

IncludEd

THE COMPASS EKO INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

FAMILY EDITION - ISSUE 6 , SUMMER 26

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Tes Schools
Awards 2026

Winner
Inclusive Trust of the Year



For the past two years, *IncludEd* has celebrated the wonderful work happening across our schools and shared stories of inclusion in action. This edition is particularly special as it is our first since The Compass Partnership of Schools and Eko Trust came together to form Compass Eko Trust.

This exciting new chapter brings together a community of schools that share the same belief: every child and young person should feel they belong, achieve and thrive. By working together, we can learn from one another, share expertise and create even better opportunities for children and families.

We are also delighted to share that Compass Eko Trust has been named **TES Inclusive Trust of the Year 2026**. This national award recognises our commitment to inclusion and celebrates the work of our schools, staff, children and families in creating environments where everyone feels valued and supported.

As you read this newsletter, we hope you enjoy some of the inspiring stories from across our Trust. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our community.

— **Beth Tanton, Director of SEND (Mainstream) & Joshua Garrett-Smith, Special Schools Inclusion Partnership Lead**



Sharing Our Work Nationally

Compass Eko Trust was recently invited to present at the **Whole Education Summer Conference 2026** at the University of Warwick.

We shared how our schools work together to support inclusion and help all children thrive. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the creativity, expertise and commitment found across our Trust.

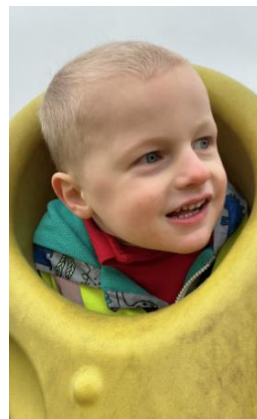
Learning Through Play and Exploration at John Ray Infant School

This year has been an exciting one for Otter Class at John Ray Infant School. Otter Class provides a nurturing environment where children learn through play, exploration, communication and positive relationships.

Throughout the term, the children have taken part in a wide range of activities designed to build confidence and develop new skills. In mathematics, they have been exploring numbers through practical learning and hands-on activities. In science, they have been learning about animals, including humans, discovering more about the world around them and about themselves. One particular highlight was a trip to the farm, where the children's excitement and curiosity were clear to see.

The children have also enjoyed daily dance sessions, developing coordination, creativity and self-expression through movement and music. Learning regularly takes place both inside and outside the classroom, helping children to explore their community and develop independence.

What makes Otter Class so special is the celebration of every achievement. Whether it is trying a new activity, using a new word, building a friendship or growing in confidence, every step forward is valued and celebrated.



Helping Children Find Their Voice at Deansfield

At Deansfield, technology is helping some children overcome barriers to writing and share their ideas with confidence. For children who find handwriting, spelling or organising their thoughts challenging, tools such as speech-to-text software and iPads can make a huge difference. Rather than struggling to get words onto paper, children can focus on communicating their ideas and showing what they know.

The use of assistive technology does not replace handwriting and writing practice. Instead, it provides additional support when needed, helping children develop independence and reducing the anxiety that writing can sometimes cause. Staff have found that children are able to produce higher-quality work, feel more successful and become increasingly confident learners.

The children themselves have spoken positively about the impact the technology has had:

"My teacher allows me to record my ideas. I usually find it hard to finish my work. I have excellent ideas and do not have time to write them down. I am a slow writer and struggle to remember what I want to write. I use voice writer on an iPad and it has helped me a lot." — **Oliver**

SPOTLIGHT

ON SUCCESS

Making Learning Accessible for Every Child at Ravenswood

At Ravenswood, staff have been further developing their approach to adaptive teaching to ensure that every child receives the support they need to succeed. Rather than focusing only on what a child finds difficult, teachers work to understand the underlying barriers to learning and adapt lessons accordingly.

This approach helps teachers identify the most effective support for each child, whether that involves breaking learning into smaller steps, providing visual prompts, reducing memory demands or offering additional scaffolding. The result is more personalised support that helps children participate, succeed and become increasingly independent.

Staff have already reported seeing a positive impact, with more children successfully accessing lessons and completing learning tasks independently. One teacher explained:

"I finally feel like I'm adapting for the right reason, not just doing more of what I've always done."

Another reflected:

"It helped me realise that some children don't need easier work — they need support with working memory. That's a completely different response."

And perhaps the most powerful reflection came from a colleague who said:

"It's changed the way I think. I'm not guessing anymore — I know exactly what the barrier is and what to do about it."

This thoughtful approach is helping ensure more children experience success every day.

