

Pickwick Papers – Edition 7 – Term 3 – Feb 2022

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

We have had an exciting and busy start to 2022, and whilst we continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on staffing and children's attendance, I continue to be deeply humbled and impressed by the dedication and energy of the exceptional leaders, teachers and support staff working and learning together across our schools.



It has been lovely to see more of the sun and drier weather recently, and I wish you a restful and enjoyable half term break! I look forward to seeing you in Term 4.

Pickwick Trust's Investment Fund Bids

The schools in Pickwick Academy Trust contribute to a Trust-wide Investment Fund each year. The fund supports projects that benefit all schools, as well as inviting applications for specific school-led development initiatives.

This month, the Trust's Finance Committee approved recommendations to fund £115,342 worth of projects this year which will support schools to:

- Improve IT infrastructure and move servers to the cloud
- Continue to train staff to deliver and embed our strong enquiry curriculum
- Improve our premises and learning environments
- Carry out environment/sustainability projects
- Develop subject leaders and curriculum resourcing
- Market their schools and provision to ensure the numbers on roll remain high

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

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Ivy Lane Ofsted Inspection – Good

On 12/13 January 2022, Ofsted carried out a routine inspection at Ivy Lane Primary School. We are delighted to say that the [report](#) confirms that Ivy Lane continues to be a ‘good school’.

The inspector recognised that *‘Teamwork is central to the work at Ivy Lane to ensure pupils are educated and nurtured well’* and stated that *‘Leaders ensure that there is a strong culture of keeping pupils safe’*.

The report focusses on the quality of education Ivy Lane provides, noting that the school *‘prioritises reading...with pupils receiving well-targeted support to catch-up [and that] leaders have organised the mathematics curriculum carefully...ensuring staff revisit pupils’ prior knowledge to support new learning’*.

In her letter to parents/carers, the Head of School Helen Lammin thanked them for their support, especially through the challenges faced over the past few years. The inspector wrote that *‘parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school’* and that *‘pupils enjoy coming to school and feel safe...they are polite and considerate...and respectful of their peers and adults’*.

Well done to everyone at Ivy Lane for a great result and for all your hard work and dedication – it is very much appreciated.

Become a teacher!

Train to Teach with Pickwick on our Primary 5-11 School Direct, PGCE, Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme. Learn to teach ‘on the job’, observing and working alongside our enthusiastic and experienced teachers and leaders.

For more information click [here](#).

Pure Green Energy

We are pleased to announce that from April 2022, all schools within the Trust will be supplied by Pure Green electricity, which is generated from 100% renewable sources in the UK (solar, wind, hydro/wave). This service will enable us to report zero emissions for electricity, and is part of our vision and commitment to become more environmentally friendly.

In addition, all schools are working with Ruth Jennison, from THINK Education Projects who also teaches at Greentrees Primary School, to proactively promote eco-friendly practice and sustainability projects across the Trust.

Greentrees Primary – new Headteacher

After twenty years leading Greentrees Primary School, first as a Deputy and since 2016 as Headteacher, Ray Picton will be retiring at the end of Term 4 this year. We are delighted, however, that he will continue to work with schools across Pickwick through his part-time role as our South Hub Executive Leader. We are thrilled to announce that the current Deputy, Alan Geary, has been appointed and will take over as Head to ensure a smooth transition and continue to build on the successes at the school.



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