

# Partnerships

*Newsletter of Evolution Academy Trust*



## All schools come together for Evo Cup



Sharing the wonderful work  
of our schools and local  
communities

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# Welcome

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A very warm welcome to our summer 2023 Trust newsletter!

As we approach the final week of term, I must start by saying a massive thank you. From our Trustees, local governors, school leaders, teachers, support staff and our other partners, I am continually impressed with the hard-work, commitment, and passion which all our Trust team demonstrate. We are 'One Trust' of 12 schools and a central team, and seeing further collaborations, partnerships and improved ways of working has been another highlight of my first two terms as new CEO.

I also wanted to spend my first 100 days and beyond gathering the views of as many stakeholders as possible. This has involved many informal methods such as visiting schools and listening to children and staff, being on school playgrounds, listening to

headteachers, office teams and other colleagues. But in addition, I am delighted that our annual EAT staff wellbeing survey, which represents our most significant survey ever! With just over 73% of staff completing this from our 600+ workforce team and with such insightful comments on what we already do well and where we can improve further. Equally, whilst our parental/carer survey is ongoing, I know we already have over 300 responses and hopefully many more. Understanding the reality of our Trust and hearing the views of children, staff and parents are really important ways we can celebrate and understand our future areas of focus. A thank you to all.

A busy few month in schools too. From sports days, open days, residential trips and lots more, it is always a pleasure to see the great work of our schools over the summer months. We have also had



more Ofsted inspections. Following our earlier success at many of our schools, a massive congratulations to Filby Primary School. Matt and the team have been working incredibly hard and it has been great that another school in our Trust has achieved 'Good' in all areas.

I hope you enjoy the positive news within our newsletter and it enables you to appreciate the great work of our school staff across EAT. Wishing you and your child/children a wonderful summer break.

Best wishes,  
*C. Avieson*  
**Dr Craig Avieson**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Did you know?

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

Visit our [website](#) for more information about the work we do and follow us on Twitter [@EvolutionTrust](#)

## Sports in the sunshine for our Trust schools

Children from all our schools have come together for an annual sports tournament, with the winners presented their medals by Paralympian Jordan Catchpole.

The Evolution Academy Cup involved all 12 schools in the Trust playing sports including tag rugby, football and kwik cricket. Teams of up to 18 children represented each school, featuring those from years one to six.

Coldfair Primary School came out winners of the Key Stage 1 contest, while Costessey Primary School triumphed in Key Stage 2 (pictured below). Elm Tree Primary and Bignold Primary won the Sportsmanship awards.



## Parent/carer survey open

Our biggest ever Trust survey is open now - we want to hear from all our parents and carers. Visit <https://forms.office.com/e/QhV7Uuk1Cj> before 20<sup>th</sup> July to make your voice heard.

# Trust news

## Pupils unite to celebrate eco successes



Growing loofahs, organising litter picks and making bat boxes – just some of the many initiatives children from nine Trust schools shared at an exciting sustainability event in June.

It was the Trust's first Pupil Parliament event, held at Sizewell B and Wild Aldehurst Farm in Suffolk.

Groups outlined their plans for making their schools more

environmentally friendly. Promising pupil-led projects included: reducing food waste by analysing each day's leftovers; turning off interactive whiteboards at lunchtime; and making holes in fences for easier hedgehog access through school sites.

It was also announced on the day that Bignold Primary School has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award from the internationally-recognised Eco-Schools initiative. It is awarded to schools where children have shown exemplary commitment to learning about and protecting the environment through a variety of projects.

## Congratulations to Filby!

Huge congratulations to the staff, pupils and parents of Filby Primary School, who achieved a 'Good' rating in their Ofsted inspection in March.

The report said: "Pupils talk about how much they enjoy their learning. They are also proud to follow the 'Filby Way', which are the values and behaviours staff expect them to show."

It also said: "Pupils at Filby Primary School appreciate being part of a small and close-knit community. They make firm friendships across the school."



## Staff wellbeing survey

Each year we survey all Trust staff working in our schools



and centrally to give them the opportunity to tell us what is working well and what areas we can improve in.

Thank you to the 410 members of staff who took the time to share their thoughts - the highest ever number.

