

innovatED
Supporting School Leaders

- Thought Leadership
- Paid Market Research
- Free Professional Development

**Meet Marty
the Robot
- free offer
for schools!**



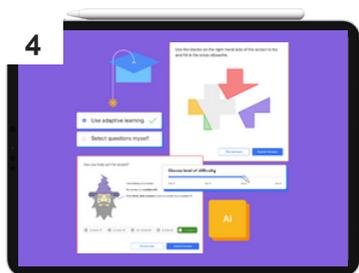
**Book recommendations
Social media for school leaders
Edtech product reviews
... and much more!**

Don't forget to forward this magazine onto senior colleagues!

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innovatED

Supporting School Leaders



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Atom Prime is a brilliant homework platform for key stage 2. It's also free of charge for schools. Find out more and bag yourself a market research opportunity too and get a £40 Amazon voucher!

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Proof-positive that CPD really can be free (who said there was no such thing as a free lunch?)

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We are blessed to have so many truly inspirational practitioners writing about education at the moment. Here are some of our current favourite reads.

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18 National Awareness Days

What better way to while away those long holiday journeys than to listen to listen outstanding thought leadership (and terrible jokes!)



innovatED - great to be back!

I am delighted to introduce the new iteration of InnovateED, a publication aimed at helping school leaders innovate and improve their schools.

The post pandemic and increasingly digitalised world we live in has led to my rethinking how best we can serve School Leaders. I'm therefore proud to present our new digital version of InnovateED. The world has moved on since our last printed edition so must we.

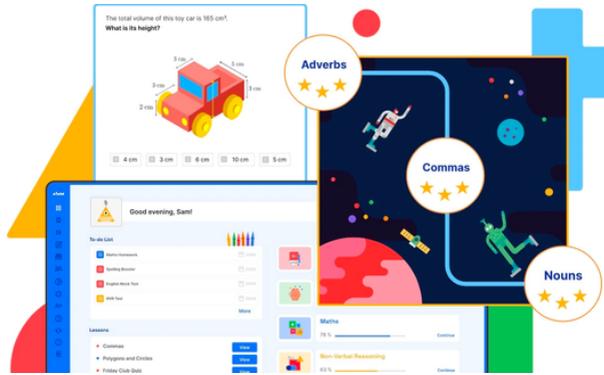
With the plethora of information available on the Internet, together with the generosity of teaching professionals who share their research and experience online there is no longer a place for individual thought leadership articles published termly as a magazine. Instead we have curated resources and articles and thought leaders to put them together in one handy place.

Inside you will find this publication packed full of recommendations for the way 21st century education professionals consume information; books, blogs, podcasts and useful social media accounts. We have also included a brief guide to the key dates in the year – great for planning and something our readers asked for. We have also handpicked companies that we would like to showcase to you as we genuinely believe they do help innovate your school.

Finally, innovatED is part of the BlueCow Education portfolio, the other main strand to our business being FREE professional development events and supplier showcase sessions – where we pay you! You can find more details about both of these in here and I very much hope to welcome you to an event in the future. In the meantime happy reading!



David Winfield, Director, BlueCow Education (and ex-Deputy Head)



- **Atom Prime: A Fantastic Free Learning Platform aimed at Key Stage 2 Children (See page two)**

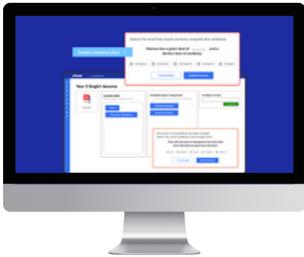
Worth a look - Atom Prime

Overview

Price: Free **Age:** Key Stage 2 Pupils **Voucher offer:** £25 Amazon voucher if you complete a market research form after attending a 30 minute online demo. *You must be on the senior leadership team at a Primary or Prep school to qualify.*

Atom Prime is a learning platform with tens of thousands of questions for English, maths, science and reasoning. It includes hundreds of high-quality learning videos and help-slides to help children answer the questions and allows teachers to quickly and easily create lessons and set homework.

Why we love it: It's a brilliant tool for boosting mastery across the core subjects, it saves teachers huge amounts of time with instant, automated feedback and provides high quality data that highlights pupils' strengths and areas for development.



