

# Partnerships



Welcome to our Trust newsletter – sharing the wonderful work of our schools and local communities.



**Evolution Academy Trust**  
Progress through Partnership

## Welcome

A very warm welcome to our spring 2023 Trust newsletter!

It has been an absolute privilege to have taken on the role of Chief Executive Officer since January 2023. What an incredible group of Trustees, staff, children, governors, and local communities we have. I have spent my first 100 days listening to colleagues, parents, carers, children and others to help establish both our strengths as an organisation, and our plans to improve further. Seeking the views of all stakeholders continues and following our largest ever staff well-being survey which is currently underway, we will soon be launching our first Trust-wide parental survey.

Evolution Academy Trust is one organisation made up of 12 schools and a central team. We have 650 staff, 3,500 children and thousands of parents and carers, and I am delighted with the increasing partnerships and work happening in all parts of our organisation.

It is always a delight to see the fantastic celebrations and achievements across our organisation and we know that partnerships and relationships really matter. This newsletter is therefore aimed at showing you just some of the wonderful achievements of children! I hope you enjoy the positive news and it enables you to appreciate the great work of our school staff across EAT.

Wishing you and your child/children a wonderful Easter break.

Best wishes,

*C. Avieson*

Dr Craig Avieson  
Chief Executive Officer



**Did you know that we are a specialist primary Multi-Academy Trust? In addition to 12 schools from aged 2 to 11, we also have two Specialist Resource Bases (SRBs), providing specialist support to some of our children.**

See our [WEBSITE](#) for more information on the work we do and follow us on Twitter  
**@EvolutionTrust**



## General updates

### **‘One Trust’**

There has been considerable work this term on developing our ‘One Trust’ approach. From schools working seamlessly together in partnership, to staff supporting across schools, and children receiving the same quality of education and care in all of our schools. As one organisation, we can provide strong support to all of our schools, ensuring no school operates in isolation.

Central team members play an important part in this, including areas such as Estates and Facilities management, education, financial and other key areas. See more info [HERE](#)

### **World Book day**

Lots of celebrations and wonderful images here, but one which has caught all of our attention and the local media was Elm Tree Primary – well done all (see front cover).

### **Angel Road Schools**

We are delighted the Department for Education has agreed to fund a new-build/major refurbishment for AR schools and we will be in touch in due course with further details. But this doesn’t stop our work continuing! We recently engaged with a local landscape architect to design and create a better way to transition between differing ground levels for all who access the Angel Road site. This is our new design!



### **Congratulations Nelson Infant School!**

School improvement is ongoing in all of our schools, but it is also nice to be publicly recognised. Nelson Infant School, in Norwich, was previously rated as 'requires improvement' by Ofsted in 2017 and prior to joining Evolution Academy Trust in 2018. After being visited by inspectors in January 2023, it has now been rated as ‘Good’ in all five areas. A massive well done to Anna and her team, and we appreciate the strong support from our parents, carers and local community.

### **Central Team**

Our central team offices are now based in Poringland.



### **January 2023– school leaders together!**

All of our senior leaders came together at Costessey primary in January to develop our Trust plans for strengthening partnerships even more.

### **School Improvement Partners**

Improving schools and life chances for children is what we are all about. More recently, three of our serving Headteachers began supporting other schools as part of our strong partnerships. This is in addition to our existing maths, English, SEND and EYFS leaders.

### **Staff-survey 2023**

We value all staff across the Trust, and each year we work hard to ascertain their views on range of matters, which enables us to improve how we do things. We will share the results in due course.

# Angel Road Infants, Nursery and Junior Schools Spring 2023



## ANGEL ROAD SHARE THE LOVE OF READING

This term we were very excited to expand our Pupil Leadership Team and launch our very own 'Reading Ambassadors' - children in Year 5 and 6 who have shown a passion for reading and are keen to inspire other children across the school. They have been playing a particularly important role throughout this term, sharing books and supporting children in years 1,2,3 and 4 with developing a love of reading.



We have also enjoyed our first set of reading breakfasts, where we invited parents into school for a continental breakfast whilst sharing books and stories with their child. This event also enabled our teachers to model reading aloud to a child, share how parents can support their child to develop fluency in reading and discuss the importance of hearing and reading stories at home and school.

The passion continued as we celebrated World Book Day and invited Norfolk Children's Book Centre to visit School and run a Book Fayre throughout the day. There was a real buzz throughout the school - the room was full of inspiring books to choose from as children had the opportunity to use their World Book Day Voucher and take something home.

