

Pickwick Papers – Edition 18 – Term 2 – Dec 2023

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.



It has been wonderful seeing all the fabulous Christmas activities taking place across our schools, from Christmas jumpers and dinners, beautiful singing and acting in nativities, paper angel making, international pixie visitors and glittery Christmas card artwork to name but a few.

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

Welcome to our new schools!

We are delighted to welcome Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary and Longford CE Primary, both near Salisbury in South Wiltshire, who formally joined the Pickwick family on 1 December 2023. It was lovely to spend time with children and staff in both schools on the day – we are really looking forward to working with you all over the coming months.

We are also looking forward to welcoming the four North Dorset schools which we have been working with, on the slightly delayed conversion date of 1 February 2024. Milton on Stour CE Primary; St George's CE Primary, Bourton; St Gregory's CE Primary, Marnhull; and Wyke Primary in North Dorset will all join us in the New Year.

The Headteachers from our existing and joining schools met this week to get to know each other and network.

Thank you, Gina Cooke

After 26 years working at Corsham Primary School and then Pickwick Academy Trust, Gina Cooke is retiring from her Executive Headteacher and Trust-level role.

Gina is an exceptional educator and leader, who played an instrumental role in supporting the establishment of the Trust, and will be sorely missed by us all.

Thank you for everything you have done for so many children and staff over the years.

Mental Health Resources

[Child Mental Health & Wellbeing – 10 Top Tips for Parents](#)

[Parents' Mental Health & Wellbeing – 10 Top Tips for Parents](#)

X (Twitter)

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Pickwick Trust Staff-wide Survey

We are committed to being an employer of choice, and work hard to ensure our values, policies and strategies enable us to recruit, train, support and retain the very best staff. We engage with, listen to and bring people together at all levels of the organisation to ensure staff are supported, professionally challenged and well-looked after.

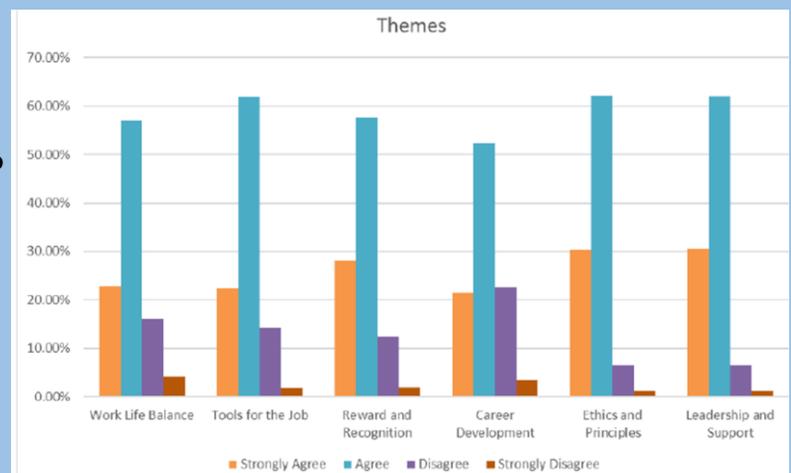
At the end of the last academic year, we carried out our second Trust-wide staff survey. 206 staff completed an online set of questions, and survey company 'Interdigitate' also conducted 1:1 'Discovery sessions' with a range of staff. The survey outcomes are currently being used to build on and further develop our existing People Strategy, and will be used to inform policy and practice.

Key strengths of the Trust identified by staff:

- Strong ethical leadership, vision and values
- Wide range of, and deeper learning experiences, opportunities and support for children
- Great opportunities, support and security for staff (being part of the Trust)
- Positive family feel; proud to work for Pickwick – a sense that staff and their families matter
- Benefits of embedded collaborative working practices
- Use of technology to enhance learning opportunities

Areas for development:

- Internal communication – do all staff know about the opportunities and benefits available?
- Further development of career opportunities
- Additional workload strategies and wellbeing opportunities
- More transition support for admin teams in schools joining the Trust
- More professional development for TAs



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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