

Spring has sprung!

It's a delight to welcome you all to our spring newsletter! As I write this, I am looking out of my window to blue skies and sunshine and the sounds of birds singing. The mornings and evenings are getting lighter, and there is no doubt that spring is in the air!

We've had a busy term here at the Evelina Hospital School. Due to Covid-19 measures, we continue to teach the children and young people in the hospital on the wards. It's been wonderful to see staff adapt lessons so they are suitable for bedside delivery. This term, staff have delivered bedside sessions in a wide range of curriculum areas from English and maths to science and computing. We've also seen successful PE and cooking sessions by the bedside as well and it's been remarkable observing the children and young people's adaptability in engaging in sessions on ward.

We have been very excited to have expanded our offer of remote sessions, as this means that more children and young people can take part in our sessions. The remote sessions can also allow more interaction between our pupils as they can be taking part in the same sessions at the same time. I'd like to say a big thank you to Ed, our IT consultant, for his support with the technical elements of this and getting everyone set up and ready to go. We are very grateful to Ashley, our chef, for adapting his sessions so that children from around the hospital can engage in cooking, and to Ed again, for delivering some amazing Lego coding sessions. Watch out for more remote workshops in the summer term!

We've had many highlights this term. In February we celebrated the Evelina Book Festival, which culminated in our World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 3rd March. Many thanks to our English lead, Fiona, who organised such a lot of wonderful activities during the festival. We were lucky to have a range of authors working remotely with our pupils and every day there was something different happening, from children learning about illustration, to children remotely meeting African snails (have you ever seen one? They are huge!). We chose the wonderful Oliver Jeffer's book *Here We Are: Notes for Living on*

Planet Earth as our school text for this year. Staff dressed up as characters from the book and children took part in activities linked to the text. See if you can spot our staff in their costumes throughout this newsletter! February was also LGBT+ history month – many thanks to Sophie for making our display on this look so beautiful; we had a particular focus on art, and were able to learn about the contributions of artists such as Frida Kahlo, Andy Warhol and David Hockney. March saw Science Week – thank you Simone (our science lead) for helping us all learn about growth and plants through the hydroponic kits – a way of growing plants inside without the need for soil. It was a great learning experience for both children and staff – many of us had never seen a hydroponic kit before! We particularly enjoyed seeing Agron, one of our HLTAs, dressed up as a scientist in his white coat as he went off to deliver lessons on plant growth on the wards!

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to two wonderful members of staff who are leaving at the end of this term: Barthola and Doreen. Have a look inside the newsletter to hear from both Barthola and Doreen about their time working at Evelina Hospital School. We would like to say a massive thank you for all your hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. We will miss you both so much and wish you both the best in your retirement.

If your child has been having sessions with us during their time in hospital and you'd like to give us some feedback, please do fill out a survey for parents/carers. You can scan the QR code on the back page to take you straight there!

— Laura Perrett, Deputy Headteacher

Inside this edition...



Page 5



Page 12



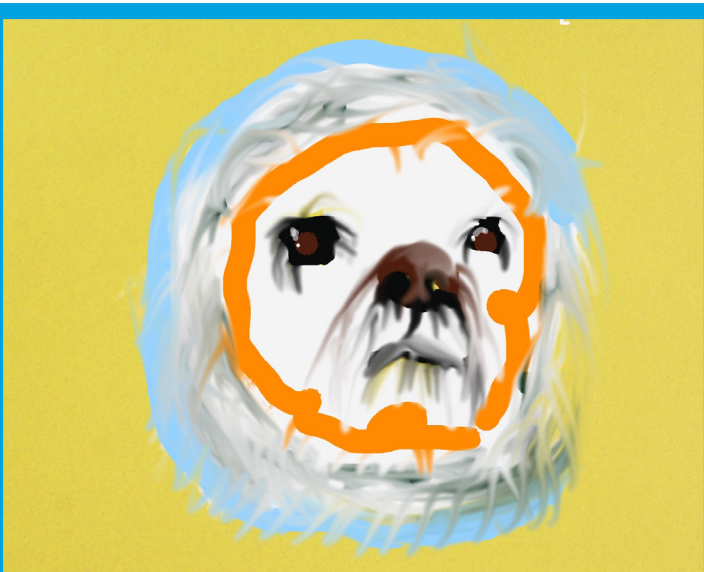
This spring term, we have continued using digital art. The pupils have learned to upload a photo and use it as a background to create a picture. There has also been a staff workshop to enable teachers to facilitate the learning using the technology. Digital art is very useful when teaching on the wards due to strict infection control rules with the use of traditional art equipment.