The delight on the children's faces was wonderful to see as each class had the opportunity to spend some time browsing, make recommendations to their friends and purchase books. Reading and comparing their choices when back in class was also a highlight of the week and something that our Reading Ambassadors are keen to continue! After school, parents were invited to visit the Book Fayre and joined us in our celebration of reading.



# Bignold Primary School and Nursery Spring 2023



Over a year ago, three members of our staff undertook the eighteen-month long task of completing the Level 3 Qualification to become Forest School Teachers, joining our team of five qualified teachers. Through collaboration, they have worked together with the school leadership team to come up with a sustainable plan to enhance our forest school grounds and bring forest school into our curriculum, making it accessible to more children.

As part of a programme of Forest School sessions, children from Years 4 and 5 had the opportunity to use tools, climb, swing, build dens and enhance their understanding of the natural world. Every week, sessions began with Circle: where children share their feelings and hope for the day, before breaking out into a game. The children enjoyed treasure hunts, I Spy and 'Go Find It'. As weeks went by, each child developed and grew in confidence and began to self-select the activity that they wanted to do; with some spending hours whittling sticks into pegs or mallets, whilst others enjoyed the freedom of climbing trees or creating bug hotels using found resources.



Sessions always contained fire (to help children develop and manage risk) and this allowed us the opportunity for sharing simple cooked treats too, like cooking fruit. The marshmallow smores were a particular hit!

Some of our younger children in Nursery enjoyed a swing at Forest School! They baked bread over the fire and they all said it was 'so good!'



Our Nursery children also cooked some fruit over the campfire. They baked apples with raisins and bananas with chocolate! The children rated it 10/10!



# Coldfair Green Primary Spring 2023

## Enjoying Outdoor Learning at Coldfair



We are fortunate enough to come to school every day to a beautiful site with a large field, including a woodland area. We have members of staff who are experienced and passionate about the benefits of outdoor learning and hold Forest School qualifications. Our surrounding area is also outstanding with both forests and beaches within easy distance. Two members of staff are also completing Beach School qualifications this year, to support us in making the most of our local environment and we have built really positive links with the local community and local experts to further enhance this.

Deben Class (Y3 and 4) and their teacher have this year committed to a specific project with Suffolk Wildlife. You may have seen on our website that the organisation is quoted as saying that we are their favourite school!



The Suffolk Wildlife Team visit us in school regularly and have worked closely with Deben class to gather their ideas about how to improve our school grounds for local wildlife and make sure we are learning along the way.

Parental involvement has been really positive and for an afternoon recently, parents and wider family member joined Deben Class, Suffolk Wildlife and staff members for an afternoon on the field. The result was the creation of a brilliant “Wildlife VIP area”. Before undertaking this challenge, the children surveyed the whole field, discussed, debated and planned the biggest impact they felt they could make and then made bird feeders to sell, as a way of partially funding the project. Families were very generous with their time and donation of resources too.

We are looking forward to this partnership continuing, receiving accreditation as a Wilder school and involving other classes. We are also looking forward to a whole school educational visit to the beach in the summer term!



# Costessey Primary Spring 2023



## Every pupil at Costessey Primary will learn to ride a bike with confidence!

At Costessey we have produced a list of:

‘Things all children will be able to do or have experienced by the time they leave Costessey Primary School at the end of Year 6’.

This includes being able to read, being able to swim and being able to ride a bike. Alongside this, we are working hard to address our issues with parking around the school and helping our environment by promoting sustainable, eco-friendly ways to travel to school!

This term at Costessey Primary, we have put on a number of activities to promote cycling.

We recognised that up to 40% of our pupils were not able to ride a bike without stabilizers. For some of our children, this is not an opportunity that they receive, and we believe this is an important life skill. Children from Reception up to Year 4 have been working with Jon from Little Riders to learn to ride a bike. Jon has been amazing and has already taught over 8 of our children to ride a bike with confidence! All the children started with balance bikes, to give them the chance to achieve balance on the bike, and then moved on to using pedals. We are so proud of the children for learning to ride their bikes and cannot thank Jon enough for giving the children of Costessey this opportunity. Well done to everyone 😊



We have also teamed up with Norfolk County Council road safety team to help teach our pupils how to ride safely on our roads! Roz and Mike (our road safety specialists) have been working with children from Year 5 to teach them how to stay safe on the roads. Initially, the children work with Roz and Mike on the playground learning about the rules when riding their bike on the road, including understanding how to signal and maneuver. The children had to listen carefully to the instructions, to show they were safe to move onto the roads. Once on the roads, the children listened to their instructors, and all successfully passed their training! They will receive their certificates in our celebration assembly next week.