Create lessons and homework in seconds with automated marking

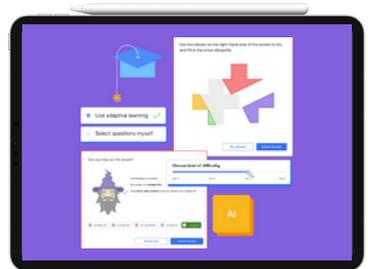
As well as saving teachers huge amounts of time, children are able to access the highest quality support videos and other learning resources. Education research has long proven that timely feedback for children is incredibly valuable. Atom Prime provides instant feedback immediately after every task.

Manage mixed-ability classes through groundbreaking AI.

Atom provides data-driven insights on year group, class and individual strengths and areas for improvement. No more guess work; know where your students need intervention.

Find out more

Click the 'book demo' link to request a 30 minute online demonstration, scan the QR code or visit: <https://bit.ly/atomprimedemo> We'll then email you a market research form for you to complete afterwards. Once complete and we've verified your demo, we'll email you your **£25 Amazon voucher!**



Book Demo



Top Education Blogs

There are some wonderful people online blogging on a frequent basis about education. There are also some terrible blogs out there written by companies trying to improve their search rankings online. The beauty of a good blog is that most aren't time sensitive – so if you are researching a certain topic it is worth scrolling through old blog posts. Below are ones we highly recommend.

Primary Education Network - University of Nottingham primary team's blog

A series of guest bloggers look at a range of issues from PE curriculum to dyscalculia to pedagogy. Definitely worth a look.

VISIT BLOG



Herts for Learning blogs

Herts for Learning has some great content here – from KS2 maths to using puppets in the classroom.

VISIT BLOG



Positive Mental Health & Wellbeing Blog by Worth-it

Worth-it is dedicated to preventing mental health problems through developing positive mental health and wellbeing in children and young people. They have a great blog section on wellbeing and positive mental health.

VISIT BLOG



Aidan Severs Consulting

Aiden Severs writes beautifully about all things primary education and leadership.

VISIT BLOG



Free blogs, article and videos on all topics, Independent Thinking

Independent Thinking has some really brilliant teachers working with them – and most of them also provide blogs for their site. Definitely worth a look.

VISIT BLOG



TeacherToolkit

Ross McGill has been around for a long, long time, however TeacherToolkit remains, in our opinion, one of the best blog sites out there!

VISIT BLOG



Social Media

Facebook and Twitter have a wealth of useful information on them for educational leaders. The great thing about today's algorithms also means that once you get started, the platforms start to push through relevant content to you. We list below some accounts and groups we recommend for those wanting to use social media to enhance their professional development.



Twitter has as a plethora of prolific tweeters in the education section, the strong community that is #edutwitter can be thought provoking, insightful, opinionated and fun. The key is finding the right people to follow and ignoring the wider white noise. Our top six people we recommend you follow are:

@DeputyGrocott

Mr G is a primary school deputy with a large following. He tweets often and is both humorous and collaborative. Whether he is asking about what to cook on his pizza oven or ideas for teaching KS2 about the moon his followers give great advice!

@Teacherhead

Tom Sherrington is a former Headteacher having worked in schools for 30 years. He too has an excellent blog that is worth looking at.

@KateHeap1

Kate Head is a primary English consultant and tweets regularly about different books out there for children – great for anyone looking for book recommendations.

@MrEagerTeacher

A great mixture of tweets and retweets – and some fab maths resources too.

@KyrstieStubbs

Kyrstie focusses on wellbeing and her tweets often include great quotes to get your day off to a positive start.

@Andy_Buck

Andy is founder of leadershipmatters.org.uk and coaching.com. Worth a follow.

This might seem a short list – however Twitter is so personal to everyone that making recommendations can be difficult – what works for some doesn't for others. Another way to find people to suit you is to use the hashtags. Ones we recommend are:

#edutwitter

#primaryrocks

#EduBlogShare

#TinyVoiceTalks

#sharestuffunday

Social Media

There are some brilliant Facebook groups out there where asking for questions and advice can illicit some brilliant responses - saving you hours of research. Our Favourite Groups that have a good following, have strong engagement and regular posts. Click on our favourite groups below to discover more:



- **Primary School Leaders**
- **Headstart - New and Aspiring Headteachers**
- **Primary Curriculum Leaders**
- **Independent Schools Portal**
- **Deputy Head Network**



As LinkedIn is very much about individuals it is hard to recommend certain people. The groups in LinkedIn do not seem to get much traction. Following those in similar roles at other schools can be useful as often they will post about their schools, so a great way to get ideas and a sense of what others are doing.