Digital painting of a tiger, by a pupil (aged 10).



Owl, by Luis (staff).



Maltese dog, by a pupil (aged 14).

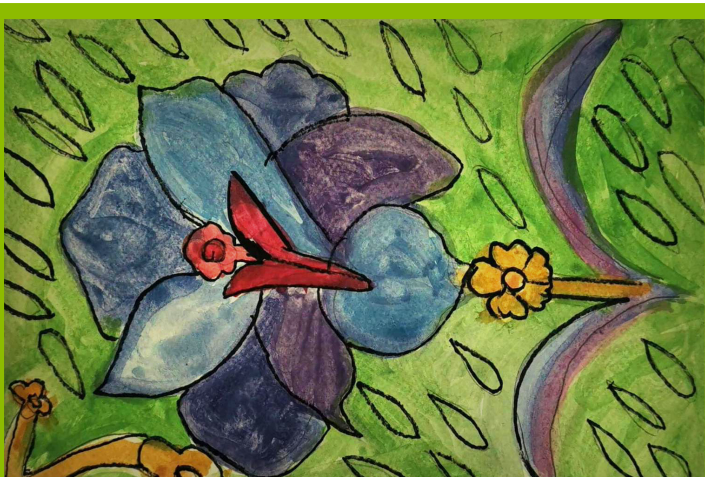


Penguin, by Tasnia (staff).



Artworks by William Morris (left, source: *National Trust*) and Rudi Patterson (right, source: *Black Cultural Archives*).

Our theme for the spring is flowers, birds and nature, to link with the themes of spring, Easter, and the science theme of growth. We are still working on climate change which is a permanent theme for the year. Our focus artists have been William Morris and Rudi Patterson, but we have explored other artists as well. Pupils have responded to these artists' inspiring work with watercolour and collage, as well as learning to prepare a polystyrene tile to print their ideas in different colours.



William Morris inspired watercolour, by a pupil (aged 9).



Rudi Patterson inspired tile imprint.



We have also been celebrating Chinese New Year by creating paper lanterns and ring-linked dragons, then decorating them with a variety of colourful paints and other materials.

Maths

This term in maths we have been looking at money and finance skills with our pupils. We have a unique opportunity to work closely with parents/carers, and it's amazing to have conversations about money matters where parents/carers can be involved and carry on this good work into the home.

In our one-to-one sessions we have been looking at a variety of money skills. For our older pupils we complete a 'money personality' quiz where pupils can think about their money morals and spending vs saving habits.

For other pupils we have been using coins to sort. We have then been practising other mental maths skills by building different totals and working out change.

We urge parents/carers, if they are thinking about giving their young people pocket money, to consider doing it with physical money rather than by bank transfer. This helps our pupils working out totals and gathering change to keep their maths skills really sharp in this important topic.



Sorting the coins by value in a race against the clock!



Once sorted, we explain which pile holds the most value.



Our interactive display board shows money in different forms.

We have an interactive display where young people are reminded of the existence of piggy banks in our digital age. Pupils have been working out how they could pay for different items.



Science



Some of our books nominated for a Royal Society award.



Continuing with the work we started last term on climate change, we have continued to look at what we can all do to make a difference.

The importance of science communication has become clear to us all over the last couple of years. Being able to clearly understand how things work and what it means for us is incredibly important. Every year the Royal Society award a prize for the best science book aimed at young people, with the aim of promoting literacy and to inspire them to read about science. We have been sharing some of these books with our pupils on ward. Keep an eye out for them next term too!



