

# Pickwick Papers – Edition 6 – Term 2 – Dec 2021

## Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

As we near the end of another busy term across all the schools in Pickwick Academy Trust, I would like to say a huge thank you for your support and patience as we have again worked through some difficult circumstances due to the covid-19 pandemic.



The majority of our schools have experienced covid cases in or linked to staff teams, amongst the children and our families, and within our communities. I know how challenging this has been for all of us, and really appreciate the notes of thanks, encouragement and support you have sent to our school leaders, teachers and support staff.

The staff have worked their socks off this term and it is a great privilege, as I visit schools across the Trust, to see how much the children have been loving their learning this term.

I wish you a very happy and restful Christmas break with your families and look forward to seeing you in 2022!

## Pickwick Schools' Investment Fund

The Trust has just launched its annual 'Investment Fund' application round, where school leaders can bid for new initiatives or exciting one-off projects. Funding could be used to develop IT provision, buy resources, improve the learning environment or run projects.

In the past, the fund has been used to improve premises, increase leadership capacity, purchase IT equipment and software, and buy new reading books for school libraries.

## 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 at Aloeric Primary School and Ivy Lane School. Please email or ask at the school office for more information.

## Twitter

Follow us on Twitter:  
@PickwickTrust



## Government 'Plan B': what you need to know

The Department for Education issued new guidance for schools this week after Boris Johnson moved the country into 'Plan B' covid restrictions. Our schools already have robust risk mitigation measures in place, so there are minimal changes for us to make other than reviewing our existing risk assessments and measures.

The DfE are 'strongly encouraging' all staff, and pupils from Year 7, to continue regular lateral flow testing, and we are asking parents and visitors to test, and wear a face covering unless exempt, before entering school buildings. Face coverings are recommended for staff in communal areas, but not for primary pupils or staff in classrooms. Staff and children are however welcome to do so if they would like to.

Attendance remains mandatory and unless unwell, children should continue to attend school. Unless a class or year group is experiencing particularly high levels of covid cases and PHE advice is sought, teaching should not be moved online.

Currently, anyone identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant will be required to self-isolate and book a PCR test. However, the government plans to introduce daily testing 'as soon as possible' for Omicron close contacts who are fully vaccinated, or under 18 years and six months - no date has been given for when this will be introduced.

## Ludwell – new Headteacher from January 22

I am delighted to announce that we have successfully appointed a fabulous new permanent Headteacher at Ludwell Primary: Harriet Collins will be starting with us after Christmas. Imogen Boothby, who has done an incredible job as Interim Headteacher this term, will be teaching Puffins class and will take on the role of SENCO.

## Parent Webinars

A reminder that our suite of pre-recorded webinars remains available to all parents and carers across our Pickwick schools via these links and on our website.

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

[Helping your child cope with anxiety](#)

[Digital Parenting](#)

## Pickwick schools

If you would like to find out more about the other schools in Pickwick Academy Trust, visit our website – in the 'Our Schools' section you will find information, links and videos.

## New website at CPS

Corsham Primary School has launched its fantastic new website – check it out by clicking this link:

[www.corshamprimary.co.uk](http://www.corshamprimary.co.uk)



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