

Welcome to Evolve Academy's Spring Term News Letter



Second Chances. Strong Futures.

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.

**GO
ALL
IN.**

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- Functional Skills Exams

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- Recommended Reads
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Primary News

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- Baking
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Wellbeing

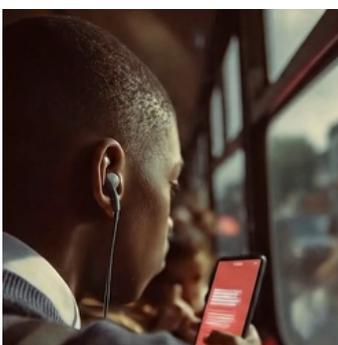
- Children's Mental Health Day
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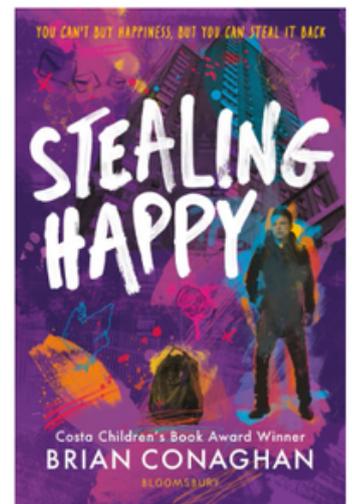


Carnegie Medal for Writing - Recommended Reads

Tuesday 10th February 2026: The Carnegies, the UK's longest running and best loved book awards for children and young people, today announced their longlists for 2026.



Identity is a stand-out theme across both Medals, explored through class, family, precious relationships, wild journeys and meaningful connections with nature. Retellings, folklore and history are also frequently used to reflect on the present, and a notable collection of funny books for all ages also make a joyous addition to the longlist.



FUNDRAISING FOR AMBITIOUS ABOUT AUTISM



Alex's Message

This April, I'll be taking on the Brighton Marathon to support Ambitious about Autism, a charity that supports autistic children and young people to live more independent and fulfilling lives. This cause is especially close to my heart and a charity I am proud to run for.

I am hoping to raise some money to extend the support this charity offers. I'm hugely grateful for any support or donations, which will help fund vital services, education and advocacy for autistic people and their families. Please check the link if you are willing or able to support in any way.



Online Community for Parents & Carers



Connect with others



Share experiences



Information and support



Learn something new

Ambitious Youth Network



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK - PLACE TO BE



SO WHAT IS BELONGING?

- **Belonging is emotional safety.**

It's the knowledge that you can be yourself without being judged.

- **Belonging is participation.**

It's having access to activities, conversations, decisions, and rituals that shape the group.

- **Belonging is recognition.**

It's being known for who you are and having that matter to others.

Belonging is not the same as fitting in. Fitting in asks you to change to match the group. Belonging asks the group to change so you can be yourself.

Be authentic.

Rather than trying to "fit in", focus on being your true self. Belonging comes from being accepted for who you are.

Practice self-compassion.

When you make a mistake or feel like you've failed, be kind to yourself. This helps build resilience and reminds you that your worth isn't about being perfect.

Listen to yourself.

Pay attention to your feelings and try to understand what you need. For example, if you're feeling lonely, listen to this and think about what might help you feel more connected.

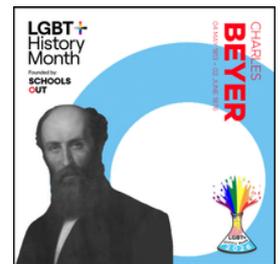
A new video mini-series created by BAFTA ahead of Children's Mental Health Week 2026 explores the importance of belonging for wellbeing, with familiar faces from stage and screen.



LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH 2026: SCIENCE & INNOVATION



This month, our school is proud to celebrate LGBT+ History Month – a time to recognize the achievements, stories, and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other LGBTQ+ people throughout history.



Why It Matters

For much of history, LGBT+ people were left out of textbooks, overlooked for their achievements, or forced to hide who they were. This month helps shine a light on those hidden stories and reminds us that diversity has always been part of our world.