Learning how the world around us works helps bring science to life for young people. Using the resources from Concept Cartoons, we carried out experiments to see how we could stop a snowman from melting too quickly by using ice wrapped in thick socks – everyone was surprised at the answer! And no, there are no spoilers here. You'll have to try the experiment for yourself!



There are lots of activities being planned for **Science Week** – keep an eye out for updates in the next newsletter!



Computing



Pupils have used ScratchJr to learn how to code visually.



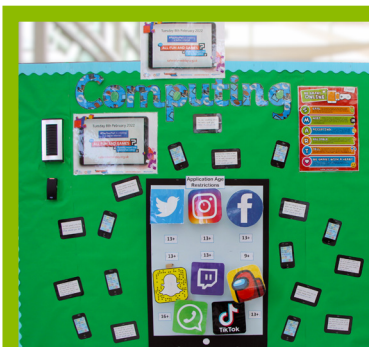
Lego provides a more hands-on approach to programming.

This term in computing has seen a lot of exciting new opportunities to get into computer science and programming. Pupils have used a variety of different apps and physical tools to create programs for a purpose.

One of the biggest developments in our technology toolkit this spring term has been our video studio - this suite of cameras provides staff with the chance to broadcast themselves to pupils in many different wards at the same time, and lessons can even be recorded for later viewing.

Watch this space as we develop new content and new ways of bringing learning to even more pupils!

Every year in February, Online Safety Week gives a chance to reflect on the risks and benefits of spending time on the web, and our interactive display provided parents/carers with lots of useful hints and tips.



Our online safety display.



Our IT consultant Ed leads a Lego SPIKE workshop using state-of-the-art broadcasting equipment so that pupils all over the hospital can take part (left). Pupils took part in the Lego SPIKE workshop by following the instructions methodically (right). The headsets provide an opportunity for questioning and support as the pupils create and code their own robot.

Symbols are a powerful way to convey a message to people. We all recognise company logos and use emojis to show how we are feeling.

Religious symbols are hugely significant to their followers and hold important meanings. We have been looking at these symbols to find out what they mean and why they are so important.

Also, staff enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, 1st March, although there was much debate about what makes the best toppings. **What would you choose?**



Can you find as many as he did?

Match the symbol to the religion!



