning activities for our upcoming Sports Day. Moving forward they will be instrumental in ensuring that we beat this year's figure of 78% of our children taking part in either an inter-school competition or extracurricular clubs as we look to build on our Silver Sportsmark award and gain the Association for PE Quality Mark.



Nelson Infant

Sports Day and Teddy Bear's Picnic



Nelson welcomed families and friends to our Annual Sports Day and Teddy Bear's Picnic this week. The sun shone and we had a near 100% turn out of families – the joy of being part of their children's sports day was tangible, particularly as this was the first time many of them have been able to share such a moment since the pandemic struck.

Some of the activities included sprinting, hurdles, relay races, target practice and balancing. The children have been working hard to develop their skills during P.E. lessons and there was a real sense of pride in their own achievements.



A group of Reception children were keen to share their views of the day. Albie loved the running races, as he could hear his Mum cheering him on. The highlight of the day for Ash was being able to eat his picnic lunch with his friends and all their teddies. Leo felt that his daily practice gave him the confidence to run really fast. Cisse felt she was good at the hoop tracking activity as she was able to combine running and jumping, and Robyn loved working as a team.



The atmosphere on our field was electric, as families relaxed on picnic blankets with friends, sharing delicious treats and cold drinks. Leilani said the best bit was that she got to eat with her Mum at school, and that her Dad surprised her today when he returned from abroad. The staff were incredible and all pulled together to create memories for all our school community, we look forward to many more family events in the future!

Poplars Primary

Poplars Police



At Poplars, we want to ensure that our pupils understand the law and are law abiding citizens. We also want them to find out about the excellent work of Suffolk Police!

We are delighted that our Y5 pupils have been working with Suffolk Police as part of their newly established 'Mini Police' programme. The pupils have learned about a range of topics, including hate crime, road safety, anti-social behaviour and bullying (including on-line safety). Additionally, pupils were able to try on the uniform and become detectives.

When we asked the pupils what they enjoyed most, many of them stated that they enjoyed the investigation. Pupils needed to use their expert detective skills to discover the culprit. They all did! All pupils were provided with a certificate, demonstrating that they passed the 'Mini Police' training. They were also provided with their own Police notebook and pen – just in case they need it for further detective work.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this, and they talk enthusiastically about the programme. Suffolk Police were very complimentary about the pupils' attitudes and behaviour, and all pupils can be proud of themselves.



Wensum Junior



Wensum Junior School have been having been planning lots of practical learning opportunities for our year 6s. Transition to high school is always a time of mixed emotions, and art and cooking are just two life skills that can support both adult and children with their well-being.



"We made pizza in cooking class. We learnt how to make the base, with flour, milk and butter. We weighed it out and mixed until we had the right consistency. It was fun and tasty!"

Isla, Elspeth and Kaja



"We have been drawing free hand. Drawing makes me feel happy and allows me to express emotions through art."

Lily and Batoul

"Art is the best thing ever! I can express my emotions freely without having to say a word. I can tell my deepest darkest secrets without telling my deepest darkest secrets."

I like drawing characters based from the name I give them; it helps me give them characteristics." Morgan

Picture by Morgan



We wanted to see year 6 off with positive memories of their time at Wensum Junior School, to engage and connect through mutual activities and hobbies before seeing them off to start at High School.

Thank you

Hi everyone!



At the end of a busy summer term and academic year for all, it has been a delight to read about the great work of our schools across Evolution Academy Trust. The variety of great experiences captured in wonderful photos may not be as measurable and public as our two recent 'Good' Ofsted inspections (well done Dell and Bignold), but in addition to our focus on children's education, these provide strong foundations, rich experiences and help children to contribute to their lives and wider society. They also clearly had lots of fun too!

On behalf of trustees I would like to once again recognise the dedication, commitment and hard work from EAT staff across all of our schools as well as those in the central team. To parents and carers, I hope that you and your children have a wonderful summer break and enjoy precious time with friends and families.

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 welcoming you all back in the autumn term.

Wishing you all the very best for a summer break.

Drew
Drew Whitehead
Chair of Trustees