Welcoming New Teachers to Compass Eko Trust



As we prepare for another exciting school year, we were delighted to welcome the Early Career Teachers who will begin their teaching journeys with Compass Eko Trust in September. During a special welcome day at Willow Dene School, the new teachers learned about our values, our commitment to inclusion and the support available to them throughout their first years in

teaching. They also heard directly from current Early Career Teachers, who shared practical advice and reflections on their own experiences. The day gave new colleagues the opportunity to see outstanding practice in action and deepen their understanding of how we support children with SEND across our schools. We are excited to welcome them into our community and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on children and families in the years ahead.

Listening to Families: What Parents Want from SEND Reforms

At Compass Eko Trust, parents and carers play a vital role in shaping our work. Through our SEND Parent and Carer Forum, families share their experiences, celebrate positive practice and help influence future developments across our schools.

When discussing future SEND reforms, families highlighted the importance of inclusion extending beyond the classroom. Parents spoke about wanting all children to have the chance to participate in trips, clubs, enrichment activities and wider school life, with schools actively exploring reasonable adjustments to make this possible.

One parent shared:

"We'd like schools to assume our children can take part, and then work with us to make it happen, rather than assuming it isn't possible."

Families also valued strong partnerships between schools, support services and parents, recognising that the best outcomes are achieved when everyone works together.

As one parent explained:

"The best support happens when schools, families and services work together. Having workshops and specialist support in school makes a huge difference."

Parents also highlighted the importance of accessible communication and flexible opportunities to engage with school life. Another parent reflected:

"When schools think about the barriers families face and find ways to remove them, it helps everyone feel they belong."

These conversations continue to guide our work as we strive to build inclusive school communities where every child and family feels valued and supported.

Education leaders from across the country gathered to share ideas about how schools can help children thrive, even during challenging times.

We led two workshops, sharing how mainstream and specialist schools work together to strengthen inclusion and improve outcomes for children and young people. The conference provided an opportunity to showcase the expertise, innovation and commitment that exists across our schools.

We were incredibly proud to share our work on a national stage and to contribute to important conversations about inclusion, partnership working and ensuring that all children can flourish.

Thank You

As another school year comes to a close, we would like to thank all our families for their ongoing support. **We wish you a happy, safe and relaxing summer holiday.**



OUT & ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

GREENWICH

SEND Active Play Sessions

A welcoming and inclusive play space for children with disabilities, their siblings and friends. Sessions include multi-skills sports, dance and sensory activities, helping children stay active, make friends and build confidence.

Link: <https://greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/services/send-active-play-sessions> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

Access Sport & Greenwich BMX Club

An inclusive cycling and BMX club where children and young people can learn new skills in a supportive environment. Sessions are designed to be fun, accessible and suitable for a range of abilities.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

Music Therapy Sessions

Children can explore music, rhythm and sound through specialist sessions that support communication, interaction and sensory development. A great opportunity for creative expression and enjoyment.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/services/send-activities> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

SEND Soft Play

These relaxed soft-play sessions provide a safe and supportive environment for children with SEND to explore, play and develop their physical and social skills.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/services/send-activities> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

SEND Stay and Play

Inclusive play sessions offering a variety of activities for children alongside opportunities for parents and carers to meet, share experiences and access advice.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/services/send-activities> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

SENDSory Play

Sensory-focused activities designed to engage children through touch, movement, sound and exploration. Ideal for children who benefit from additional sensory experiences and support.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/services/send-activities> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

Autistic Inclusive Meet-Up

A friendly and supportive group where autistic children and their families can socialise, play and connect with other local families in a welcoming environment.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/services/send-activities> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

Early Years SEND Activities (0–4 Years)

A range of inclusive activities for younger children delivered through Greenwich's Children's Centres and Health Visiting Service, helping children learn, play and develop.

Link: <https://www.greenwich0to4.co.uk> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk], [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

The Boys' Brigade

Offers activities including crafts, games, sport, music and outings. Children and young people can develop confidence, independence and friendships while having fun.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

Brighter Futures Short Breaks

A programme of activities for young people aged 16–25 with autism, learning difficulties and complex needs. Sessions support independence, social development and community participation.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

Holiday Activities and Clubs

The Greenwich Community Directory includes a range of holiday clubs and activities that families can search to find SEND-friendly summer opportunities across the borough.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk], [greenwichc...ory.org.uk]

Greenwich SEND Activities Directory

A comprehensive directory of local activities, support groups and services for children and young people with SEND. A useful starting point for finding additional summer opportunities.

Link: <https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/services/send-activities> [greenwichc...ory.org.uk], [royalgreen...ich.gov.uk]