JUDAISM



CHRISTIANITY



SIKHISM



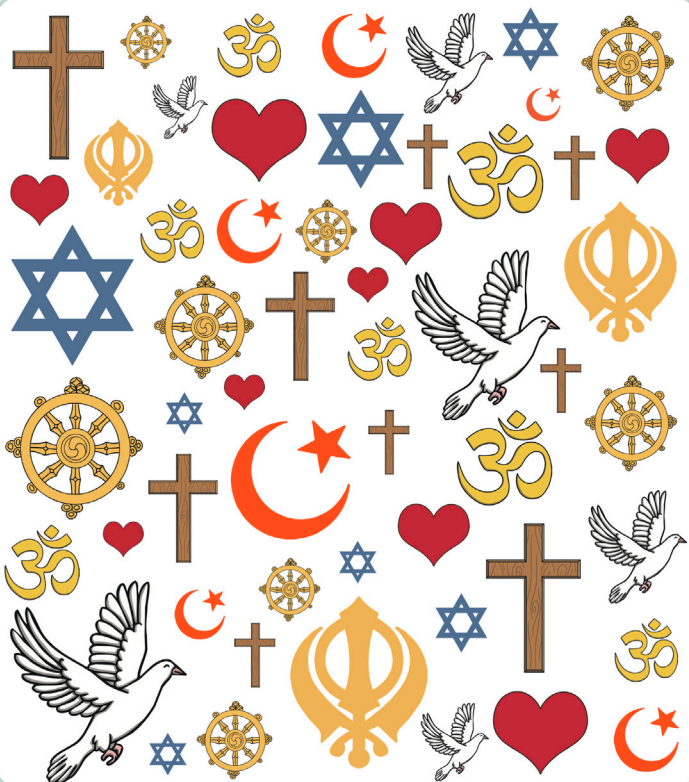
HINDUISM



BUDDHISM



ISLAM

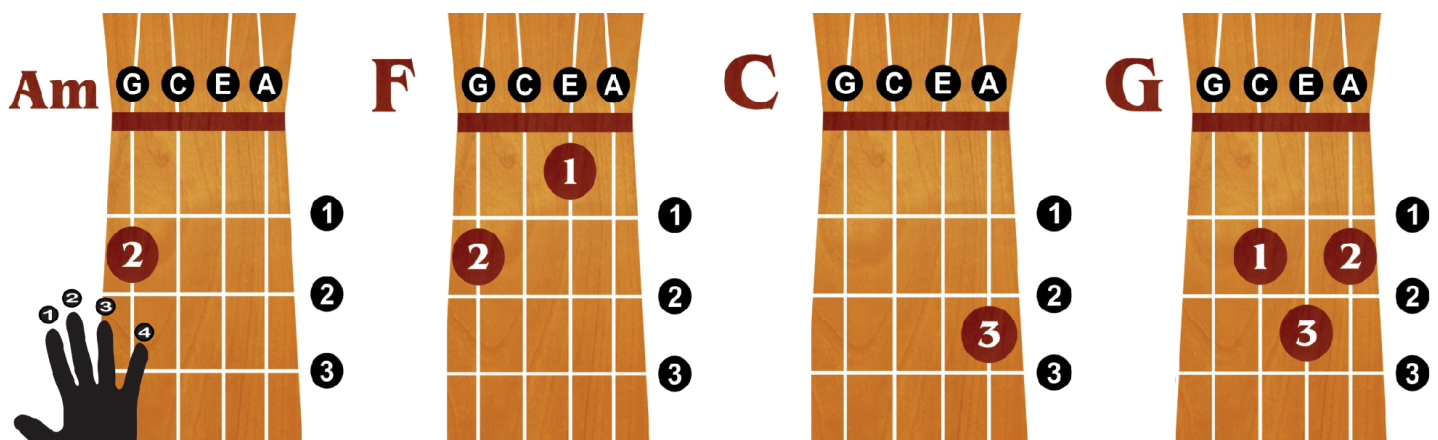


World religions: 1 Spy

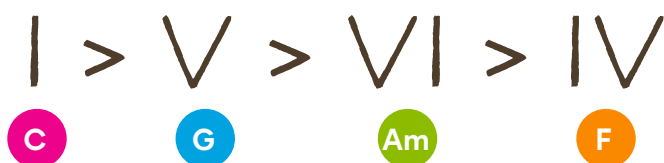
Star of David	
Cross	
Crescent moon and star	
Khanda	
Dharma wheel	
Om symbol	
Dove	
Heart	

How many of each religious symbol can you count?





We've had a lot of fun with music in Evelina this term. As a staff body we have been continuing to improve our ukulele teaching skills armed with an orchestra of bass, tenor and soprano ukuleles. We learnt how to play the 4 most used chords in the most popular chord progression:



Using only 4 chords, we've learned you can play an enormous number of songs, including:

- Journey - Don't Stop Believin'
- Jason Mraz - I'm Yours
- Elton John - Can You Feel the Love Tonight
- The Beatles - Let It Be
- A-ha - Take On Me
- Aqua - Barbie Girl
- Adele - Someone Like You
- Michael Jackson - Man in the Mirror
- Bob Marley - No Woman, No Cry
- Idina Menzel - Let it Go

...and many more!

In our music technology project, we've started linking our Logic Pro software with a MIDI device to make the software accessible to students of every ability.

Using this Playtronica device, pupils and parents/carers can hold both ends of the device and create music through touching one another's hands.

Through experimenting with the speed, they move their fingers and the intensity of their grip they can control the pitch and note length. Through the computer programme, pupils can change the pitch as well as the timbre (or character) of the instrument's sound!



Playtronica allows pupils to quickly start making music.