A wonderful 84% of staff said they would recommend EAT as an employer for family and friends, while 90% said they knew what is expected of them at work.

We will be sharing a full summary with staff before the end of term, including Trust responses to areas of improvement and how we will be working on them going forward.

# Chair of Trustees

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Hi everyone!

We are almost at the end of the summer term and of another school year which has seen a lot of activity across our trust.

In January trustees appointed **our new CEO Dr Craig Avieson** who, as you may know, has been with the trust since 2021. Craig was formerly our Director of Education, so was an excellent fit to succeed Lynsey Holzer and lead our trust on its next stage of development.

## **Our areas of focus this year... seeing benefits with more to come**

The major areas of focus during this year have been to accelerate the work on improving educational outcomes for our children, and to increase the collaboration across the trust's schools whilst promoting the 'One

Trust' ethos. We have seen some significant benefits from this work already and expect to see even more in the coming academic year.

## **External reviews... positive feedback on our trust and schools**

Since May 2022, 10 out of our 12 schools have been assessed by Ofsted professionals, and whilst not all of the outcomes can yet be shared (this will happen in the Autumn term) we have noted very positive feedback across all areas of the trust and its schools. We are particularly proud of the excellent feedback on the 'Personal Development' of our children, the work done by our schools beyond the academic curriculum to provide a richer 'rounded' education to help prepare them for their futures.

Additionally, trustees commissioned an external review of governance & management, across Trust executive staff, trustees and our schools' Local Governing Bodies (LGBs). The feedback was very positive at all levels, and I would like to recognise the great work done by our LGBs and thank them for their contribution over this past year.

## **It takes a lot of people ...**

We all recognise how

important this primary stage of education is to children, helping them develop as people and get the educational outcomes they deserve, in order to set-up them up for their move in secondary education. It takes a lot of people, in many different roles to make this possible.

So, 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 and in the central team. Thank you for being part of our team.

As we bid farewell to another academic year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your children a fantastic summer break. Enjoy the time together with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you back in September.

Regards,

Drew

Drew Whitehead  
Chair of Trustees



# Angel Road Schools

## Angel Road Schools Day of Welcome



Angel Road Schools are working with Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary to gain the Schools of Sanctuary Award. The award recognises schools who are committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all children.

Children from Nursery to Year 6 celebrated 'A Day of Welcome' as part of their application and as a celebration of our wonderfully diverse school community.

Children came to school wearing yellow or green and made a voluntary contribution to the 'Welcome Wheels' project – a project that helps to provide bikes and safety equipment to newly arrived refugee families in Norwich. Last year Norfolk schools raised more than £5,000 altogether in order to provide bikes and cycling proficiency training for refugees and asylum seekers in Norwich.

Throughout the day each class were given a vehicle text and heard stories about the experiences of refugees travelling to our country. Key stage 2 children joined an inspiring webinar delivered by published authors who have produced books about their experiences of moving to other parts of the world. This fantastic



opportunity developed the children's understanding about why and how refugees travel to other countries. The children discussed how to create a culture of welcome in their classrooms and this also inspired a discussion celebrating the positive contribution refugees have made to our city and local community.



# Bignold Primary School & Nursery



## Bringing our curriculum to life

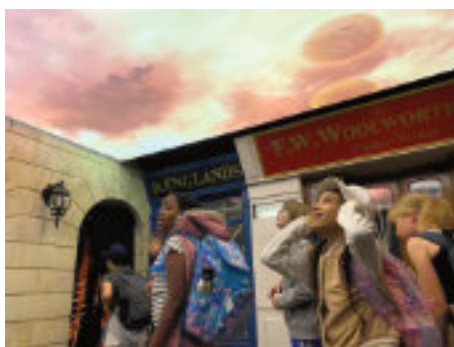
Our Year 6 pupils have been away on residential this term to the beautiful city of York to learn more about the topics they have been studying in school.

This has been an amazing enrichment opportunity for our pupils to hear from expert historians and to have the privilege of history, and the curriculum they have studied, being brought to life all around them.

Here are some examples of where the children have visited and some of the things they have said about their incredible experiences whilst they were there.