Free pre-recorded CPD

The **Independent Schools Portal YouTube channel** is home to outstanding pre-recorded professional development that is completely free of charge to access! Below are 5 highly recommended videos from the collection that we really enjoyed and found useful - make sure that you subscribe so that you are notified when new content is added! Clicking on any of the images to takes you straight to the video.



Strategic Planning for Your School with Russell Speirs

Strategic planning is a challenge for all Senior Leaders. This session looks at what exactly strategic planning is and how to go about it for your school. A strategic plan done well is a key component to a successful school.



Laughology with Stephanie Davies

Humour and happiness: Learn the secret to building a happy school in just over one hour!



Supporting Students in Unprecedented Times with Teacher Resource Force

Preparations you need to make before the new school year starts to support your students' well being.



Transforming Learning (and the World) with Skype - with Simon Hunt

Make yourself a hot drink and settle in for 40 minutes of guaranteed teacher inspiration!



50 Tips for your First 100 Days of Headship with Robert Lilley

Tops tips for aspiring heads and what you can be doing now to prepare.

Worth a look - Cornerstones Education

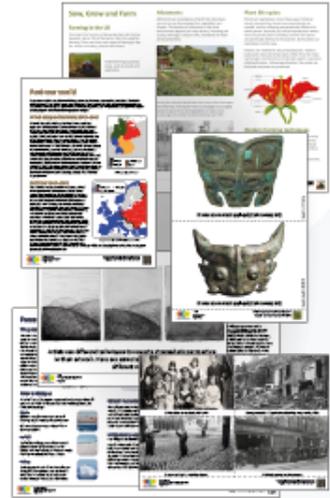
Overview

Age: Nursery to Year 6

Price: Annual licence to Maestro costs between £775 and £2,750 depending on the size of the school.

The Cornerstones Curriculum is an ambitious, concept-led, knowledge-rich curriculum that includes over 100 resourced projects from Nursery to Year 6. Built on a well-sequenced knowledge and skills framework, the curriculum is informed by the latest findings from cognitive science about how children learn best.

With everything housed on our cutting-edge platform, Curriculum Maestro, the curriculum can be easily adapted to meet the needs of any school.



Why we love it: Cornerstones can be adapted to fit the unique requirements of each school, and it saves teachers an extraordinary amount of time. The assessment and analytical tools are also outstanding.

Informed by science

The Cornerstones Curriculum is informed by evidence-based learning theories, including cognitive load theory from John Sweller and dualcoding from Allan Paivio. Spaced practice and opportunities for retrieval are mapped carefully across the curriculum: both leading theories from cognitive scientists Henry L. Roediger III and Jeffrey D. Karpicke.

Planning, teaching and assessment

Included on Curriculum Maestro is a whole-school primary assessment package that allows teachers to make live judgements about children's learning. Based on a comprehensive knowledge and skills framework, you can assess, monitor, track and report core and foundation subjects with ease and efficiency.

Find out more

Click the 'book demo' link to request a 30 minute online demonstration

Book Demo



Paid Online Market Research events for Senior Leaders

Our market research events are for Senior Leaders who are short on time yet want to keep abreast with the latest innovations and products that can help their school.

Held online lasting 75 minutes you will hear from five leading suppliers to the sector. We recognise that you are giving up your own time and are grateful for your feedback so we also offer a **£40 Amazon voucher** as a thank you for your time and expertise!

How do the events work?

The market research evenings involve watching 5 short presentations about exciting solutions for your school. We ask that you keep your camera on throughout and complete an online feedback form whilst on the call. Once we have your form we send you the £40 Amazon voucher to your email.

Who are they for?

Our events are for Senior Leaders who want to improve and innovate their school.

What happens to my information?

We do not share your contact details with any of the companies unless you give us permission to do so.

How do I book on?

Please use the link to book on our next event. We ask that you attend no more than one event per term in order that our companies can talk to a wide range of schools.



100% of our delegates would recommend our events

“ Really useful and enjoyable event. Thank you!
Deputy Head, Wigan ”

13th September
Book Now



14th September
Book Now



Unable to make the date? Click here to be notified about future opportunities.

