

Pickwick Papers – Edition 34 – Term 6 – July 2026

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

Welcome to the final and bumper edition of Pickwick Papers for this academic year.

Thank you to all our incredible staff, families and governors for everything you have done to support and encourage all our children across the Trust, again this year. It is very much appreciated. We are hugely proud of everything the children have achieved. Have a wonderful summer holiday and well-earned break. Very best wishes!



Pickwick 2017-2027

Pickwick is 10 Years old as a Trust next year!

Look out for information over the coming terms about how we are celebrating 10 years of learning and working together to achieve the very best outcomes for all of our children.

A new chapter begins at Woodford Valley CE Primary Academy

Woodford Valley CE Primary Academy is celebrating the opening of its wonderful new school library. The project has transformed an old working space into a welcoming, dedicated reading environment where children can immerse themselves in books and develop a lifelong love of reading.

This exciting achievement would not have been possible without the incredible support of the school's fantastic PTA, whose fundraising efforts provided the financial backing needed to bring the vision to life. The project also benefitted from the generosity of parent volunteers, who gave their time and energy to help decorate and prepare the space, creating a bright and inviting environment for the children.

Since opening, the library has quickly become a favourite place for the children. It offers a calm and quiet environment where children can escape into stories, discover new interests and enjoy reading for pleasure.

Through the dedication of staff, parents, volunteers and supporters, Woodford Valley's children now have a beautiful new space that will inspire reading and learning for years to come.



Ivy Lane Ofsted Inspection

In March 2026, Ofsted carried out a routine inspection at Ivy Lane Primary School. It was inspected under Ofsted's new framework, which no longer has an overall judgement grade. For info on how Ofsted's new grading system works please click [here](#).

We are delighted that the inspection team recognised the fantastic practice taking place across the school. They found that leaders at Ivy Lane "have established a familiar and welcoming atmosphere across the school," noting that "pupils are happy, safe and kind to one another." They found that "pupils benefit from a wealth of carefully planned enrichment opportunities organised by the school," and that "pupils are focused and engaged in class."

Quotes from the Ivy Lane inspection report:

- The school "blends its rich history and long-held traditions with a vibrant approach to curriculum and play."
- Pupils consistently meet expectations in the Year 1 phonics check and develop as fluent, confident readers.
- Leaders track attendance rates systematically and have established effective systems to secure positive attendance for most pupils
- Teachers deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that is carefully sequenced to build pupils' knowledge.
- The school's writing approach meets pupils' needs, particularly for those who require additional support to write fluently.
- Children benefit from a calm and positive start to their schooling, with established routines that help them to feel settled and secure. Leaders work effectively with parents and carers. Warm, nurturing relationships enable staff to foster independence and guide children confidently through daily learning.
- Support [for pupils with SEND] is matched closely to their level of need.

Well done, thank you, and congratulations to everyone working, learning and supporting in Ivy Lane Primary for your hard work and dedication.

Parent Survey

In May 2026, we carried out a Trust-wide survey of parent's views about their children's schools.

Thank you so much if you took part – your views will really help shape our next steps and developments.

900+ parents/carers responded to the survey and results were collated:

My child is happy at school: 93%

My child feels safe: 94%

Pupils are well behaved: 83%

School communicates well: 80%

Would recommend the school: 92%

Common positive themes included parents/carers' appreciation for staff commitment and children's happiness. Nurturing ethos and caring staff were highlighted regularly. Positive teaching relationships and an inclusive culture were also positive themes.

Communication, support for SEND and behaviour and requests for more enrichment activities were common identified areas for development.

Pickwick and Oxford SCITT Teacher Training is EXCEPTIONAL

Pickwick Academy Trust is working in a strong partnership with Oxford OTT School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) to deliver two of their seven hubs of teacher training. We have trained over 40 brilliant new teachers in our hubs and are delighted with what they have achieved this year.

In March 2026, Ofsted inspected our collective training programme speaking to teacher trainees, teachers and school leaders and found that it was exceptional (Ofsted's very highest grade) in every category! Inspectors noted that trainees complete the programme with very high levels of success and are extremely well prepared for teaching in the primary and secondary phases. They noted that leaders are highly successful in the partnership and that their "strong moral purpose and commitment to inclusion runs throughout all elements of their highly ambitious programmes". They noted that "staff and mentors receive very high-quality professional learning".

I would like to say a huge well done and congratulations to Amy Tapscott, Louise Pitman-Jones, Sam Rogers and Lindsay Palmer for their exceptional leadership of this programme, and all our fabulous trainee teachers!