In addition to this work on cycling and road safety, the School Council have been working on helping to keep our roads safe and encourage more children to walk and bike to school. Mr Tuckett, who leads the School Council, has been supporting the children to make leaflets to encourage our parents to drive safely and park considerately on our streets. The school council have been at the school gates to share this message. As well as this, the council are currently organising a walk/bike to school week to encourage less cars and safer commutes to school. The children are very passionate about this topic, and we are looking forward to seeing what they plan to do next!

# Dell Primary Spring 2023

## Parental Engagement

Here at Dell, we have had a very busy Spring term! In Spring 1 we invited parents into school to work with their children on maths themed activities and in Spring 2 we are doing the same but with a focus on PSHE. We have had excellent feedback from our parents who have enjoyed working with their children in school.



## National Careers Week 2023

At Dell, we feel it is important to raise children's aspirations for their future and inspire them to work hard and be driven to succeed. We want to raise children's awareness of the many opportunities that are there for them, so we arranged for each year group to have some speakers to talk them about their chosen job/career both in Lowestoft and beyond. Our speakers included: Dr Max – GP, Gemma – Nurse, Nick – Broads Authority, Jack – Marine Pilot, Mini – Horticulturalist, Sally – Get Suffolk Reading, Nicky – College Lecturer in Health Studies, Paul – Harbourmaster, Estelle – Media and Communications Manager for the Select Committee in the House of Commons and Sean Coughlan who is the Royal Correspondent for the BBC!



## Breaking Stereotypes!

As part of British Science week, we had a visit from the 'Mad Scientists' who engaged the children in fun, exciting science workshops. Children were invited to 'dress like a scientist' for the day but with a focus on breaking stereotypes – away from the stereotypical 'white lab coat!' Linked to our Careers week we spoke about a range of jobs that involve science and recognised that we ourselves are Scientists too! We had children dressed as engineers, palaeontologists, marine biologists, doctors, zoologists and technicians to name a few! Throughout the week each class also took part in a range of experiments and we are 'trash mobbing' the school site and local area to make a difference to the environment too!



# Eaton Primary Spring 2023

## Eaton Primary School Celebrates British Science Week



This term, Eaton pupils have gone all out to participate in British Science Week.

The theme for this year was connections and the week was organised by our science lead, Miss Wells. Across the school, from reception up to Y6, the children engaged in a range of tasks, enrichment and lessons and much fun was had by all!

The aim of the week was to celebrate science, explore the theme of the week and to gain further understanding of who scientists are and what they do.

Year group	Science Week Activity
Reception	Growing up
One	Happy Smells
Two	See and eat vegetables
Three	Protecting Habitat
Four	Plant your pants
Five	Yeast growth and temperature
Six	Fantastic fingerprints

Across the week, our children's science learning was enriched, and they were provided with 'hands on' experiences which allowed them to see science in the world around them.

We were very lucky to have several scientists visiting school over the week: presenting assemblies and working within classes to provide children with enrichment linked to their year group's



Our year 2, year 5 and year 6 pupils had groups of scientists from the UEA's connecting labs and the Quadram Institute visiting their classes. These scientists volunteered their own time and we are incredibly grateful to them. Scientists from Simone Immler Lab who worked with our Year 6 pupils reported that the children were incredibly curious about the zebra fish, skull replicas and hearing about the work and life of a scientist

In addition to this, we borrowed the 'What is a scientist?' exhibition from the science festival at the Forum and the creator of this exhibition, Emma Waters (a scientist herself), came into school to talk to the children about the meaning behind it. The exhibition smashed children's stereotypes on what a scientist is and exposed them to the diversity of scientists and jobs that include science. Each class was given a time slot to visit this exhibition during the week.

All of our children also took part in an assembly delivered by Mad Science Norfolk. The reception and KS1 children were totally amazed by the Van de Graff generator. They loved these two year one pupils passing static energy between each other.



# Elm Tree Primary

## Learning Outside the Classroom



We were thrilled this term to receive fifty trees to plant in our wild meadow and extensive fields as part of the Queen's Canopy: an initiative to plant a million trees to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. Children from all years pulled on wellies and started digging. In small teams, they dug, positioned the bare-rooted saplings, filled in the holes, placed protective tubes around the young trees and watered each one. At the same time, they chatted to Radio Suffolk about being part of our team of tree-planters.

