



Autumn 2022

Welcome from our CEO



A warm welcome to our end of autumn newsletter.

As you will see, it has been another really positive term for the Trust and this newsletter is packed with just a glimpse into the great work of our schools, so I do hope you enjoy it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Trustees, governors, staff, parents and local communities for all of their hard work over the autumn term and whilst we know that not everything is back to normal, it is also more important than ever that children are successful and thrive at school. We are fortunate to have great leaders in our schools who with the support of you all, help to enable this goal.

A special congratulations to the team at Elm Tree Primary and Angel Road for their hard work and recent Ofsted inspections. We all understand the hard work which goes on in our schools and whilst school improvement never ends, recognising all of the positives are really important – well done all.

Finally, I wish you and your families a restful, safe and festive Christmas break.

Lynsey Holzer

CEO

Evolution Academy Trust



Social Media

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

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@Eaton_Primary
@Costesseyprima1
@Bignoldprimary
@AngelRoadSchool
@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/>



Bignold Primary

Encouraging a love of reading



After the summer break, we have continued our focus on encouraging all children to develop a love of reading. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and our children read every day. Every child from Preschool to Year 6 also has a dedicated story time, where adults read to children, and they can sit back and enjoy a range of books.

These are some of the things we are doing...



Book Festival for Year 6

Some of our Year 6 children were fortunate enough to be invited to a festival at The Norwich School earlier this week. They came away very inspired by the wonderful authors and loved hearing about different tips and tricks to help them with their writing!

Year 3 Trip to the Forum & Millennium Library

This term, our Year 3 children walked to the Forum and visited the Millennium Library. They represented the school fantastically with excellent behaviour for the duration of the visit. They even had time to sit and enjoy a story! Each child was then able to take home a library book to enjoy at home.



School Library & Year 6 Helpers

We've worked really hard over the last few years to make sure our school library has a wide range of really engaging books, covering all genres and hopefully catching all our children's wide variety of interests. Our Year 6 librarians work very hard to ensure that books go back onto the right shelves and places so children can find what they are looking for. Each week children can choose a new book to take home and enjoy!

Links with a Local Book Shop & Reading Awards

Every week children can earn raffle tickets for showing amazing learning behaviours in class. In our weekly celebration assembly, there is one winner picked from KS1 and one for KS2. Each child receives a £7 book token so they can take their grown ups and choose a favourite book! Two of our children are attending for the Dorothy Amery Awards 2022 organised by Bookbugs & Dragon Tales and have won £50 worth of books to take home and enjoy! We are really proud of them!



Angel Road Infant and Nursery and Angel Road Junior School



Pupils' wider development at Angel Road Schools

Angel Road Schools children benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities, part of which includes getting involved in local initiatives, fund raising and visiting our local area.

Year 5 children from Angel Road, alongside three other primary schools, have been participating in a Youth Social Action Project together with Year 9 pupils from Ormiston Victory Academy. The '#WeWill Sing Project' has been a unique choral opportunity that has united primary and secondary pupils through music, performance and youth social action.

Our Year 5 classes have learned to sing, sign to songs, perform on stage, evaluate performance and explore how music is created. This fantastic initiative is also raising money for charity; children who are part of our weekly enrichment club are researching and deciding which charity they will support. The children have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the project and will receive a Trinity College Arts Award and a Murray Award for their achievements.

Children in EYFS have been learning about Autumn this term and have explored changes to the weather and our seasonal calendar. As part of this learning, children have visited the local park where they were able to see first-hand the changes to our local natural environment. They used their senses to find out things, such as noticing the colour of the leaves and listening to the crunching noise when they walked through them. They also spotted a variety of wildlife, who are busy at this time of year preparing for the winter.

Back in school the child contributed to large scale drawings about their visit to the park and recalled their experiences; sharing their findings and developing new vocabulary by talking about what they had seen and heard.



Coldfair Green Primary



As for all schools, the autumn term has been a brilliantly busy one here at Coldfair.

We kicked off the term with jugglers in the playground when everybody arrived at school on 5th September and we spent the day working together as a community, to learn some new skills, in circus workshops. We will be rounding the term off with a whole school visit to the Hippodrome Circus to see some circus professionals in action!



