

Hot off the press!

This term, Evelina staff were proud to take part in the 13th European HOPE Congress in Dublin – our first time attending this prestigious international event. Focused on Sharing Information, Knowledge, and Practice, the congress brought together education professionals from across Europe and beyond.

I was pleased to attend alongside three colleagues, Sarah, Lisa and Áine, who presented two sessions: *Engaging the Reluctant Mathematician* and *Creating Impactful SEND Education – The School's Journey*. Both were warmly received and highlighted the strength of our practice within a high-quality programme.

This was a valuable opportunity to share our work, learn from others, and deepen Evelina's role in the wider educational community.

This term has been packed with creativity, discovery, and immense pride in our pupils' achievements. From AQA Unit Awards through to maths qualifications for our secondary pupils, we have been so proud to witness the resilience and dedication of our learners, despite the added challenge of learning while receiving medical treatment. Congratulations to all!

Our enthusiasm for learning extended into British Science Week. Pupils were thrilled to meet animatronic dinosaurs, design camouflaged butterflies, a video call from a real zoo keeper, and even a live Q&A session with astronaut Tim Peake.

These accomplishments, alongside the energy of our three-week Book Festival featuring celebrated authors and illustrators, remind us of the magic that happens every day at Evelina. Thank you to our incredible pupils, families, and staff—you've made this term, and the whole year, one to truly celebrate!

— Anne Hamilton MBE, Headteacher

Upcoming events...

We are looking forward to offering lots of fun summer activities from Monday 21st July to Friday 25th July, 10am-3pm each day:

- Arts and Crafts
- Chess and Games
- Circus skills
- PE and Dance
- Storytelling
- Author visits

Look out for us on the ward and in the atrium!

We revere the written word!

On the 6th of March, we celebrated World Book Day as a school. Our theme was 'My Name Is' which centred around the importance of pronouncing one another's names correctly, in order to reflect and honour our unique identities and different cultural heritages. To celebrate the day, staff wore T-shirts displaying the caption: 'My Name Is' followed by their names, in a font and colour they felt best represented them.

Turn overleaf to read on...



World Book Day

Pupils and staff decorated their T-shirts for World Book Day with an array of symbols, colours and images to showcase their personalities, using paint and fabric colouring pens.

To link with the theme for the day, we selected Joanna Ho's book, *Say My Name* to read with the students across the key stages. Written in beautiful lyrical prose, and accompanied by stunning illustrations, it features the stories of young people from places such as Ghana, Tonga, China and Mexico. The focus of the text was to celebrate the importance of names, and embrace their cultural significance.

We felt that this was an important topic to focus on as our pupils derive from a range of different backgrounds, and we want to make sure everyone feels included in the stories we read, as well as empower pupils to embrace the names that they are given by their families.



There were an assortment of activities for pupils to complete, connected to the story. In one of the tasks, pupils were able to scan a QR code to listen to Joanna Ho discuss her motivations for writing the book. In Key Stage 3, students were encouraged to compose their own poem entitled *Say My Name* to explore their own identities, using the original text as an example.

Our amazing teachers Sarah and Áine created a modified version of the book which they transformed into a sensory story, suitable for pupils who might benefit from other ways to access a story. Pupils also created artwork inspired by images from the text, as well as decorating their own T-shirts to express their unique identities.



Festival of Books

Over a three-week period, we held the annual Evelina Hospital School Festival of Books, where we were fortunate enough to be visited by a range of children's authors, illustrators and poets.

To begin the festival, we were visited by Annemarie Anang who read her book, *I Am Nefertiti* and *Dance Just Like So!*. She also played the ukulele and brought in a doll to accompany her story, *I Am Nefertiti*. Pupils were really captivated by her storytelling and music!



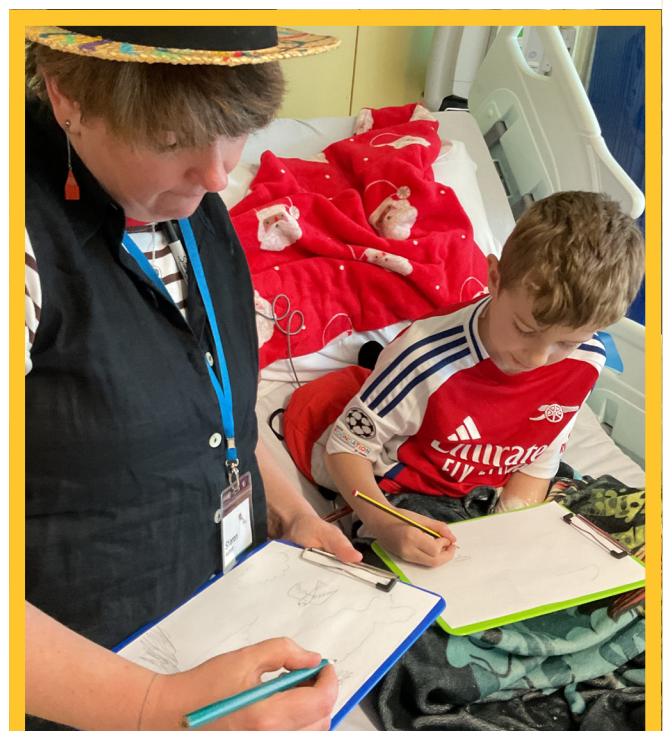
Sharon Davey, illustrator of the book *My Magic Family*, led illustration workshops for pupils in the classroom and on the wards. They really enjoyed having an opportunity to create their own drawings!