The Importance of the Learning Environment

The world of education is always in the spotlight for one reason or another. The most recent updates to the inspection framework for OFSTED has a focus on an impactful curriculum as a force for improvement, with ISI having a focus on well-being. Both place the child or learner at the heart of their frameworks whilst seeking more accountability from those in leadership positions.

Inspections are back in full swing with OFSTED saying schools will only be graded with 'outstanding' where schools have refocused their curriculum to be challenging for all students, rather than a recovery curriculum, post COVID.

As you might expect, diversity, inclusion and transparency feature heavily in both frameworks, a sense of belonging and safety comes from an impactful curriculum as well as strong emphasis on the development of a healthy and happy child, and a purposefully designed learning environment can have a positive impact on both.

There is a long-standing belief, championed by followers of the Reggio Emilia and the Montessori approach to education, that the learning environment can have a monumental impact on an individual's learning and attainment.

Famous for coining the phrase 'the third teacher', practitioners adopting these methods are so certain of the impact the environment can have on learning, they place the use of space and resources at the very heart of their curriculum.

You can see this in the early years programme, and for incredibly good reason. The opportunity for children to immerse themselves in natural and tactile materials; the recognition of the need for providing comfortable areas for rest and relaxation, and the allocation of specific areas for high-energy activities are all considered in an Early Years provision.



But as we rise through the years, our focus on the environment seems to diminish, quite starkly in senior schools. This is quite alarming when you consider that children don't cease to have unique needs, in fact, some may even become more pronounced.

Do classrooms really look any different from those in Victorian times? You might argue that science labs are more advanced, with careful consideration of health and safety, children can investigate and be creative. Some schools have 'maker spaces' or 'STEM' areas, but shouldn't every room in a school offer an opportunity for awe and wonder? Could all spaces have a degree of flexibility to be able to inspire curiosity when the most wonderful question is asked?

The world has changed beyond recognition over the past 100 years and even more rapidly over the past 2 years. The expectations we have of our students is higher, the expectation from parents even higher. We are asking teachers to equip students for jobs and careers that don't exist yet, in learning environments which our grandparents, grandparents would feel more comfortable in! Education is playing catch-up.

We adapted our homes to become remote learning environments, showing what is possible in a very short space of time. Just think about what we could achieve if we combine design expertise with teaching and learning research to create schools for the future.



Do your learning environments foster creativity, collaboration, a blend of technology? Does your school make use of all the spaces available for learning, or is there an area that would be perfect for some independent learning or small group work? Do you need more learning spaces? Or do you just need to sit back and rethink the use of the spaces you have?

Take the time to think about a child's learning journey; what does this mean, and how, as a school community have you designed this?

ISI have added 'exceptional, with demonstrable impact' into their inspection framework grading system to enable them to showcase the best of the best from their inspections. OFSTED have an evidence-led strategy. A research informed, intentionally designed learning environment is exceptional, and informed by evidence.

Interested in learning more?

I'd be glad to discuss with you,
follow the link to find a time which suits you:

www.nobleand Eaton.com/intro-joanne-ladds



Joanne Ladds
Consultant

Supporting the alignment of people, pedagogy and place with ethos, mission and values of a community of learners; through action research, data analysis, interpretation and strategic planning.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP IN 2022: MOVING FORWARD SUCCESSFULLY

Speakers: Asa Firth, Robert Lilley, Sue Baillie, Alicia Coad & Stephen Holden. 29th September 2022.

- ISI Inspection Update
- Wellbeing case study
- Leadership
- Parental Engagement
- School Culture

At Yarm School
or attend online



FREE one day CPD for Senior Leaders

Our first hybrid event of the year is broadcast from **Yarm School** on the **29th September** with a superb programme that includes:

- **Headship in 2022**, Asa Firth, Head of Prep, Ashville College.
- **Moving forward with inspection**, Robert Lilley, ISI Inspector.
- **Embedding wellbeing in your school: A case study**, Sue Baillie, Head of Queen Margaret's school.
- **Parental Engagement and Communication**, Alicia Coad, Associate, Independent Schools Portal
- **Developing successful leadership in your school**, Stephen Holden, Executive Head, Prestolee Academy Trust.

Free tickets to attend in person and online are available. If you attend in person, lunch and refreshments are provided. All sessions will be recorded and available to you afterwards to share with your team.

“What a fantastic day. Great speakers and really pertinent topics. Thank you!”