Out of the many important things which have happened this term, we would like to share some information about Philosophy for Children (P4C) which we have introduced to our school.

Philosophy for Children (P4C) was created by Professor Lipman in the late 1960s, and its aim was to encourage children to be more reasonable, reflective and considerate. P4C is essentially about developing thinking and reasoning skills, through talking and posing challenging questions. These questions cover a range of subjects and experiences. P4C is designed to get everybody thinking... **Not all questions can be answered but all answers can be questioned!**

Research and evidence tells us that if we can engage pupils in the 4Cs of thinking, across the wider curriculum, the impact on outcomes is hugely positive. So, here at Coldfair, all staff have undertaken P4C training, we have run workshops for parents and children are already benefitting from thinking about big questions. In each session we generate a philosophical question, decide on a line of enquiry, and discuss the question, before recapping and completing the session. We are making sure that we become **critical** thinkers, **caring** thinkers, **creative** thinkers and **collaborative** thinkers. We are excited about this becoming embedded practice.

The World Economic Forum Future of Jobs Report (2020) states that employers need people who show analytical thinking and innovation, active learning and learning strategies, are good at complex problem solving, critical thinking and analysis and are creative, show originality and initiative. These are the kind of minds we want to help grow.



Costessey Primary

All new PTA at Costessey Primary School

At Costessey we believe that children need to have a wealth of real-life experiences to support their curriculum learning and cultural capital. The cost-of-living crisis has hindered our plans significantly as we are reluctant to put too many costs onto our families and the costs of the trips have increased significantly. Our parents have stepped in to save the day!



This term a dedicated team of our parents and staff have relaunched a PTA at Costessey. They have already had a huge impact on our school community.



The first event held by the PTA was our Halloween Disco. On 31st October, over 500 children collected their 'treat' bag and walked along a Pumpkin Parade to join in with the dancing to music by Chilly, our favourite children's entertainer. Prizes for the best pumpkins were handed out to the children in their classes that week too! Everyone had so much fun – there were even some teachers dancing to *Thriller*!

With preparations already underway for Christmas, this year the PTA are running their very own 'Elfridges'. The children can buy a small gift, wrapped by the PTA elves, for their special adult. It is a fabulous idea which means the children can take ownership of a little bit of Christmas shopping. The children are super excited about the grand opening on 8th December 😊 In addition to this, children have designed Christmas cards, that families can order, to make that Christmas post extra special!



We have already raised over £1000 pounds! And there are many more plans for future events and working with the community including a Mother's/Father's Day shop, Easter Film and a Summer Fair ... watch this space!



Autumn at Dell, a summary of highlights by the Pupil Leadership Team.

At Dell we are determined to be the best we can be for ourselves and our community. This term we have done this by:

Working on ourselves – We have been working on character development, positive mental health and wellbeing projects with school adults and people from different organizations like Ormiston Families, One Life Suffolk and YMCA. In school we have focused on elections of new junior leadership members and our Zones of Regulation project. This helps us to get to know ourselves better and understand our own wants and needs, so that we can get what we need and understand what others need from us.



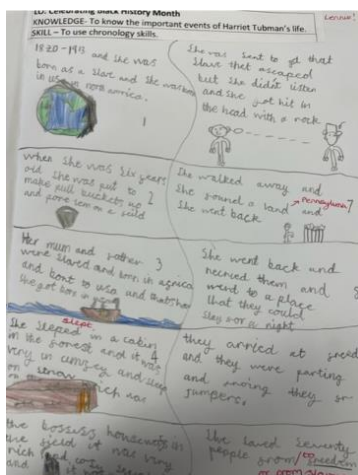
Working on Team Dell – Our adults have provided exciting enrichments to our learning through after school clubs and performances, competitions, theme days and school trips. We have been appreciating and learning from the uniqueness of the Broads, developing news skills in gymnastic events and earned awards (including BEST WRITER and BEST SCHOOL!) in a county writing competition.

Our reception children have grown their own food in gardening club, children across KS2 have gained qualifications in first aid and we have all celebrated each other's talents in auditioning and getting ready to perform in our Christmas Talent Concert.