### Eden Camp: World War II

Eden Camp transported our pupils to the sights, sounds and smells of wartime Britain, all within the grounds of an original POW Camp. Each hut covered a different aspect of the war. Our Year 6 pupils found the blitz very humbling, with planes flying overhead and real life wreckage surrounding them.



*"It was really interesting but also sad at the same time. We saw incredible machines and the simulations were amazing!"*

### York Dungeons: Crime & Punishment

The children found this a daunting & realistic experience with many children saying...

*"I'm glad I wasn't alive during these times!"*



### Jorvic Viking Centre

This exhibition & museum was filled with artefacts and expert historians who explained how the Vikings lived.

The children loved the ride which toured through village life.

*"The ride which went through the Viking village was so realistic. I thought the animatronics were real people!"*



### DIG: An Archaeological Adventure!

DIG is a hands-on archaeological adventure giving pupils the chance to become trainee 'diggers' and discover the most exciting artefacts from 2000 years of York's history!

With four special indoor excavation pits, all based on real-life digs in the city and filled with replica Roman, Viking, medieval and Victorian finds, our pupils were able to grab a trowel and explore how people lived in these times.

*"We experienced what real archaeologists do and learned more about how people in the past lived!"*





# Coldfair Green Primary School

## The importance of positive pupil role models at Coldfair



At Coldfair Green Primary School, we know the importance of being ready, respectful and safe. We value pupil voice and believe that it is imperative that pupils experience good peer role models. One way we make sure that this happens is to offer a wide range of pupil leadership opportunities within school.

Our School Council and Eco Warriors were recently instrumental in the planning and success of our Trust's first ever Pupil Parliament. They have left this as one of their legacies in school and will be reporting to Governors in person



later this month on their other achievements, including fund raising for a school in Zambia.

Our House Captains are busy organising one of their biggest events of the year – Sports Day. However, they are also busy throughout the year and hold monthly assemblies for their houses to update them on initiatives and ideas to earn more points for their team. They have designed new certificates, lead their groups in competitions such as our annual poetry recital and art competition and work hard to keep their display up to date.

Our Sports Leaders apply for the privilege of leading activities for younger pupils at lunchtimes and commit to training for this post and then being on a rota to plan and lead sports and games on a daily basis. The younger children in school love this and the sports leaders have thrived and really

developed some important skills by taking on this role.

There are many other similar roles in school, available across the year groups, not just for the oldest pupils. Librarians who support in keeping our library looking good, digital leaders who take responsibility for looking after our technology in school and helping others with tech challenges and buddies, who have already written to the new children who will be joining us in September, to introduce themselves and will be joining in on transition mornings to ensure that the youngest children in school have a positive and friendly role model from the very beginning of their school journey.



As a small school, some pupils thrive on wearing the "hats" of more than one role, in the same way as the adults in school do! We know that the skills developed in such roles eg. public speaking, organisational skills and time management, have improved their confidence and will stand our pupils in good stead in the future, inspiring those who follow them to continue to play their part in the successful wider school community.

# Costessey Primary School



## Music at Costessey Primary – Guinness World Record Breakers!

Here at Costessey we have worked really hard to develop pupils' talents across the curriculum.

This year we have offered our pupils a number of different opportunities in Music which we look forward to celebrating in our upcoming Music Celebration Day! All pupils in our school have the chance to learn to play the recorder, the piano, the violin and the ukulele and all of this is offered free of charge! For those who want to branch out into other instruments, we have lessons in the saxophone, the clarinet and the flute as well. But it doesn't end there, some of our children have also joined Rocksteady and made their own band. In each band we have children playing keyboard, guitar,



drums and some children are singers.

As you have heard, we love music at Costessey Primary and when we were asked to attend the Norfolk Show and try to use music to break a world record we had to go! On Thursday 28th June, all our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils took the short drive to the Norfolk Showground to join a

band of 1252 children. The event was organised by the Norfolk Music Hub and was named 'Bucket Beats XL'. We helped break the record of the world's largest percussion ensemble using recyclable instruments. The previous record holders New Taipei City, Taiwan, were defeated by the 1,252 participants at the Norfolk Showground.







# Dell Primary School

## Primary Science Quality Mark



We are proud to have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark this term!

Miss Bender, our Science Subject Leader, has worked hard to improve teaching and learning in Science through teacher CPD and the introduction of new resources into lessons. She wrote a comprehensive presentation for the judging panel which was given excellent feedback.

A big thank you to Miss Bender for all her hard work!



## Visitors in school

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, we had an unexpected visit from the East Anglian Air Ambulance, as they landed on our school field to attend to a medical emergency in the local area. While the doctors went off site, the pilots invited our pupils to talk to them and look at the helicopter! It really was an amazing learning opportunity which our pupils will remember.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, we were

visited by the team from MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship).

They led an assembly and built an aeroplane on our school field as a surprise for pupils to see. They told us all about their work to support The Red Cross and other Christian agencies in taking aid/relief to remote countries in the world. All classes enjoyed visiting the plane and having a chance to sit in the cockpit.

## Shakespeare Rocks!

Mr Joyce and Mrs Knight have worked hard with pupils from years 2-6 to put on this years school musical – Shakespeare Rocks! Pupils auditioned, practised and rehearsed before performing to the rest of the school and their parents over the course of two days. The children showed immense commitment and they really enjoyed taking part. Some



are already asking what next year's show is going to be! A lovely way to end the year – what a talented bunch!



## Celebrating art

During the week of 19th–23rd June, Eaton Primary School enjoyed a fantastic week of creative learning linked to the Sky 'Access All Arts' event. This year's theme was 'identity' and children were given several starting points to explore representations of themselves as individuals.

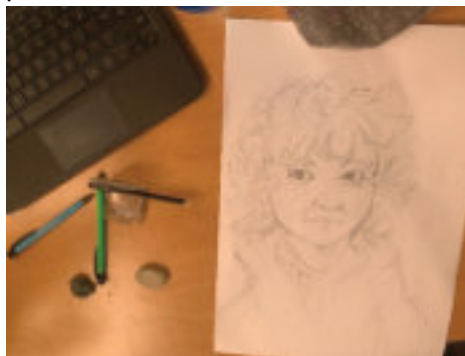


We looked at the work of several different artists from Cézanne and Picasso to modern portrait artists like Nathan Wyburn for inspiration. In PSHE lessons children were asked to consider themselves as individuals, including the items which could represent their hobbies and interests or their personalities and individuality. The children really enjoyed sharing and celebrating their items with each other, and they demonstrated the British Values of tolerance



and respect throughout the week.

Our children were able to draw on the knowledge and skills from their curriculum art lessons this year and were inspired to create their own pieces using a variety of media. They were highly engaged with this year's theme, and we were very impressed across the whole school with their efforts, creativity and final pieces.



Year 4 have also been learning about the work by Alberto Giacometti and created 3D sculptures from wire and collage in their art lessons. They have been making accurate observations to look carefully at the form and proportions of the

human body in movement. They have learnt how to elongate proportions and size of the forms which they then created to imitate the work of Giacometti.

During our PTA Summer Fete we were able to showcase some of the children's work from the 'Access All Arts' week and from their curriculum art lessons, including the Y4 sculptures. It was wonderful to see the pride the children took in sharing their work with their families and friends during our 'Gallery' event and the delight which parents and other visitor took in viewing their work. Some were so impressed they asked to buy pieces! (Which unfortunately were not for sale.)





# Elm Tree Primary School

## Celebrating science

At Elm Tree, we are delighted with our new science curriculum. The children's enthusiasm, attitude to learning and deeper understanding have increased throughout the year. Pupil voice has been really positive: '... the experiments have been fun but we have to think and use our knowledge to help us to explain what we investigate.'

The new CUSP curriculum is built on substantive and disciplinary knowledge. Our children are taught subject knowledge and vocabulary at the start of units of work in order to form understanding by applying this knowledge to questioning and planning, observing, experimenting, measuring, identifying and classifying, using observations and gathering data to help answer questions, reporting, predicting, improving, and seeking patterns.

### Investigating

Our Year 2 children investigated 'What's the most absorbent material?' and 'What is waterproofing?' Year 5 investigated reversible processes and the misconception that when salt dissolves in water it does not exist anymore. In Year 4, children investigated the effects of changing electrical components and batteries.



### Classifying

Children in EYFS identified a variety of African animals that are either carnivores, herbivores or omnivores. The children recalled these class groups from their prior learning about dinosaurs. They discussed their reasons as to why they thought for example, a Lion is a meat eater, 'it hunts live animals.'



### Recording

Children use their knowledge notes and vocabulary tasks to ensure they record their observations, experiments and data cohesively.

### Recording

#### Measuring



#### Observing

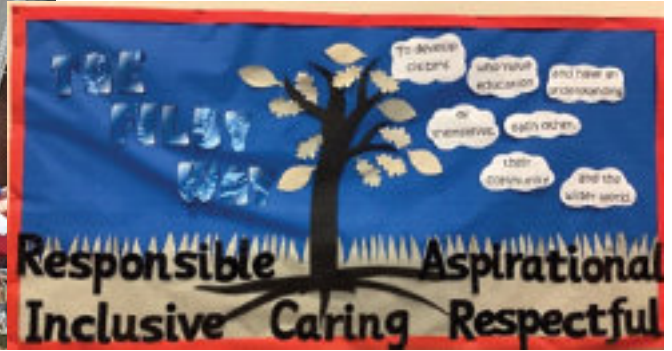


#### Exploring

# Filby Primary School



## Ofsted success!



We had a visit from Ofsted at the very end of last term and we are delighted to share that we received a positive outcome of a 'Good' grading across all areas.

We are particularly proud that our 'Filby Way' values, upon which everything we do at school, was recognised and praised – *"Pupils talk about how much they enjoy their learning. They are also proud to follow the 'Filby Way', which are the values and behaviours staff expect them to show. Many pupils know these values off by heart and understand what they mean."*

Ofsted also recognised the wider curriculum offer we give

our children – *"Pupils can also try new activities, such as performing arts, squash, yoga or playing hand bells. Staff signpost pupils who show a particular talent or interest to community clubs they can join."*

Just in this half term so far, children have performed at Great Yarmouth Drill Hall, singing songs learnt in partnership with the 'Enjoy–Great Yarmouth' Local Cultural Partnership group. They have performed at the Norfolk Show, taking part in a record breaking 'bucket drumming' performance.

Our oldest children have also learnt crucial first aid and

resuscitation skills, something we plan to roll out to the whole school. In sport, children have competed in the Evolution Academy Shield Sports Festival (with our Key Stage Two team finishing third overall!) as well as attending the East Norfolk Cricket Festival and the cluster Reception sports morning.

These valuable curriculum enhancement opportunities also enable us to form even stronger links with our local community. At the moment groups of our children are actively involved in the Filby Bells restoration project, Filby in Bloom initiative and Norfolk Music Hub, really ensuring that Filby Primary School is at the heart of our local community.



## Sporty summer

Here at Nelson Infant, we have been celebrating everything sporty this Summer Term and are proud of each of our children's achievements as individuals and as part of a team. We were so excited to welcome commonwealth gold medallist, Steve Frew, to Nelson this month. Steve gave demonstrations and ran masterclasses in gymnastics. Our children were inspired by Steve's story and motivated to follow their own dreams and never give up.

The children then participated in a fun fitness circuit with Steve raising sponsorship money to help support GB athletes to inspire the next generation and to help raise funds to enhance Nelson's sports facilities.



Six of our pupils joined the 'Evolution Cup' sports day at Elmtree school. They enjoyed the friendly competition amongst our fellow academy schools and being part of an inter-school event. The children shared their experience of the day with their classmates, who later presented them with their certificates in assembly, for being wonderful representatives for Nelson Infant and making us so proud.

We were incredibly pleased with our whole school sports day. All children competed in a round-robin of activities, including: throwing, balancing, running races and obstacle courses. Our families joined in by cheering from the sidelines and running in the parent race. After getting our heart rates up and exuding energy, we enjoyed a picnic lunch on the sports field.

We are fortunate to have The Sports Factory help us provide enriched programs for our PE lessons in school, promoting our values of Honesty, Kindness and Respect through sport, friendly competition and teamwork. The Sports Factory also provide lunchtime football and engaging team games, as well as running a Multi-Skills extracurricular club, which over 25 of our pupils attend after school each week. The Sports Factory also offer a summer club, based at Nelson.