Learning about LGBT+ history helps us:

- Understand different identities and experiences
- Challenge stereotypes and misinformation
- Promote kindness, empathy, and inclusion
- Support classmates, friends, and family members who are part of the LGBT+ community

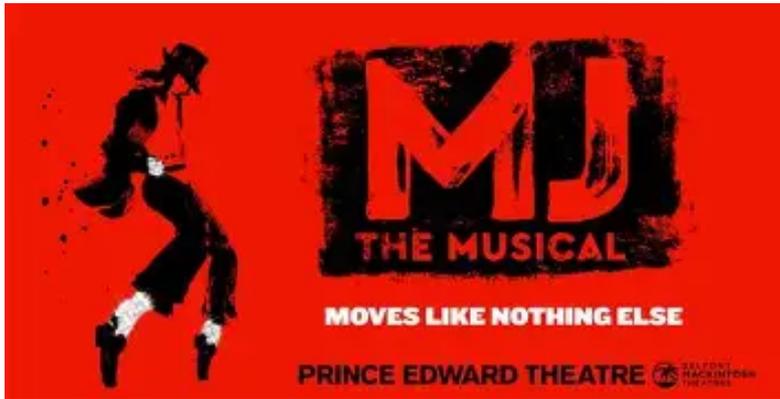
Did You Know?

Throughout history, LGBT+ people have made major contributions in science, art, sports, politics, and civil rights. From groundbreaking activists who fought for equality to authors, athletes, and innovators who changed the world, their impact is everywhere – even if their stories weren't always told.

A Message to School Our Students and School Community

Everyone deserves to feel seen and supported. Whether you identify as LGBT+ or as an ally, you are part of creating a school community built on respect. Small actions – using kind language, standing up against bullying, and being open to learning – make a big difference.

MICHAEL JACKSON THE MUSICAL



The Michael Jackson theatre trip was a tremendous success.

Students were engaged, reflective, and genuinely happy to take part. Even those initially unsure ended up creating lasting memories. As a school, it strengthened our cultural offer, boosted confidence, and opened new opportunities such as interest in the Go Live programme.

Kayden

“It was a good trip. I liked being out together and seeing something different from what we usually do in school.”

Maisy

“I got to visit an interesting shop afterwards, and the performances were really good. It made the whole day feel special.”