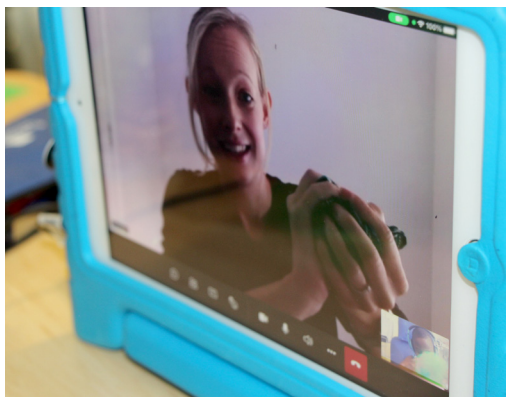
P.E.



PE has been successful this year by working 1-to-1 with pupils.



Pupils have enjoyed learning new games like bocce and new age bowls. N (above) is winning at bocce!



Capital Kids Cricket (Ray & Denise) had the opportunity to work on Dialysis and Snow Fox wards delivering fun PE sessions.

Caroline from RADiate Dance (left) worked remotely with pupils to provide creative dance workshops.



Parents/carers and pupils have appreciated receiving PE packs and have been using them at home. These resources have brought a smile to many faces!



One of our English pupils reports on our learning in English this term.

Thank you to the creative writer Linden McMahon who has inspired many of our young creative writers this term. The theme was our favourite words which we used to create persona poems.

These poems were brought to life by choosing a favourite word, which we then personified by answering questions based on the five senses.

Some of the key questions were:

- What would their word look like?
- What their word's voice would sound like?
- What their word's breath would smell like?
- What would their word be carrying?
- Whether their word was something physical or an emotion?
- If their word were to touch someone on the shoulder, how would the touch feel?

The editing process was a significant part of our session. Linden read through our work to enable us to identify any aspects we would like to change to enhance their poems.



Read for Good's storyteller Jen led remote storytelling sessions.

One of our pupils appeared on the BBC just before Christmas to tell the viewers just how much we love Storytelling sessions – and Read for Good UK at Evelina Hospital School.

Art by a pupil, aged 8

Colourful, medium height, messy hair full of colours

Kind light blue eyes

Breath smells like sweets

Moves slowly and smoothly like a bee

Touch sticky like glittery paint

Carrying a bunch of paint buckets and it's all over the place

Leaving splatters of colours behind

A squeaky voice excited about painting!

The Hamster and the Baby Shark

by a pupil, aged 5

Once upon a time there was a pink hamster. The pink hamster wanted some green cabbage but the baby shark had eaten all the cabbage.

The hamster felt sad.

The hamster and the baby shark played together outside on the beach.

The baby shark shared its cabbage.

The pink hamster said "Thank you."

The hamster said "Goodbye" and went home.

The baby shark went home as well.

The baby shark and the hamster played together every day and they always shared their cabbage.

The End.



Seaside

I see the clear blue water
 The salty water is tickling my nose
 I can taste the yummy slightly grainy
 'sand'-wich
 I can hear the waves crashing all around
 me and seagulls flying high above
 I can feel the spiky hard rocks and the
 ice cold water covering my feet

19/01/2022

Meet a Governor

Today we are talking to **Susan Rankin Reid**, one of **Evelina Hospital School's** governors.

Hi Susan! Please could you start by telling us a bit more about what a governor is?

A governor is someone from outside a school who works alongside the school leaders and school staff to make sure the school is as good as it can be. It helps to be interested in education if you want to be a governor!

What does being a governor involve?

Governors have to attend regular meetings about the school. There are full governing board

meetings, which involve all the school governors, and then there are other regular meetings that look at different parts of the school like finance (money!) and curriculum (what children are learning). We also visit the school, read lots of school documents, work with other governors and support the headteacher.

What is your role at **Evelina Hospital School**?

I'm the co-chair of governors. This means that, with the other co-chair, I lead the governors and make sure all the other governors are able to support the school. I also look at the education side of the school which means what and how



Susan Rankin Reid

children learn. I also make sure everyone is safe in school.

What do you do when you are not being a governor?

I work as an education consultant which means I go into schools and support them. I used to be a teacher and am very focused on children's right to an education, even when they are in hospital. When I am not working, I love being outside in my garden!