All Saints CE Primary School raises money for Mosaic charity

The whole All Saints community each ran or walked for 15 minutes non-stop throughout a day this term to raise money for the brilliant [Mosaic charity](#). It was quite a challenge, but the fantastic children and adults at the school ran a total of 1,189 laps of the school field (approximately 207 miles!) and raised over £1000 to support the wonderful work that Mosaic do. Not content with that achievement, they then also had a school aquathlon and a Sports Day (and presumably a well-deserved lie-down afterwards! Well done everyone!



Courageous Advocacy at Winterslow CE Primary School

Year 3 child Sophie from Winterslow CE Primary School decided she wanted to support the Dog's Trust charity.

She baked cakes and cookies, and during the Clarendon Way walk supported the participants and tempted them to buy all of them! She raised a phenomenal £264 and was a bit flabbergasted by the result.

An excellent example of courageous advocacy and community spirit – we are all really proud of her!

Well done Sophie!



Ivy Lane Achieves OPAL Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that Ivy Lane Primary School has been awarded the Gold Accreditation by OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), recognising the significant transformation of playtimes across the school.

What began as a vision to improve opportunities for play has grown into a whole-school movement involving children, staff, families, governors, local businesses and the wider community. The Gold Award recognises schools that have successfully embedded high-quality play into the heart of school life and demonstrated a commitment to improving children's wellbeing, happiness and development through play.

Today, lunchtimes at Ivy Lane look very different. Instead of standing around or waiting for a turn on fixed equipment, children can be found building dens from crates and tarpaulins, creating masterpieces in outdoor art areas, inventing imaginative games, exploring loose parts, riding wheeled toys and collaborating with children from different year groups.

The OPAL programme is built on a simple principle: play is not a break from learning, it is an essential part of childhood. With children spending around 20% of their time in school at play, Ivy Lane wanted to ensure that those opportunities were meaningful, engaging and accessible to all.

Since introducing OPAL in 2024, the school has continued to develop its provision through staff training, pupil leadership opportunities, community partnerships and ongoing investment in the outdoor environment. Along the way, parents, grandparents and local businesses have generously supported the project through donations, practical help and fundraising initiatives.

Headteacher Helen Lammin said:

"Since introducing OPAL, the transformation in our school community has been remarkable. Children are more engaged, creative and collaborative during playtimes, and we've seen a noticeable improvement in their wellbeing and behaviour. OPAL has turned our outdoor spaces into vibrant learning environments, and the joy it brings is felt by staff, pupils and parents alike. Any visitors arriving during lunchtime are greeted by what can only be described as a festival, a celebration of play, imagination and childhood."

The school would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the journey so far. From families donating resources, to volunteers supporting projects, to staff embracing new ways of working, Gold Accreditation is a shared achievement that reflects the collective effort of the entire ILS community.

Whilst the award is a fantastic milestone, the journey is far from over. Plans are already underway for further developments, including new play spaces, additional resources and exciting projects designed to ensure every child continues to benefit from rich, active and creative play opportunities. If you feel that you are able to support with resources, time or expertise the school would ask you to reach out and help. For Ivy Lane, Gold Accreditation is not simply an award. It is recognition of a belief that childhood matters, play matters and that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.

BBC Breakfast cameras visit Winterslow CE Primary School

BBC cameras have visited Winterslow this term as pupils took part in activities using the 'Finding the Words' resource pack to support children who are experiencing bereavement, change and loss. Winterslow was selected as a pilot school for the national resource, which supports Celebration Day, an annual event that encourages people to remember and talk about loved ones who have passed away. For more information click here to read the Salisbury Journal [article](#).

Corsham Primary welcomes Sarah Gibson MP

Corsham Primary School was delighted to welcome Sarah Gibson MP to the school for a special assembly. Sarah spoke to the children about how Parliament is organized and explained the roles of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The children learned about the wide range of political parties across the UK and how democracy enables people to have a voice in decision-making.

It was an inspiring and informative visit, and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet a real MP and ask thoughtful questions. We are very grateful to Sarah Gibson for giving up her time and helping bring national politics to life.

The visit was well timed as children in Year 5 at the school are organising themselves into political parties with manifestos linked to sustainability and are hoping it will be them that is chosen to run the school for the day when they are in Year 6.



Eco-champions

Eco champions Tabitha and James at Winterbourne Earls CE Primary School wrote to me this term to ask how we could work together as a Trust to help become more sustainable and to do more to look after our planet.

Their writing was very persuasive and showed a great deal of knowledge and passion for making their school and community more sustainable.

I was able to share with them that as a Trust we have developed a strong [Sustainability Plan](#) and are committed to working towards becoming a carbon neutral organization proactively promoting and operating eco-friendly practices across our schools.

We talked about reducing food waste, using less fossil fuels, installing solar panels and converting lighting to LED, as well as growing your own vegetables if you can.

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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