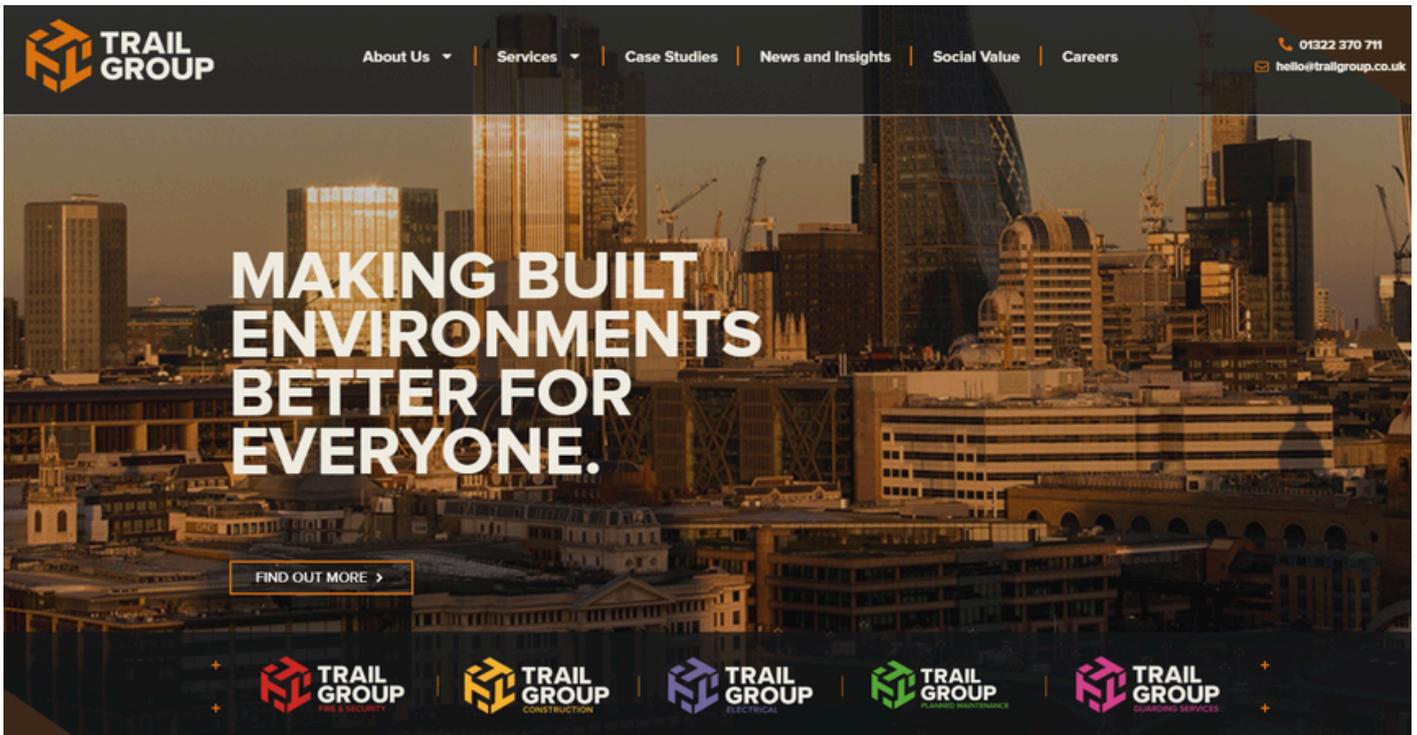
WEST NORWOOD ISLAMIC CENTRE

Our KS3 visit to the West Norwood Islamic Centre was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational experience for the students. They learned about the etiquettes of the mosque, including the importance of removing shoes and showing respect within the prayer space. The children were also introduced to the Five Pillars of Islam and had the opportunity to taste dates and explore different copies of the Qur'an.

A highlight for many was listening to various styles of Qur'anic recitation from the imams. They even invited Yasin to recite, which they seemed to appreciate greatly. The students were given a full tour of the mosque, including the ablution area, and were very engaged throughout. To end the visit, they received stationery gifts and sweets, which added to their excitement. Overall, they thoroughly enjoyed the trip and gained valuable insight into Islamic practices and culture.



TRAIL GROUP KENT



Our Year 11 students enjoyed an inspiring and opportunity-packed visit to Trail Group's main establishment in Swanley, Kent. The trip offered a vibrant look into the world of construction, fire protection, electrical services, and building maintenance – all areas in which Trail Group is a leading UK provider.

Students were welcomed into the company's impressive in-house Training Academy, where apprentices and engineers develop specialist skills in passive fire protection and related trades. Throughout the day, our learners took part in hands-on activities, explored real-life work environments, and gained a clear understanding of what a Post-16 apprenticeship could look like.

The experience opened their eyes to exciting career pathways and gave them the confidence to imagine themselves stepping into a future filled with growth, challenge, and opportunity. It was a fantastic day that left our students motivated and eager for what comes next.

CAREERS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Year 11 students recently visited Kingston University as part of our Careers and Personal Development Programme. The day included ambassador Q&As, course exploration, a campus tour and study skills workshops, giving students a valuable insight into university life and future pathways.

SOUTHBANK COLLEGE TRIP

SEMH students visited a South London college to explore post-16 courses and apprenticeship. Students experienced college life, took part in activities, and met staff. The visit helped the students build confidence, independence, and awareness of future education and career opportunities.



Y11 Parent/Carer Reminder: Please check your child's: Open Day and Interview Dates

Jan - Feb 2026 Primary News

This term at Evolve Primary has been a wonderfully enriching one for our pupils, filled with exciting trips and hands-on learning experiences that have brought their classroom studies to life. We wanted to share some highlights with you.

RECORDER SESSIONS

Purple class have been learning to play the recorder with specialist teacher, Ian. Focus and concentration are improving every week!



The children performed Jingle Bells at the end of autumn term performance and are already getting ready for the Easter show.

What will they play next?!

BAKING SPONGE CAKES

Purple class enjoyed baking with Mr Cleveland – many made their very first cake. Their mixing skills were brilliant!

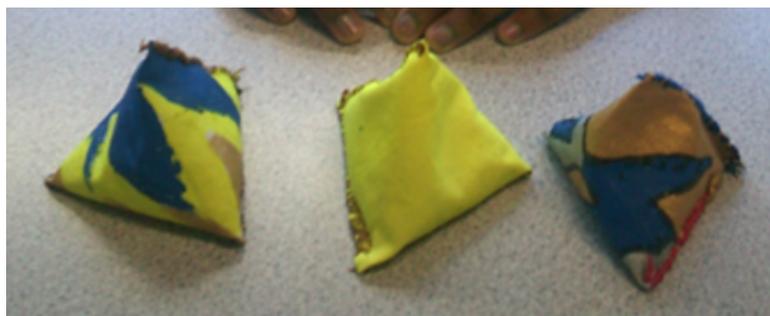


DT IN PURPLE CLASS

In DT, we looked at how to juggle and then designed and made our own juggling balls.

Zyon did some excellent sewing, was a champion needle threader and his decoration was vivid and bright.