World Book Day

Jen Lunn
04/03

Nicola Davies
08/03

Trish Cooke
10/03

VISITING AUTHORS

EVELINA HOSPITAL SCHOOL BOOK FESTIVAL

28TH FEB-11TH MARCH 2022

Jane Porter
28/02-01/03

Sophie Ambrose
09/03

Jeanne Willis
11/03

Nicola Kent
03/03

The advertising for our first ever book festival was created by one of our talented young media pupils, aged 17. We think she did a great job!



Our display for World Book Day and the Read for Good resources provided an ever-changing suggestion box for pupils and parents/carers to take their next literary adventure!

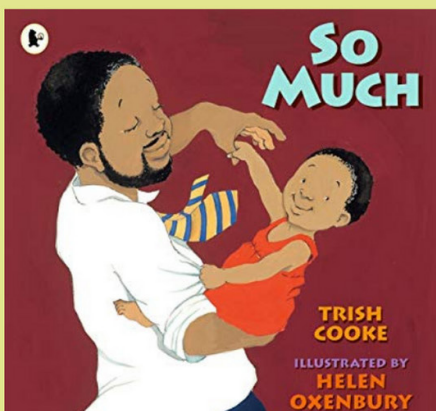
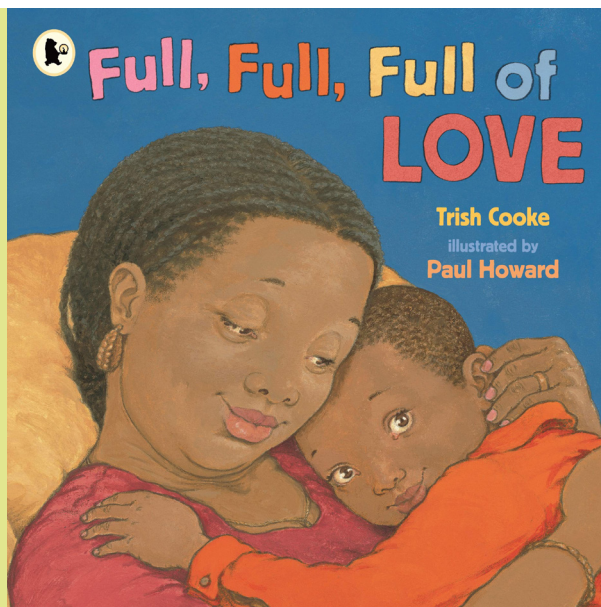


We were delighted to welcome back many of our favourite authors for a remote visit, such as Jane Porter, who has spent the last five World Book Days with us!

TRISH COOKE

10/03

Trish Cooke is a British playwright, actress, television presenter, scriptwriter and children's author.



We were delighted to have Trish Cooke visit us again, a firm favourite of many of our families.



We also welcomed two new authors, Nicola Kent (pictured above) and Sophie Ambrose.



We all dressed up to mark the occasion. Have you been able to find our hiding places?

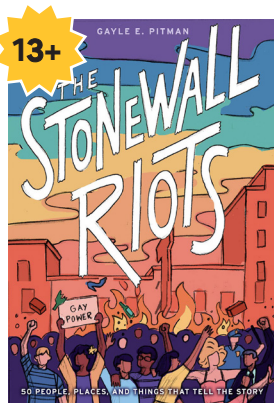
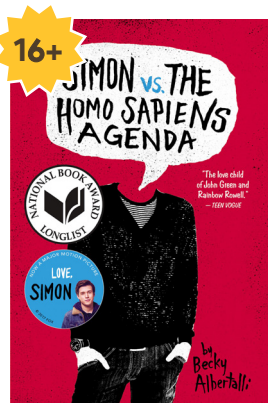


Every February, we celebrate LGBT+ History Month, commemorating the abolition of Section 28 legislation in the UK, which for many years prevented teachers from discussing all the different kinds of families that we see day-to-day in modern Britain.

We are inspired by fiction and non-fiction writing by LGBT+ authors, about their own history and our shared history of progress for LGBT+ rights in the UK and internationally.



