

Pickwick Papers – Edition 31 – Term 3 – Feb 2026

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

It has been so good to finally see the dark, damp days of early January changing into brighter, sunnier weather towards the end of this term!

It has been a pleasure to spend time in schools across the Trust again this term and see how engaged and involved the children are in their learning.

Have a wonderful half term holiday and fantastic break – I look forward to seeing you in Term 4.



World Religion and World Views Day

Schools across Pickwick Academy Trust celebrated 'World Religion and World Views Day' this term, sharing their experiences and photos with each other via a Padlet digital bulletin board.

St George's Bourton looked at Hinduism and 'met' some Hindu Gods. Pitton took their school value of respect and looked at this in different religions, presenting their findings in assembly and creating special artwork.

Corsham explored different faiths, such as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Humanism through assemblies, focusing on the importance of supporting each other and having respect and compassion for all.

At Winterbourne Earls they held a whole school celebration of kindness, compassion and community, exploring how world faiths encourage people to care for one another and live out kindness. This was rooted in their school's Christian message Ephesians 4:16 "As each one does their part, we grow in love".

Train to Teach with us

Do you know someone who is keen to become a teacher? We can help! We have partnered with the [OTT SCITT network](#) to train teachers through Pickwick.

We have training hubs in Corsham (North Wiltshire) and Salisbury (South Wiltshire) and our strong network of schools enables us to provide school placements which are local to trainees. We offer primary and secondary, and both full and part time routes. Find out more [here](#).

Shining Stars Pre-School

From 1 January, Bourton Preschool and Zeals Preschool became part of St George's School, and is now known as St George's Shining Stars Preschool.

The Preschool provides high-quality Early Years' experience for children aged 2-4.

Being part of the school supports strong continuity, nurturing care and a smooth transition into Reception.

Pickwick Trustee Gill Clark awarded MBE

We are thrilled and delighted to announce that our Vice Chair of Trustees, and Chair of our School Improvement Committee, Gill Clark, has been awarded an MBE for Services to Education, in the King's New Year's Honours List.



For those of you that know Gill, you will know that her passion for education and always doing the very best we can for the children we serve is incredible and unswerving.

Gill firmly believes education has the power to change, improve and enhance the lives of children and young people. She strongly believes all children should be offered the best chances to learn and thrive within the school they attend, and that the curriculum should be engaging and motivating.

Gill has been a teacher, leader, Headteacher and National Leader for Education. She has been a Local Authority Advisor specialising in supporting schools in challenging circumstances. She has served as a governor in several schools, and joined Pickwick Academy Trust as a Trustee in 2019.

As a committed and dedicated Trustee, overseeing the leadership and governance of all our schools, she provides exceptional support and challenge to us all.

Well done Gill – this is a thoroughly deserved recognition of a lifetime of exceptional service to education. We are so grateful for everything you do for our children, families and staff.

Trust Conference

We are looking forward to our annual Trust-wide conference for leaders and teachers, which will take place at Gillingham Primary School, on Friday 13 February this term.

Colleagues from across all our schools will come together through a series of workshops, and focus on the theme of 'Inspiring Writing'.

As well as a keynote led by the Ramsbury English Hub, colleagues will explore strategies for leading and teaching writing, inspiring pupils and achieving strong outcomes for all.

Workshops include sessions on writing in the foundation stage and Year 1; leading writing across the school; using drawing club to support early writers; exploring barriers to fluent handwriting; and getting the best from KS2 writers.

North Wiltshire Hub



South Wiltshire Hub



North Dorset Hub



Parent Webinars

[Resilience for Learning and Well-being](#)

[Helping your child with anxiety](#)

[Digital Parenting](#)

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