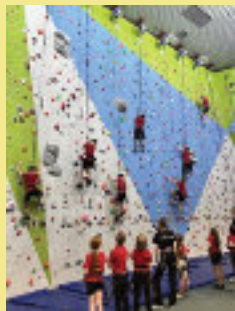




## The Poplars Experience: cultural capital opportunities

At Poplars Community Primary School, we firmly believe in providing pupils with firsthand experiences that immerse them in diverse cultures, traditions, and ways of life. Through these experiences, pupils can interact with individuals from different backgrounds, visit historical sites, explore museums, and engage in cultural exchange programs. Here are a few of many experiences our children have had this term.

### Climbing to new heights



*"Rock climbing rocked our world!" Jay Y4*

As part of our Sports Premium provision, all

pupils from Y1-Y6 had the opportunity to go rock climbing at Waterlane. Children showed such wonderful courage, with everyone giving it a go and kindness to those cautious of the height.

*"I went all the way to the top, I can't believe it." Thomas (Y2)*

*"I never thought I'd be able to do something like rock climbing, it was so much fun"*

Phoebe Y4

### Dance troop shakes up the stage



A group of year 6 pupils showed such courage performing for a crowd of hundreds on the stage of the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft's dance festival this term. They blew the audience away.

*"Being up on the stage was both exciting and nerve-racking" Jorja (Y6)*

### Cycling to success

Encouraging a healthy lifestyle in a fun and safe way, our year five and six pupils were given the opportunity to complete Bikeability. Pupils



demonstrated remarkable courage as they conquered new challenges on two wheels.

*"I feel so much safer cycling to and from school now. I can't wait to start going to secondary school on my bicycle!" Rosa (Y6)*

### Choo-chooing into fun on our railway excursion

*"When I grow up, I would love to be a train driver" Ollie (Y3)*

The enthusiastic year 3 pupils embarked on an unforgettable trip to the Bure Railway, where they experienced the thrill of riding on a historic steam train. This extraordinary trip not only supplemented their history topic, but it ignited their aspiration and sparked a passion for the world of trains, leaving a lasting impression on their young minds.

*"I loved riding on the train and seeing the countryside go by so fast!" Elsie-Mae (Y3)*

### On a journey at the Time and Tide Museum

This hands-on experience fostered teamwork, communication and a sense of camaraderie as pupils worked towards unraveling historical puzzles, leaving them inspired by the power of collaboration in unlocking the secrets of history.

*"I loved learning more about WW2 on this visit, it has been my favourite topic" Lincoln (Y4)*





# Wensum Junior School

## Schools Of Sanctuary

At Wensum Junior we are very proud to be part of the Schools of Sanctuary. A school of Sanctuary is a place that fosters a culture of welcome and safety for people seeking sanctuary, including asylum seeking and refugee families. As a school of Sanctuary, we educate the whole school community about the human right to sanctuary and identify practical means for schools to demonstrate that commitment.

This term, the whole school enjoyed taking part in 'A Day of Welcome'. Our day began with an assembly that focused upon empathy. Then each year group attended a live webcast.



The webcast for Years 3 and 4 was by Dina Nayeri who helped the children better understand the experiences of refugees and got them to think about how they could create a culture of welcome in their classrooms. During the webcast the children explored Dina's book The Waiting Place. Dina shared her



own experiences of seeking sanctuary alongside the experiences of some children who lived the refugee camp in Greece. The children were invited to empathise with Dina and share their own ambitions for the future.

Years 5 and 6 joined Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson on a webcast, where they explored their award-winning graphic novel, 'When Stars are Scattered'. During the live webcast, the children gained an understanding of who refugees are, explored

Omar's experiences of growing up in a Kenyan refugee camp after he had to flee his home country of Somalia. They discussed the differences in schools and attitudes. They thought about what they could learn or do differently about education as a society?

All the children used Art to express their thoughts, views and ideas from the true stories they had heard about. They created Hexagons of Hope and collages that demonstrated their voices through Art.