Like most schools, we love participating in World Book Day. This year, we chose to dress as characters from the 'Where's Wally?' books. It was simply the best response from children and staff! The children had a wonderful day taking part in character hunts, presenting their class' favourite book to parents and enjoying time in our Library.

March has been an incredible month for our Year 5 children. During a wintery week of sleet and snow, they went to Hilltop in North Norfolk for a residential, activity holiday. In freezing conditions, they completed treetop walks, assault courses and team building activities. They smiled their way through a number of setbacks to demonstrate resilience and a brilliant team spirit. Upon return, Year 5 took on a very different challenge when they performed the Shakespeare for Schools version of 'The Tempest' at the Seagull Theatre. The production allowed the children to work as an ensemble – encouraging and supporting – and to build confidence to perform to an audience. It was a fabulous experience!

Our Comic Relief fund-raising this year was led by Mrs. Halliday. During an assembly, our children had the chance to 'slime' her as she sat in a pool of green sludge. Whilst we all had fun and Mrs. Halliday raised over £500, our children showed that when we can work together great things can happen.

# Filby Primary Spring 2023



We are proud of our sports here at Filby. In addition to our rich curriculum PE offer we provide a range of intra-school, inter-school and extracurricular opportunities across the school. We have thought really careful about providing different enriching activities that children would not typically take part in outside of school.

We strongly believe that sporting participation is an opportunity for everyone, with children being inspired to join local clubs as a result of being given the opportunity to try a sport. One former pupil runs in county competitions and stated that they never would have tried running if they hadn't been offered Cross-Country during their time at Filby! In the last year alone we have offered fencing, squash, football, athletics, Quidditch, dodgeball, handball, street dance, yoga and tennis.

We are particularly pleased with our participation rates – 79% of our children represented the school at a sport competition or attended a sport extracurricular club last year and we are on course to beat that this year! Sport is an ideal vehicle for children to model our 'Filby Way' set of values – We are: respectful, caring, aspirational, responsible and inclusive.

Our next target is to enter more inter-school festivals for our youngest children!



## Nelson Infant Spring 2023



Here at Nelson Infant, we are incredibly proud and delighted to celebrate our recent Ofsted inspection result, we are a 'GOOD' school.

The report recognised our commitment to inclusion, our ambition and high expectations for all alongside valuing the unique contributions that pupils from all backgrounds bring to the school. The report pays tribute to the kind, respectful and happy pupils while our school's SEND provision, leadership and governance equally come in for praise. We are thrilled that Ofsted recognised the commitment and dedication of the whole staff team towards the children and families at Nelson – summarised wonderfully by a parent: "Nelson Infant is a fantastic school, alive with diversity and staffed by people who have a deep understanding of children's needs."



Our local community were deeply saddened by the Turkish/Syrian earthquakes. Our children & staff took part in a sponsored run and non-uniform day and raised an incredible £1,065 for the Disaster Emergency Committee charity. We feel so privileged to be part of such a generous community.

Our Year 1 children have been studying the book 'The Queen's Hat' in English. As part of their experience day, they were honored to have a visit from a very regal guest, who answered all the children's questions and described what it was like to live as royalty.



*Sebastian - "How many toilets do you have in Buckingham Palace?"*

*Queen – "Toilets... do you mean lavatories?"*



As a whole school, our love of literature was celebrated throughout World Book Day. Our children enjoyed sharing their favourite books with one another and our families were invited in to read with the children throughout the day. We had a carousel of learning activities across our six classes, each themed to teacher's chosen book, including 'There is No Dragon in this Story' & 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We rounded our World Book Day off with a parade to showcase the wonderful book character costumes, then settled for a story session. A highlight for the children was the excitement of learning in different classrooms with a different adult for the day and being introduced to lots of new stories with wonderful characters.



# Poplars Primary Spring 2023



## Curriculum Enrichment

Alongside all the hard work and dedication we are seeing from pupils and staff in the classroom at Poplars, we also have an amazing curriculum enrichment offer for our pupils. These have proved ever popular at Poplars Primary this term. We have offered a choice of 18 after-school choices of clubs for Reception to Year 6 pupils providing over 216 club spaces across the week! We are exceptionally proud of our broad range of clubs because they not only provide an opportunity for pupils to form friendships outside of their social circle, but they cater to a variety of interests, talents and skills for life – some of them even lifesaving!

