

## *Pickwick Papers – Edition 12 – Term 2 – Dec 2022*

### *Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)*

As we approach the end of another busy term across all our fantastic Pickwick schools, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff, children, parents and governors who work so hard to make our schools such special places.



The Pickwick team and our Board of Trustees recognise that national events including increased energy costs have made the last few months very challenging for many staff and families. If you are struggling please talk to your school and we will try and help in any way we can.

Have a wonderful Christmas and well-deserved break. Relax and rest well, and enjoy time with your families...

### *Welcome to Gillingham Primary*

On Thursday 1 December 2022, Gillingham Primary School joined the Pickwick family of schools, and became part of our South Hub. Gillingham is near Ludwell Primary School, just over the South-West Wiltshire border. We have been working closely with the staff and governors for nine months and are delighted to be able to formally welcome them into the Trust.

Staff celebrated with a 'Pickwick Picnic' and enjoyed the first ever Pickwick logoed cake! The Headteacher, Sue Preston, said she is "delighted to lead the first Dorset school into the Trust, because she is passionate about working with others to support each other and improve life chances for all children".



### *Thank you, governors!*

Thank you so much to those of you who have responded to our requests for new governors in several of our schools.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming and inducting a group of very highly skilled new governors this term – we are looking forward to working with you all and benefitting from your crucial support and challenge in our schools.

We still have a couple of places and can also appoint Associate Governors where there are no vacancies, so let us know if you are interested and can help.

### *Clerk to Governors*

We are recruiting for a Clerk to Governors at Aloeric Primary and Gillingham Primary.

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

### *Twitter*

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



## Potential Industrial Action – January 2023

Most of the teacher, leadership and support staff unions are currently balloting their members nationally to ask if they would be willing to undertake strike action and/or industrial action to seek a better pay deal from the government. The outcome of these ballots will be known in early January 2023, with any action likely to take place in late January 2023.

Dr Patrick Roach, NASUWT General Secretary, said “The profession has endured more than a decade of real terms pay cuts,” adding that “it is outrageous that we are seeing teachers’ living standards falling at a time when the country should be investing more in securing children’s education recovery after the pandemic”.

We do not yet know the extent to which proposed strike and/or industrial action may disrupt the running of our schools, but in line with DfE guidance we will “take all reasonable steps to keep the school[s] open for as many pupils as possible” as long as it is safe to do so.

As soon as we have more information about any proposed industrial action, we will communicate with you as early as we can to help us all manage the logistics and any disruption to the normal running of our schools.

## Trust Investment Fund Bids Successful

Each year, schools contribute to an Investment Fund budget which can be bid against to deliver projects across the Trust. Using this pot, as well as some school underspends, we have been able to commission £140k of school improvement work on projects such as: improving premises; reducing energy costs through LED lighting and improving insulation; purchasing IT equipment; funding additional teacher time to drive outcomes; leading art projects; and launching new phonics schemes.

## Parent Webinars

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

[Helping your child with anxiety](#)

[Digital Parenting](#)

## Our schools

Pickwick Academy Trust is made up of 9 community and church primary schools across Wiltshire and North Dorset and is organised into two hubs.

We have the privilege to be responsible for the education of nearly 3000 children, and we employ over 400 staff.

To find out more about our schools click on the links below:

[Aloeric Primary School](#)

[Corsham Primary School](#)

[Gillingham Primary School](#)

[Greentrees Primary School](#)

[Ivy Lane Primary School](#)

[Ludwell Primary School](#)

[Pitton Primary School](#)

[Queens Crescent School](#)

[Winterslow Primary School](#)

To watch a short video about each school, click [here](#) and select a school from the coloured tab.



Pickwick Academy Trust, Pickwick Offices, Pound Pill, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9YW

[www.pickwickacademytrust.co.uk](http://www.pickwickacademytrust.co.uk); @PickwickTrust; 01249 712387; [admin@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk)