Adisa the Verbaliser, impressive word-smith and spoken word poet, worked in the classroom and on an individual basis with pupils, reciting poems from his anthology: 'Lip Hopping with the Fundi-Fu'. Our students really loved participating in the sessions and having the opportunity to create their own poems, with Adisa's guidance!



Comic book artist Richy Chandler came to visit and led workshops on how to produce a comic strip, as well as how to draw animals! Our pupils really enjoyed replicating his drawings and learning about his stories, like *Lucy the Octopus*.

Chitra Soundar, incredible author of more than 60 books returned to visit us, leading workshops on her book *Happy Holi!* about the Hindu festival, celebrating spring, colour and life! Children really enjoyed listening to her talk about her books, as well as her wonderful show on CBBC, *Nikhil and Jay*.





Interview with Suzanne



Suzanne is one of our regular enrichment providers here at Evelina Hospital School. Suzanne provides a very special experience for our pupils as an expert practitioner of Makaton signing, which she provides as a representative of Singing Hands, which she founded.

We are very grateful Suzanne agreed to an interview, so you can learn a bit more about her too!

Name: Suzanne Miell-Ingram

How would you describe your current role?

I visit the school twice a month to provide Makaton singing and signing sessions on the wards and in the classrooms. We provide a wide-ranging repertoire of songs from nursery rhymes and action songs, through to pop songs and film songs for the older pupils, so there is something for everyone.

How did you get into it?

I am the mother of a disabled young adult and started signing after she was born. My daughter Ella has CHARGE syndrome (a genetic condition). She also had a tracheostomy and is deaf so the signing enabled her to communicate. I then trained in Makaton and became a Makaton tutor. I am really passionate about the benefits of Makaton in supporting children's communication, having seen the positive effects in my own family.

How long have you been working with us at Evelina Hospital School?

Many years prior to Covid and then I taught online during covid. Luckily, we are now back face-to-face!

What is your favourite thing about your job?

I am always learning and having fun with songs and signs. Music is just so joyful and beneficial to children's well-being and happiness and a great way to develop language. At Evelina I am often working with children who are very poorly and have complex needs. They often are Makaton users and being able to engage them in a fun learning session is really rewarding. Everyday and every individual session is different, my job is full of variety. The fact that Singing Hands evolved from such a dramatic life experiences is really special.

What would you do if you won the lottery?

I would use some of it to set my disabled daughter up for life with some sort of supported living. I would probably have a couple of nice holidays, and then do good things with the remaining money.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I am always listening to music. I love to walk my lovely dog Rex, and at the moment I am learning the ukulele!



Food Technology

We've been busy in the kitchen this term, creating a wide variety of both sweet and savoury recipes. It's been an exciting journey exploring new ingredients and trying out different techniques.

From fresh cherry tomatoes in our tarts and pizzas to juicy pineapple rings in our pineapple upside-down cakes, we've loved experimenting with flavours and textures in our cooking.

Tomato tarts proved to be an especially popular creation. We had so much fun making them and used lots of important cooking skills, including mixing, rolling, and slicing (using the bridge method to do so safely).

Our passion for food and learning has extended far beyond the classroom. Not only have pupils been baking and cooking in our school kitchen, but our pupils receiving dialysis have also been busy baking right at their bedsides on the ward!

These incredible young chefs have been working towards achieving an AQA Unit Award entitled the Gold Food Journal; a fantastic accomplishment that involves creating and cooking 12 different recipes, all while carefully following step-by-step instructions.

Two of our secondary-age pupils have taken things even further by working towards a second AQA Unit Award: Basic Food Hygiene and Preparing Light Meals. As part of this, they selected three kidney-friendly recipes - a starter, a main course and a dessert - and prepared them with care and confidence.

We're incredibly proud of their hard work, resilience, and dedication. Take a look at their finished meals, beautifully presented and packed with flavour!



Tomato tart recipe

Ingredients

2 tbsp soft cheese

1/2 tsp Dijon mustard

4 ripe tomatoes

190g puff pastry

Olives to decorate (optional)

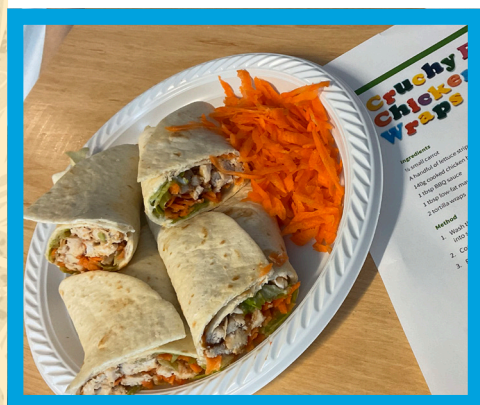
Method (bake for 20 minutes)

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C.

Mix the soft cheese together with the mustard in a small bowl, and cut the tomatoes into thin slices.

Roll the pastry into a rectangle on a floured surface and lift onto a baking sheet, marking a border the thickness of two fingers around the edge.

Spread the soft cheese inside the border, then arrange the tomato and olives on top.



Science Week

Every year at Evelina Hospital School we make sure to celebrate British Science Week. This year we enjoyed activities from different visitors as well as our own activities in the classroom and on the wards. We were lucky to meet some friendly dinosaurs and learn facts about them for example their habitat and diet. Pupils loved interacting with and stroking the dinosaurs.



We had another great visit from Hands On Science. This time we learned about camouflage and why it is important for animals' survival. Pupils designed their own butterflies, then drew an environment where their butterfly could hide in plain sight. Can you spot our butterfly in the picture below?

After learning about the adaptations of different animals, students did their own research and made their own Top Trumps of their own favourite animals, you can see some of the hard work students put into this below.

We enjoyed joining an online lesson with British astronaut Tim Peake. He talked about what is involved in training to become an astronaut and what it's like to live on the International Space Station. While watching, pupils made their own astronaut dolls and badges.



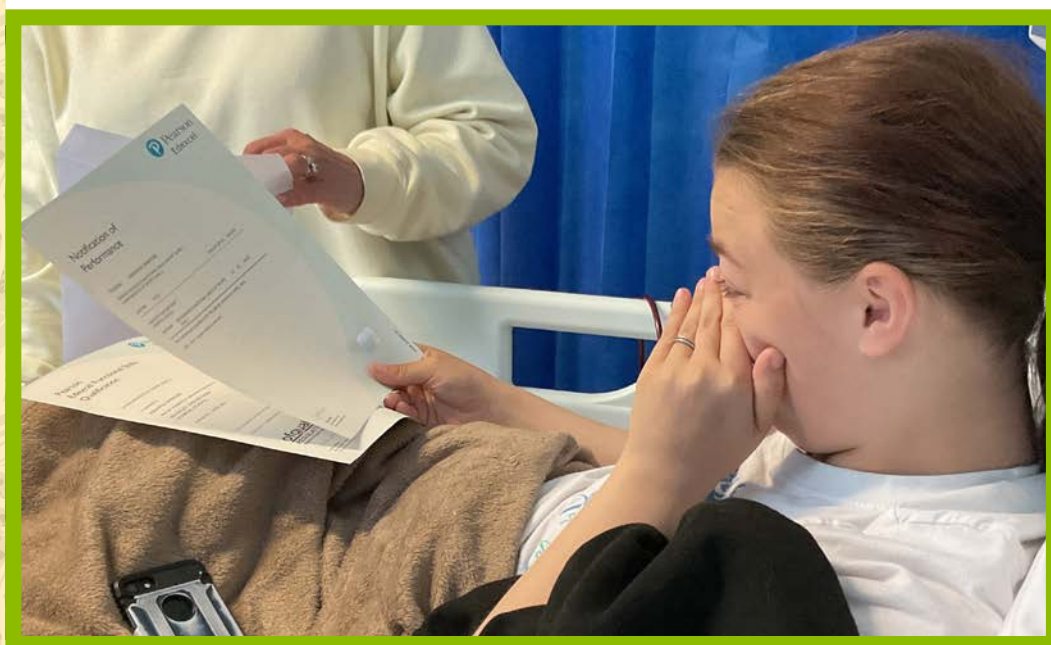
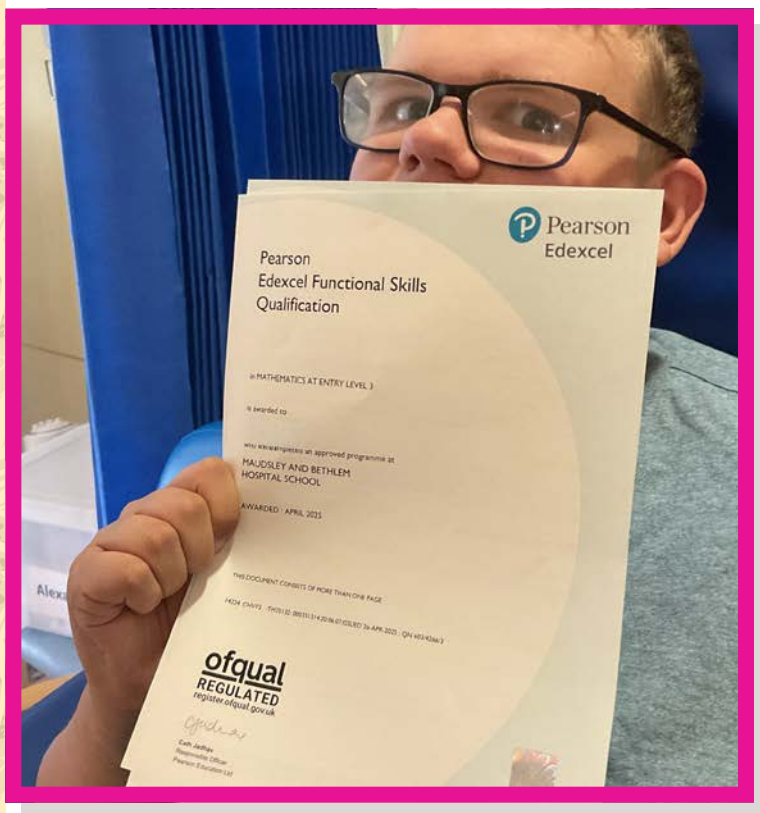
Since Science Week we have also enjoyed a video call with a zoo keeper at Whipsnade Zoo! He showed us the different animals they keep, including giraffes, lions, meerkats and elephants. We had the opportunity to ask questions about the animals and learn about what it's like to be a zoo keeper - including how to keep safe from the biters!