Working on our community – We have been learning about the importance of belonging and faith and supporting others through our friendship with the Royal British Legion and the Church. We have organised collections to support people in need and mark occasions such as Harvest and World Kindness Day.

It's been an exciting half term at Eaton Primary School where we have used the opportunity to focus on our history learning. We have celebrated and reflected two History events this half term; Black History Month and Remembrance Day and as a result, our children have participated in some fantastic activities both in school and in the wider community.



For Black History Month, each class learnt about an important event or figure and presented their learning in their history books. In Year 2, the children learnt about Rosa Parks and the significance of her actions. They enjoyed taking part in some role-play and presented their learning thoughtfully in their books.



Year 3 learnt about Harriet Tubman and how she escaped from slavery in the southern United States and then helped lead many other enslaved people to freedom.

In Year 5 the children learnt about the Windrush Generation and the impact of this on current society, as well as reflecting on how views have changed over time.

Friday 11th November marked Remembrance Day and children across the school participated in a two-minute silence. Our Year 6 'Rights Respecting Ambassadors' attended the Eaton War Memorial Remembrance Day ceremony. During this ceremony, the children joined together with other schools from across the area as well as members of the public to pay their respects. The children then laid a hand-made wreath and sang the national anthem before a 2-minute silence at 11am. This was followed by the playing of 'The Last Post'.



We were fortunate to have Phil Rodd, Vicar of St Andrew's Church delivering an assembly to each Key Stage. The children were given the opportunity to read poetry, share ideas and reflect on the importance of Remembrance Day.

Elm Tree Primary was thrilled to receive its Ofsted report, at the beginning of this term, which rated the school, 'Good, with Outstanding for Behaviour and Attitudes'. Praise for the 'strong community ethos' opened the overwhelmingly positive report. The inspectors recognised that the children 'love learning and achieve well' and 'become highly compassionate individuals'. It was an excellent springboard to launch new learning opportunities and experiences.



The enhancement of our curriculum with the CUSP materials has allowed teachers to focus on core knowledge and vocabulary acquisition to ensure children *know more and remember more*. In Year 4, pupils have learnt about the Roman Empire and enjoyed discussing their learning in a pupil book study, connecting prior knowledge of settlements with the invasion of Britain.

In Year 6, pupils have been learning about the components of blood and the circulatory system. Their understanding was praised by a high school science teacher, who demonstrated a dissection of a pig's heart to enhance the learning.



CUSP DT is helping to develop confident cooks! Children in Year 4 made bread, pizzas and soup. They compared the nutritional value of their homemade meal with processed products. The salt and emulsifier content caused great debate.

Anti-bullying Week 14th – 18th November:

Based on the book, *Only One You* by Linda Kranz, assemblies and PSHE lessons focused on being unique. Children started the week wearing odd socks to celebrate their individuality – the staff joined in too!



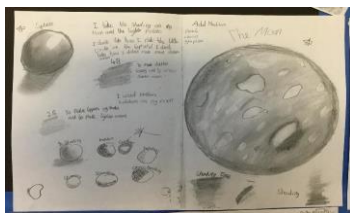


We are particularly proud of the progress our children have made in the arts over the last year. We have worked hard as a school to ensure that the children are given plenty of opportunities to express themselves through the arts, be it the curriculum work they produce in their sketch books, the opportunities to take part in performances or learning a musical instrument.

Our Art and Design provision is proving to be a particular strength for our school with external visitors being surprised at the high quality of children's artwork in our corridor displays and in our children's sketchbooks. Our local high school Head of Art was really impressed with our curriculum and commented that the children were more than ready to progress onto their curriculum at high school. "I really enjoyed the dance show as we got to perform on a stage in a real theatre with spotlighting and a huge audience!" Gracie, Year 4 "I love art as I get to use my creativity and it is calming - we learn the techniques then I get to sketch the picture in my mind." Felix, Year 5



We are working with the Norfolk and Norwich Festival Bridge in developing our application for the Artsmark Award, a national quality mark which we hope will be awarded in recognition of the hard work of all the children!



