

Pickwick Papers – Edition 8 – Term 4 – Apr 2022

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

As we nudge towards the end of another busy spring term, I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you all for your support over the last few months – it is much appreciated.



You may have seen the publication of the Government's 'Levelling Up' White Paper, as well as their recently published Schools 'White Paper' and SEND & Alternative Provision 'Green Papers'. We will be reflecting on their vision for education, presented in these over the coming months, but for now I wish you all a very Happy Easter!

'Living with COVID-19' guidance

The Government have updated their [guidance](#) on managing COVID-19 in education and childcare settings from 1 April 2022. The key messages are:

- Adults and children who have a high temperature/feel unwell, are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others until they feel well enough to return to work/school
- Children with mild symptoms, e.g. a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can attend school
- People who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate and avoid contact with others for 5 days (adults) / 3 days (children)
- There is no expectation for adults or children to routinely test

Our schools will continue to ensure good hygiene routines for all; maintain cleaning regimes, especially around key touch points; keep occupied spaces well ventilated; follow public health advice; have contingency plans in place in the event of an outbreak; and encourage pupils to take up vaccinations.

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. Please email / ask at the school office for more information.

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter:
@PickwickTrust



Humanitarian Emergency in Ukraine

As a Trust, we are devastated by the humanitarian emergency in Ukraine. Our schools are each considering their unique contexts and cohorts in deciding how best to discuss this situation with children and families. Our schools and communities are standing shoulder to shoulder together and are raising money to support the people affected by this crisis.

In line with our shared ethos and values, and our behaviour policies, we are committed to providing a work and learning environment that is free from harassment, bullying and intimidation ensuring all employees, pupils and volunteers are treated with dignity and respect. We have a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment.

All Pickwick Academy Trust schools:

- Encourage pupils to treat others as they would want to be treated.
- Celebrate and reward good choices of behaviour.
- Provide a safe, secure, and happy environment.
- Believe every individual in the school community needs to take responsibility for their own actions.
- Support through help and encouragement.
- Accept that mistakes are part of the learning process.
- Respect differences, whether it be race, gender, age, sexuality, religion or disability.
- Value each individual opinion.
- Have a positive atmosphere and 'ethos'.

The emphasis is on encouraging positive behaviour through high expectations, and a focus on learning, praise and rewards. This empowers all children across the Trust to be caring, considerate, and outward-facing global citizens, who question and seek the truth, and make a positive contribution to the world we all inhabit.

Kindness Story by Phoebe McNelis

Corsham Primary School pupil, Phoebe McNelis, has become one of the youngest published authors after [writing a story](#) about kindness while her mum battled cancer during the pandemic.



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Parent Webinars

Our suite of pre-recorded webinars remain available to all parents and carers here:

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

[Helping your child cope with anxiety](#)

[Digital Parenting](#)

Schools' White Paper

The Government have launched a Schools' '[White Paper](#)' and a SEND '[Green Paper](#)' which are at the heart of their 'Levelling Up' mission that by 2030, 90% of children will leave primary school achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (national currently 65%).

The White Paper also sets out a vision that all children will, by 2030, benefit from being taught within a Multi-Academy Trust.

Pickwick has a strategic growth plan to welcome additional community and church primary schools, who are committed to working collaboratively, into our family over the coming years.