Secondary

We are incredibly proud to share that pupils at Evelina Hospital School have successfully achieved their Maths qualifications this term! Despite the challenges of learning while receiving treatment, our determined learners showed fantastic focus, resilience, and dedication to their studies.

With the support of our specialist teachers and personalised learning plans, these pupils not only kept up with their education but thrived—demonstrating that hospital stays are no barrier to academic success. A huge congratulations to all of our pupils for their hard work and to the teaching team for their unwavering encouragement and care.



Well done to everyone involved—you continue to inspire us all!

We can't wait to see what comes next for each of you.

School information



Our Vision: Excellent Education, Endless Possibilities

At our school, we are proud to offer an outstanding, personalised education for every pupil. We are committed to helping each child achieve positive educational outcomes while feeling valued, nurtured, and respected.

What it means to be a values-based school

At our school, values are at the heart of everything we do. They shape our learning, our relationships, and our school culture — helping children grow into kind, confident, and thoughtful individuals.

Our core values:

- **Beauty** - we believe that beauty can be found in nature, art, learning, and human relationships. We encourage children to seek and appreciate beauty in their surroundings, their work, and each other. This nurtures creativity, pride, and a sense of wonder.
- **Childhood** - we honour childhood as a time of discovery, imagination, and growth. Our environment is designed to protect and celebrate this special stage of life, ensuring children feel safe, joyful, and free to explore their world.
- **Time** - we teach children to use their time wisely: to be present, to focus, and to value learning moments. As a school, we plan meaningful learning experiences that make the best use of every day.
- **Social Justice** - every child matters. We champion fairness, inclusion, and equality. We ensure every pupil's voice is heard, every need is met, and every background is respected.

By living these values each day, we create a nurturing, inclusive space where all pupils feel valued and supported, and are inspired to achieve their very best.

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 **Instagram:** @EvelinaHospitalSchool

 **YouTube:** @evelinahospitalschool7909

Admissions

All young people aged 3-19 who are inpatients are welcome to register with our school. We welcome 2-year-olds (the term after their second birthday) on a part-time supported basis. The school works together with the wards to decide day-by-day whether children and young people are well enough to participate in sessions. We consider enquires about siblings on a case-by-case basis, in exceptional circumstances only.

Teaching times

School is open in the morning 10am-12pm and in the afternoon 1:30pm-3:30pm.

School enrichment

School offers an additional 10-15 days creative program across the year during school holidays.

Feedback

Your feedback and views on our school are really important to us and help us to improve our offer to pupils in the future. Scan these codes below, depending if you are a pupil, or a parent/carer of a pupil. It should take between 10-15 minutes to complete.



Pupil
survey



Parent/
carer
survey



Headteacher: Anne Hamilton MBE
evelina.southwark.sch.uk