“Absolutely fantastic day - thank you”

Sign up NOW



Wednesday Wisdom Webinars - 1 hour evening online CPD sessions



We are delighted to announce our Wednesday Webinar series. Each webinar will give you a quick hour of valuable CPD covering key topics.

These events will take place in the evening at 1930 allowing you to relax away from the constant interruptions of school life. There will also be the opportunity to network and discuss with your fellow colleagues.

**School leader webinars
book here**



“

As a school leader high quality CPD has always been hard to come by.

The ISP sessions are invaluable for school leaders who are focussed on their professional development yet have a limited budget. I Would highly recommend to all leaders and aspiring leaders.

”

Embedding a coaching culture in your school, Julie Keyes, Wednesday 14th September, 19:30-20:30

Implementing impactful homework strategies, David Winfield, Wednesday 16th November, 19:30-20:30

Leadership lessons from Elite sport, Derek Peuple, Wednesday 18th January, 19:30-20:30

ISI inspection Ready, Robert Lilley, Wednesday 8th March, 19:30-20:30

Using data to improve pupil outcomes, Dr. Joanne Ladds, Wednesday 10th May, 19:30-20:30

Wellbeing in the classroom, Speaker TBC, Wednesday 21st June, 19:30-20:30

Wednesday Wisdom Webinars - Lunchtime series focussing on marketing

Weds 21st September 1230
"Marketing to millennial parents"
Lucy Barnwell

Weds 23rd November 1230
**"Understanding your Stakeholders- 10
Reasons why research is key"**
Rachel Hadley-Leonard

Weds 11th January 1230
**"Social media advertising - making the
most of your money"** *James Urquhart*

Weds 1st March 1230
**"Social Media for Schools - Quick tips
and tricks"** *Emma Fell*

Weds 10th May 1230
**"Personalising the admissions
journey"** *Steve Spriggs*

Weds 14th June 1230
"SEO - what you need to know"
Manpreet Singh

This webinar series brings leading professionals in both the marketing and education sector to provide high quality CPD. Designed so that you can watch from the comfort of your desk you will have the opportunity to hear from leading experts and discuss best practice.

The programme has been chosen after extensive research with our audience and we hope you will find at least one session that hits the mark topic wise for you.

With the wide reaching remit of Schools Admissions and Marketeers it is difficult to cover everything you are meant to know - but we are giving it our best! All our sessions take place at lunchtime - and those who book will also be sent a recording afterwards.

All of the webinars are free of charge thanks to the sponsorship of Kampus24.

School marketing webinars -
book now



Sponsored by



Kampus24

Worth a look - Robotical (Marty the Robot)

Overview

Price: From £349+VAT **Age:** Key Stage 1 & 2



Why we love Marty: In our opinion, Marty the Robot is the best value-for-money humanoid robot on the market - and in our experience, humanoid robots are the most exciting tool for making STEM learning engaging for all students.

Marty is designed for educators and learners, is simple to use, incredibly robust and absolutely state of the art. And Marty can walk, dance and eyebrow-wiggle like no rolling robot can! Marty is equipped with a unique walking mechanism, with each individual limb controlled by a separate motor. This means Marty can turn, kick a ball and so much more, while also being more stable than other walking robots.

Programming Marty

Marty supports progression from screen-free programming and block-based coding, to text-based programming language Python and more. You can program Marty from PC, or any Android and iOS devices, using the Robotical app. Connect using Bluetooth, WiFi, USB or I2C for custom add-ons.



Trial Marty for FREE!

If you like the look of Marty and would like to take him to your school on a two-week trial for free, you can do so by clicking the link below. Simply book in a brief call to arrange your short video training and then wait for Marty to arrive. Robotical even cover the cost of postage to and from your school and there is no obligation at the end of the trial for you to purchase anything!

[Book Free Trial](#)



Books worth reading

We are fortunate as a sector that so many talented professionals put pen to paper to write about their research and experiences. Choosing a book is difficult – we've listed below our personal recommendations with a short overview so you can see if it piques your interest.

Parklands: A school built on Love, Chris Dyson

This is a heartwarming account of Parklands School located on the Seacroft estate in Leeds. Children start at the school significantly behind their peers nationally, yet the school is famed for outstanding learning. Chris' account of how he has built a culture of love, hope and ambition is an uplifting read for all teachers and school leaders.