Our LGBT+ History Month book display celebrating some favourites!



Recommended LGBT+ reading:

- *Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli
- *The Stonewall Riots* by Gayle E. Pitman
- *What Does LGBT+ Mean?* by Olly Pike



On 8th March, we also celebrated International Women's Day, and took the opportunity to revisit some of the amazing actions taken by women who have changed our world for the better. We encouraged pupils to share stories of their own female heroes.

Goodbyes

Thank you Doreen!

Doreen Nelson, Evelina Hospital School's longest serving staff member, retires after 17 glorious years!

I was very nervous on my first day at Evelina Hospital School 17 years ago, but I said "Good Morning" to everyone with a big smile and have started each day in the same way ever since. The move from Guys over to Evelina was challenging, some things had been in the school since its start in 1947, but rewarding.

I have enjoyed meeting families from all around the world and love it when families pop back to say hello. Thinking about each child and what I could work with them on got me out of bed every morning over all these years. Families often asked if they could take me home with them!

To do this job well you have to have heart and love for the children and a passion for the job. It is a lovely feeling to go home every day knowing you have made a difference to a young person's life.

Happy retirement Doreen, we will miss you!



Doreen

Thank you Barthola!

This Easter, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to the wonderful Barthola, who has been working with us since 2013. We would like to wish her all the best in her retirement. Here are her reflections on her time with the school.

When I first joined Evelina Hospital School in 2013, I was a bit nervous but very excited and this feeling of excitement remains with me to this day!

I had a varied experience of teaching when I joined the school, but I was not prepared for the way the children and the families at Evelina were going to shape me. The young people and their families were and are always a source of inspiration for me: never have I seen people in such difficult and worrying situations, display so much love, resilience and empathy! I learned so much from them and I can never thank them enough for the outlook on life they have given me.

Teaching at Evelina Hospital School may have been challenging at times both intellectually and emotionally, but it has always been rewarding. I met very inspirational and creative people amongst the staff too. I learned and continue to learn from each one of them. There have been many highlights, in particular the interesting conversations I had with the children, parents, medical staff and colleagues. I was also lucky to not only be allowed, but also strongly encouraged to use my love of art to benefit the school, and to develop my creativity further.

I know the decision to retire is right, but I am not going to pretend that I won't miss you because I will, or that I am not sad because I am. Evelina Hospital School, I wish you the best and the kindest of future.

Happy retirement Barthola, we will miss you!



Barthola

Thank you so much!



In this photo are just a few of the books donated by 8 year old Shaina following her *Run to Read* fundraiser.

Shaina ran a mile every single day in February and raised an amazing £1,300 for Evelina Hospital School.

Shaina selected £500 of fabulous books which arrived in time for the children to enjoy as part of our book festival.

The remainder of her generous donation will be used to fund more visits by authors, something all our children really enjoy.

Many thanks to Shaina and her family.

Thank you Suzanne and Tracy from Singing Hands for your continued hard work and quality provision teaching Makaton sign language and engaging our young people.

Thank you Nathalie, our volunteer, for your dedication to your work with us. You make such a difference to both us and the young people with the high quality of your teaching provision!

Thank you Danny Potter and James Williams from Ordamo Limited for the generous donation of Samsung Galaxy tablets. These will help us bridge the digital divide for those young people who don't have a suitable device with which to connect to the internet.

Thank you Trish Cooke, Nicola Davies, Jane Porter, Sophie Ambrose, Jeanne Willis and Nicola Kent, the wonderful authors who contributed to our first book festival! Thank you also to Jen Lunn at Read for Good and our creative writer Linden McMahon.

Thank you J. J. Eatherley for your continued support and donations.

Thank you Ashley Marsh at the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts: Adopt-a-School Trust; Ray Tudor and Denise O'Neill at Capital Kids Cricket; Ed Miles at First Line Support; Phil McDermott at Frog-in-a-Pan; Caroline Forrest and RADiate Dance; and of course to all the Evelina Hospital School staff, governors and volunteers and to all the Evelina London Children's Hospital and GSTT staff.

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