



Pickwick Papers – Edition 2 – Term 4

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

Welcome to the second edition of our Pickwick Papers Trust newsletter. It has been wonderful to welcome all the children back into school over the last few weeks and see everyone in their classrooms with their teachers and friends again. Thank you for your support and engagement with our remote learning activities over the last two months; we've all developed new skills and knowledge through this way of working, but it is lovely to be back to some sort of normal in school again. As part of our risk mitigation measures, we are operating very much like we were in the Autumn Term with staggered starts, class/year groups bubbles, robust cleaning procedures, and regular handwashing routines. If you have any questions or concerns, please drop us an email or make contact via the school office email address/telephone number. Have a lovely Easter break when it comes.



Pickwick's Strategy

1. **Harness our collective expertise** to drive school improvement and realise the best for all children and adults working and learning in our schools
2. **Celebrate and communicate the successes** in our schools to encourage aspiration and innovation
3. **Provide support and challenge** for each school so that every child meets their full potential

Our vision is underpinned by our moral purpose to provide the best education and curriculum for the children we serve, and is based on values of aspiration, collaboration, inclusion, enjoyment and nurturing relations, with the intention of empowering children to become life-long learners.

Ivy Lane Building Work

As you can see from the photos below, the new £1.3 million building development at Ivy Lane Primary school is growing before our eyes, and is on track to provide the children with a fantastic new set of classrooms a month or so after the Easter holidays. Huge thanks to the TG Escapes team for the brilliant job they are doing, and to the staff and children for managing the disruption so well!



Twitter

Follow us on Twitter:
[@PickwickTrust](https://twitter.com/PickwickTrust)



Come and train to teach with us!

School Direct PGCE Primary 5 – 11 Initial Teacher Training

At Pickwick Academy Trust we recognise that an important part of our role is in training the teachers of the future. We are very proud to provide a school-centred training route into teaching through Pickwick Learning. Our Trust schools are amongst a growing number of partnership schools across Wiltshire, BANES, South Gloucestershire and Bristol, working with Pickwick to provide convenient, local placements for primary training teachers in 2021-2022.

Our trainees benefit from observing and working alongside enthusiastic mentors and class teachers in school, learning from expert practitioners and receiving high quality professional development sessions centrally to ensure that they have an excellent understanding of learning theories and evidence behind our practice.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to train to become a teacher and would like to do so through Pickwick Learning, please use our website (below) to find out all about Pickwick's School Direct PGCE programme. We run regular Meet and Greet sessions so that you can find out more about the course and whether this route would suit you. To be eligible, candidates will need a degree and English, Maths and Science GCSEs at Grade C (level 4) or above. Useful links:

Find: <https://find-postgraduate-teacher-training.education.gov.uk>

Apply: <https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/candidate>

For more information on our ITT programme please visit www.pltsa.co.uk/school-direct-itt or contact admin@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk if you have any questions

STEM Project and Rights Respecting Award

Our schools, led by Aloeric Primary School, are taking part in a project working in partnership with local schools and businesses to increase the STEM opportunities for children. Also, a huge well done to everyone at Aloeric, who have achieved the 'Rights Respecting Schools' Silver Award!



COVID home test kits

Adults in households with primary school aged children can test themselves twice a week at home. Information on how to obtain tests and what to do if a test is positive was in my letter to parents (3 March 2021) and is on www.gov.uk

World Book Day

Staff at Corsham Primary School dressed up as their favourite book characters on World Book Day - children enjoyed lots of stories, reading and book-related activities during the entire week! Everyone took part in "Share a Story" events and were very excited to welcome the well-known author, Joffre White to school for a remote Q&A session for children in Key Stage 2. A lot of fun was had, busily thinking up interesting questions for Joffre!

Webinars for Parents/Carers

We have teamed up with Nicola Pearson, from 'Minds of Wonder', to provide a series of short webinars for our parents and carers. The first of these, 'Resilience for Learning and Well-being' can be accessed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du8e8_bp7HU.

The next one focuses on 'Helping your child cope with anxiety'. Nicola talks about how developmental anxiety can affect a child's well-being and learning. She also suggests some practical strategies and ideas to help you support your child when they are feeling anxious. The link for the webinar can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4llWrhGVzKc&feature=youtu.be>