

Pickwick Papers – Edition 30 – Term 2 – Dec 2025

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

As we approach the Christmas break, I want to take a moment to pause and reflect on the year we have shared together, and to thank everyone across our schools for the extraordinary commitment, care and passion they bring to doing the very best for all our children.



What makes our Trust special is not just the excellent teaching, support and leadership, but the sense of belonging that is fostered across our schools as one fantastic community.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday and restful break. I hope you find time to recharge, relax and enjoy the company of friends and family.

Corsham Primary Poppy Project

Corsham Primary School was proud to take part in the Corsham Peacock Women's Institute and Corsham Town Council Poppy Project this term.

Children from both sites – Pound Pill and Broadwood worked alongside members of the community to knit and create poppy 'pom-poms', forming part of a stunning display across Corsham, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Second World War. The original goal was to produce 10,000 poppies to decorate the town, but thanks to the incredible teamwork and dedication, the community created over 30,000 poppies!

During half term, Her Majesty Queen Camilla visited Corsham to view the display. She met with children from Corsham Primary School, who proudly demonstrated how to make a poppy, before greeting more of our pupils during her walkabout. It was a truly memorable and proud moment for the school and Trust.



Pickwick Sustainability Strategy

We are delighted to share that our new Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan has now been published on our website and can be viewed [here](#).

Queen's Maths Project

Queen's Crescent School has been selected as an intervention partner in a major national maths research project.

The school will support a randomised control trial to examine the impact of the Jigsaw White Rose Maths resources and intervention on pupil learning and progress.

Being part of the study places Queen's Crescent at the forefront of evidence-based practice in maths education and is testament to the exceptional quality of teaching and learning happening across the school.

School Streets Trial

Queen's Crescent and Aloeric Primary schools are trialing an innovative initiative called 'School Streets'.

School Streets is a scheme designed to create safer, healthier and more enjoyable journeys for children by restricting motor traffic outside school gates during drop-off and pick-up times.

Both schools are promoting active travel to and from school, and have signed up to the 'WOW – Walk to School Challenge', which rewards pupils for walking, cycling, or scooting to school regularly. New cycle and scooter shelters have been installed, to help families choose sustainable travel.

Ivy Lane's Big Leap into Play with OPAL

At Ivy Lane Primary School in Chippenham, playtimes have been completely re-imagined. Instead of standing around or waiting for a turn on the trim trail, children are now busily building dens from crates and tarpaulins, mixing up mud-kitchen masterpieces, and proudly steering scooters and trikes through puddles. It's loud, it's chaotic, it's joyful, and it's learning in action.

The change is thanks to the school's introduction of the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme, which is an award-winning approach that transforms a school's culture and turns playtimes into a place with opportunities for creativity, problem solving and social development.

With children spending around 20% of their school lives playing, Ivy Lane wanted to make sure that time truly counts.

Since launching OPAL in 2024, the whole school community is coming together to make playtime something special. Staff have worked tirelessly to introduce new play zones, develop systems that give children more independence, and build an environment where play is valued as highly as classroom learning. Parents, grandparents and local businesses have also lent their support, donating materials, tools and time to help the school reach its ambitious goals.

Headteacher Helen Lammin said, "Since introducing OPAL, the transformation in our school community has been remarkable. Children are more engaged, creative, and collaborative during playtimes, and we've seen a noticeable improvement in their wellbeing and behaviour. OPAL has turned our outdoor spaces into vibrant learning environments, and the joy it brings is felt by staff, pupils, and parents alike. Any visitors arriving during lunchtime are greeted by what can only be described as a festival - a celebration of play, imagination, and childhood."



North Wiltshire Hub



South Wiltshire Hub



North Dorset Hub



St Gregory's - SIAMS

St Gregory's CE Primary School had a routine Church of England SIAMS inspection this term. The inspector was delighted with the school's strong ethos and values, concluding that it is "living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish."

She went on to say that "faith, hope and love underpin the actions of leaders [and] robust systems assure trustees and governors that these are leading to the flourishing of pupils and staff."

"The strong relationship between the local church and school enriches inclusive collective worship [...] Pupils develop a clear understanding of justice and responsibility [through] a range of leadership roles and learning experiences." Well done all!

School 2041- Antarctica

Pickwick Academy Trust has become a 'Champion of Antarctica' through the amazing charity 'School 2041'.

2041 is the year in which the Antarctic Treaty System, protecting the continent from exploitation, is up for review, prompting the explorer Robert Swan to raise awareness of it.

The charity has developed free resources and videos for schools to help children understand the need, and the desire, to protect one of the last great remaining wildernesses on Earth. <https://2041school.com/>



Pickwick Academy Trust, Pickwick Offices, Pound Pill, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9YW
www.pickwickacademytrust.co.uk; 01249 717090; admin@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk