

Pickwick Papers – Edition 4 – Term 6 – July 2021

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

Welcome to the final edition for 2020-2021 of our Pickwick Papers Trust newsletter.

It has been another busy term in all our schools across the Trust, and once again the national pandemic is testing our collective resilience.

As you will have seen in the media, the Government are proceeding with Step 4 of their roadmap to remove COVID restrictions. Due to rising rates locally and across schools, we have taken the decision to continue to maintain our current approaches and risk mitigation measures for this last week of the summer term.

Assuming government guidance does not change over the summer holidays, it is our intention to 'return to normal' in September, gradually reintroducing business as usual to avoid overwhelming the children – we are aware that children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will not yet have experienced school life outside of COVID restrictions!

I would like to reaffirm my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the staff across our schools who have worked tirelessly to ensure the experiences children have had this year have been as positive and engaging as possible, in school and remotely.

In September, we are very much looking forward to welcoming Greentrees Primary School, Winterslow CE Primary School and Pitton CE Primary School, all near Salisbury, into the Pickwick family and setting up a 'South Wiltshire Hub' of the Trust.

Thank you so much for your support, kind words, feedback, engagement and understanding this year – it has been very much appreciated. Have a wonderful summer break and well-deserved rest – I look forward to seeing you in the Autumn...



Governor vacancies

Can you help us? Would you like to make a positive difference to our children's education?

Several of our schools have vacancies on their Local Governance Committees (LGCs).

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to children's education, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment.

To see if there are vacancies at your child's school please contact the school office.

Clerk to Governors

We are recruiting for a Clerk to Governors to work with us next year – to find out more, please email or ask at the school office.

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter:
@PickwickTrust



School Direct Teacher Trainees - Graduation

Huge congratulations to our cohort of 16 trainee teachers, who have been part of our Initial Teacher Training programme this year. Despite the challenges presented by COVID, they have all successfully passed the course and graduated this month! They have worked in schools in our Trust and across our partnership schools, learning alongside expert practitioners, enthusiastically supporting their schools to provide excellent opportunities for our pupils. Many have now secured their first teaching post for 2021-22 and are really looking forward to setting up their own classrooms and meeting their pupils over the coming weeks. As with all our 'home-grown' new teachers, they will be a great asset to the teaching profession and we wish them very well as they begin and flourish in their careers in education.

Our ITT programme is a School Direct PGCE primary route. This means that our trainee teachers qualify in exactly the same way as they would if they attended a university to do a PGCE, but their route is school-based. This gives them an excellent understanding of the realities of the classroom and how best support children in their schools, and helps to ensure they feel part of the staff team from day 1.

They continue to be supported in our schools once they are employed, through the Early Career Framework so that we can help them build on their learning, continue to develop their practice and expertise, and be at their best for our pupils. If you know anyone who is interested in getting into teaching, do get in touch. The next round opens in October; we will be running meet and greet information events in the Autumn and Spring terms.

Ivy Lane School's Nursery Provision

Ivy Lane Primary School are planning to open a nursery, which will be accommodated within their new build, alongside the current FS2 provision and Y1 classes. The nursery will enable the school to provide their growing local population with an all-inclusive setting of high-quality Early Years provision, and allow the school to work cohesively with other local Early Years settings and external agencies.

The school is currently consulting with members of the community. If you have any comments, questions or feedback you would like us to share with Ivy Lane, please email them at: nurseryconsultation@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk by Monday 26th July.

CIF Bids

After successfully applying for £1.3million of government grant funding to develop the new classrooms at Ivy Lane School, we have now secured additional funding for our schools.

Schools in Wiltshire were successful in securing 15 nationally-awarded capital improvement fund bids, and of these, three will benefit Pickwick schools: updating washroom facilities at Queen's Crescent, repairs to the roof at Corsham's Broadwood Site, and fencing for Ivy Lane.

We will also be supporting projects in other schools in the Trust where premises bids were not successful.

Changes at Ludwell

After successfully leading Ludwell Primary School since September 2018, the Headteacher Jennie White is leaving for pastures new. She has been appointed as the new Interim Headteacher of Amesbury Primary School and starts in September 2021.

Jennie has done a fantastic job at Ludwell and will be sorely missed by us all - we wish her huge success at Amesbury and look forward to hearing about how she is getting on.

We are delighted to welcome Imogen Boothby, who starts as Interim Head of School of Ludwell in September.