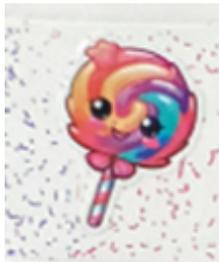
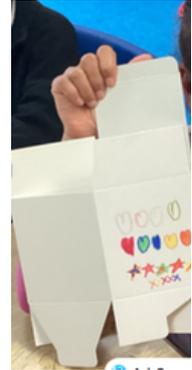
Great job, Zyon!



We are incredibly proud of how engaged, enthusiastic, and respectful the children have been throughout all these experiences. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide such rich learning opportunities.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and we have been learning about our mental health and ways to look after it. We had a special afternoon decorating memory boxes. It was fun! We have been writing positive memories to put inside them.



CBBC

Shows

Games

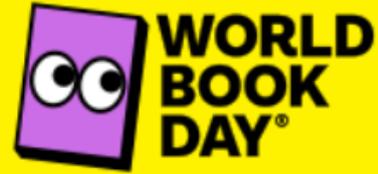
Quizzes

Watch

newsround

All you need to know about Children's Mental Health Week

**World Book Day
5th March 2026**



Let's Celebrate the Joy of Reading!

This month we're joining millions of readers to celebrate World Book Day, a brilliant reminder of the magic, adventure, and endless possibilities found between the pages of a book.

After half term we're looking forward to supporting World Book Day by:

- Dressing up as our favourite book or character.
- Listening to guest authors talk about writing inspiration.
- Sharing the free £1 Book Tokens and supporting children to buy their own books

WORLD BOOK DAY
5 March 2026

£1 Book Token

Valid from 12 February - 15 March 2026

Win Yoto's ultimate reading bundle!

Discover the incredible world of audiobooks with Yoto. Win a **Yoto Player** and **up to £200** worth of Yoto cards from the large library selection in Yoto's card store.

To enter and for full terms and conditions go to worldbookday.com/yoto-competition.

One entry per person. Winners will be notified shortly after 15 March 2026.

Prize promotion runs from 12 February to 15 March 2026.

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Choose your £1 book for free!

Children, families & educators: This token is for single use only and entitles children under 20 to ONE FREE World Book Day 2026 book or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating bookshops only, subject to stock availability.

Find your nearest participating bookshop at worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/participating-retailer/

Full terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/terms-conditions

Retailers: Full terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/bookshoppers/

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World Book Day for families

World Book Day is all about helping children enjoy reading in their own way – whether that's sharing stories together, listening to audiobooks, reading comics, or dipping into non-fiction. This page brings together ideas, resources and practical information to help you make the most of World Book Day with your family.



SAFEGUARDING AT EVOLVE



Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

Please remain attentive to:

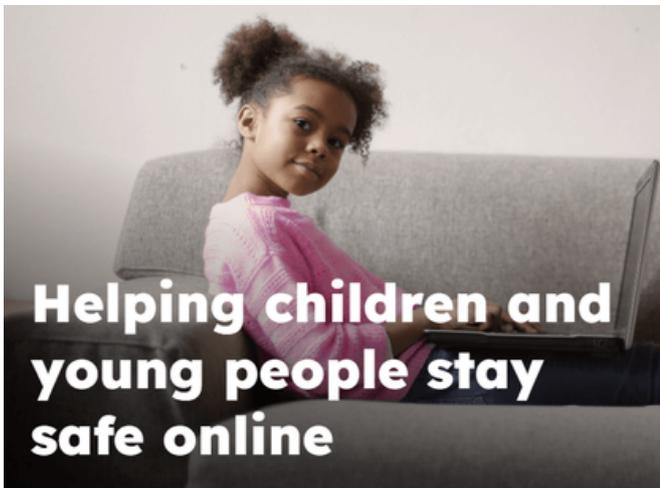
- Sudden behaviour changes
- Emotional distress
- Concerns about online safety
- Signs of neglect or bullying

**Designated
Safeguarding Lead:**

Mark Browne
mbrowne@evolveacademy.org.uk

If you ever have a concern:

- ✓ Speak to a trained adult immediately
- ✓ Provide clear and factual information
- ✓ Complete a safeguarding referral if required



Find information about Safer Internet Day 2026 and this year's theme, "Smart tech, safe choices."

We encourage you to take a moment to read the guidance and discuss online safety at home.

You can complete the UK Safer Internet Centre's **interactive quizzes** with your child.

Read the UK Safer Internet Centre's **tops tips for parents and carers** here.

You can share the UK Safer Internet Centre's **top tips for children and young people** with your child