A chance to hone our skills *Jewellery/Art and Craft Club/Sports/Cookery*

Keeping healthy and active is very important to use at Poplars, we offer a range of sporting clubs each term, where children can play team games and build resilience. Our club 'Boogie Bounce' offers a complete exercise programme on mini trampolines to a mix of music.



*"I love having the opportunity to exercise with my friends afterschool!" Aiden*

At Poplars we are very lucky to have so many exceptionally artistic adults and children! Children in Key Stage 2 have been making exquisite jewellery using a variety of different craft materials such as a sparkly beads, silk threads and air clay.

## A skill for life - Poplars Recorder Club

Every Thursday we offer a chance to learn recorder in our Recorder Club. Children are learning how to play songs on a recorder, read music as well as perform as part of a group. Our children are already proving to be dedicated and eager to learn more by continuing to practice in their own time at home, we are so proud of their enthusiasm and look forward to future performances and inspiring other students to join.

## A skill to save a life - Poplars First Aid

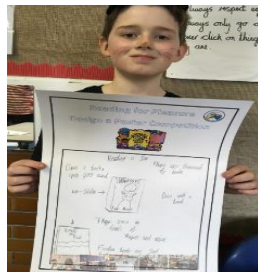
Qualified First aid trainer Phil Church, from Border Bus Suffolk, runs a First Aid club for 8 pupils every Thursday. In this club, children are learning lifesaving skills such as CPR, the recovery position, how to treat burns and use bandages. *"I liked learning about how to help someone if they're hurt!" Lyla Grace*

## Wensum Junior Spring 2023



This term, at Wensum Junior we are continuing to work on our core values of Kindness, Honesty and Respect. We have awarded many children with 'Value Awards' in our celebration assemblies, along with 'Head Teacher Awards' for good work and effort and 'Always Awards' for children who demonstrate exceptional behaviours. Many of the children have enjoyed having cake with the Head Teacher as a reward.

The children have enjoyed taking part in a variety of curriculum enrichment activities this term. These have included: a year 5 dance show at the Halls in Norwich, cricket sessions, workshops and demonstrations from the 'Mad Scientist' and dressing up as their favourite book characters for World Book Day.



In January, we introduced house point tokens as rewards for the children. Each child belongs to one of the following houses: Fire, Earth, Air and Water. At the end of the half term 'Fire' obtained the most house points and were rewarded with time in the school's forest area.

Year 3 and 4 designed what they would like their Egyptian Death Masks to look like if they were an Egyptian Pharaoh. They did a draft version and then a larger final one.



Year 6 enjoyed their residential trip to Hill Top in February. They took part in a number of adventurous activities.



*"One of my favourite things was going on the zip line. The first time I went on my front and it was really fun, I felt like I was flying!"*

## Across the Trust so far this year . . .

Hi everyone!

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to look back from a Trustee perspective at what has been achieved across the trust so far in the first two terms of the academic year.

In September, we implemented our revised governance model to standardise and simplify the way we work across all levels of the EAT structure. This has enabled school governors (at LGBs) and Trustees to work more closely & more effectively together, and to better guide, challenge and support the trust's leaders. We have commissioned an independent review of governance to check on progress and to see how we can further improve.

There is always a need for new 'talent' in any organisation and we have been working hard behind the scenes to strengthen the Trust Board. This year we have welcomed three new trustees, namely Sandi Bately, Stevie Bramble, and Bruce Gordon, each of whom have each brought a wealth of education expertise to our Trustee committees.

Trustees were delighted to appoint Craig Avieson as the new CEO from January 1st. It has been great to see Craig's immediate energy engaging at all levels across the Trust, and we appreciate not just the work that Craig has done during the first few months, but the way in which he has been supported by colleagues, both in the central team and across our schools.

We recognise the increasing amount of collaboration and support between our schools and are seeing the "One Trust" thinking and working growing week-by-week. For me, this shows one of the key benefits of being part of a Multi-Academy Trust. It is excellent to see, and we know that this is really paying dividends for colleagues at all levels.

Finally, I wanted to acknowledge on behalf of Trustees, the amazing work (which you'll have read about in this newsletter) undertaken this Spring term in each and every EAT school to deliver the diverse learning and growth opportunities for our pupils.

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

Drew

Drew Whitehead  
**Chair of Trustees**