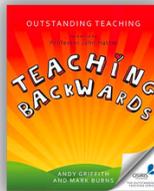
Huh: Curriculum conversations between subject and senior leaders, Mary Myatt and John Tomsett

This brilliant read looks at the importance of the relationship between line managers and subject leaders. Best practice curriculum leadership practices are look at – whilst primarily aimed at Secondary Leaders it is definitely worth a read for Primary Leaders too.



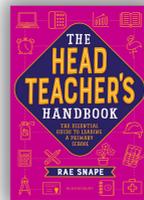
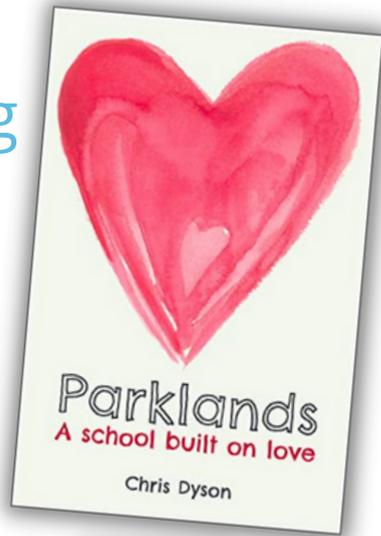
Outstanding Teaching: Teaching Backwards, Andy Griffith and Mark Burns

This book is full of excellent practical ideas on how to get the best out of your students.



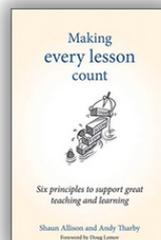
The Head Teacher's Handbook: The essential guide to leading a primary school, Rachel Snape

Does what is says in the title! Some great snippets of advice and excellent contributors.



Making every lesson count: Six principles to support great teaching and Learning, Jo Payne and Mel Scott

This book looks at six pedagogical principles; challenge, explanation, modelling, practice, feedback and questioning, providing simple, realistic classroom strategies for primary teachers to use.



Great Podcasts



Podcasts are a brilliant way to stay at the cutting edge of education whilst being entertained. They're perfect for when you're relaxing by the pool, driving long journeys or simply doing chores! Here are some of our current favourites (click on the images to go to the podcast).

Two Mr Ps in a Pod(Cast)

Two teachers (Lee and Adam Parkinson) sharing funny stories from education. Mr P (ICT_MrP) and his younger brother Mr P, both working in the classroom, share funny stories about life in school, including confessions from fellow teachers..



Education on Fire, Mark Taylor

Mark interviews educators from around the world – his aim is to provide a podcast that enables adults, whether parents or teachers, to support children to grow.



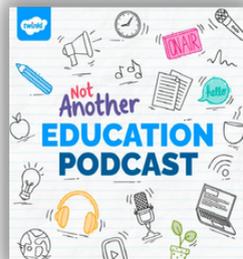
TES Podagogy

Everything you wanted to know about teaching on a podcast produced by the editors and writers at the world-renowned tes. It includes interviews with leading researchers and has engaging discussions into some of the biggest issues facing education.



Not Another Education Podcast

Brought to you by Twinkl, the presenter meets with fab guests from the education world to talk all things education, life, and more. Each episode focusses on a different topic.

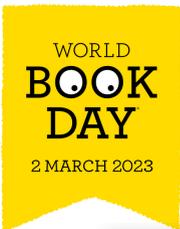


National awareness days

National Awareness days can be a great way to involve the whole school community in important issues. Whether it's a specific assembly, a dressing up opportunity or the chance to embed a topic into learning in the classroom, these days are acknowledged in schools across the UK.

The list of days gets longer and longer – there seems to be a day for everything, including doughnut day (which does actually have more of a history than you might expect - The Salvation Army established National Doughnut Day in 1938 to honour The Salvation Army's 'doughnut lassies', who made history when they risked their lives to raise spirits and fuel hope by serving thousands of soldiers during WWI, in part by delivering doughnuts and other sweet treats to those in the war) to drink wine day (Friday 18th Feb this year which nicely coincides with breaking up for half-term!)

We hope this handy list is useful !



- September 27th – National Fitness Day
- October – Black History Month
- November – World Kindness Day
- December 9th – Christmas Jumper Day
- January 28th – International Lego Day
- February 7th – Safer Internet Day
- March 2nd – World Book Day
- April – Stress Awareness Month
- May 17th – National Numeracy Day
- June 5th – World Environment Day
- July – Plastic Free Month

innovatED



BlueCow
Education

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