At Nelson, we have a wonderful allotment area. In Gardening Club this term, children have been learning about how to grow different plants and vegetables. It was a delight for the children to celebrate this year's harvest; the garden beds gave us beetroot, runner beans, tomatoes, sweetcorn, carrots and many pumpkins. The Gardening Club children were keen to share their views on the harvest. William loved tasting some of the produce; the carrots were delicious. Juliet felt very proud of how much they had grown, especially the pumpkins. The highlight for Oscar was digging up all the vegetables and discovering the excitement of growing your own food. They have already begun preparing the beds for spring next year, where they are early making plans for an even bigger harvest!



Our Reception children had a fabulous day visiting Strangers Hall, learning all about toys from the past. Great fun was had making their own traditional toys, handling artefacts and exploring old and new toys.



As a school, we have been focusing on learning about different ways of being healthy including eating, drinking and physical activity. By promoting these aims within our school, we hope to encourage healthy habits for life. As part of this focus, Aspens led a Sushi masterclass for Year 1 and Year 2 this week. They created some absolutely delicious food; the sushi rolls were extremely popular amongst children and staff, and lots of children tasted new foods, such as ginger and soy.



We are delighted to have had many family visitors this term. Our Reception children enjoyed a visit from one of our parents who is a dentist. They were shown how to brush their teeth and how important it is to visit the dentist. They even had a go at brushing an enormous set of teeth. We also had a visit from one of our children's grandparents; it was a great pleasure and honour to have Albie's Grandad come and talk to our Year 1 children about Remembrance Day and its importance. We have also had the opportunity to invite our families to be reading volunteers within our school this term; this has provided vital support and enrichment for our children. We feel very privileged to be part of such a generous community.

Poplars Primary



Junior Leadership

Our junior leaders have been influential in their work this term and we are proud to have such committed, inspirational young people at Poplars.

The Eco-Warriors have been braving the colder weather and working hard in our nature area, planting bulbs and weeding, ready for Spring next year. This determined group have a love for the environment, a fierce desire to protect it and have big plans for sharing their work with the wider school so all children have a role in making our school and grounds more environmentally friendly.



Our Play Leaders held their first Play Conference this term to further improve the provision outdoors during break and lunch time. They had some excellent ideas, including thinking of the wellbeing of others, how to be sustainable and ways to fundraise for the school and are now busy planning to bring these ideas to fruition. We are so proud of them!





Amongst our recent curriculum improvements, we have also spent this term raising the profile of PE and sport across our school. We are working in partnership with Premier League Primary Stars, Norwich City football Club's official charity partner. The Primary League Stars team are supporting our staff in the delivery of key sports skills and gymnastics, they are also supporting our English offer working with small groups to support the development of the children's key literacy skills. As a result of this renewed focus Wensum Junior School has been competitive!

On Friday 4th November a team of 16 children took part in a Cross-Country competition with over 10 other schools competing! We are so proud of every child who represented the school, they all attacked their race with gusto and the support from their fellow team members was wonderful! Well done Team Wensum!



"I enjoyed it and came 4th! The best part was when my friends cheered me on!" Morgan

"The best bit was hearing everyone cheer me on, it gave me passion to carry on running" Caspar

On Monday 7th November, we had the pleasure of taking some year 5 and 6 children to Namco for a bowling competition with 9 other schools. A special shout out to Taylor-Jai for being one of the top scores on the day!

Thank you to Norwich School Sport Partnership for inviting us!



"The best bit was at the end when we got to see our final scores – I was only 1 point away from 100! I had so much fun!" Mason

"The best bit was when we were all playing together and got a medal" Elyssa

Thank you



Hi everyone!

At the end of a busy autumn term, it has once again been a delight to read about the great work of our schools across Evolution Academy Trust. The breadth of activities beyond the main curriculum, and Ofsted inspections (well done Elm Tree and Angel Road schools), as well as the developing staff training are all really wonderful to see. Many of the photos bring this alive with children clearly having lots of fun, learning and their experiences are being enriched.

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 Christmas break.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in the spring term.

Drew Whitehead

Chair of Trustees

