

Pickwick Papers – Edition 33 – Term 5 – May 2026

Welcome from James Passmore (CEO)

I'd like to say a huge well done to all the children learning and working across all our schools, but particularly to our fabulous Year 6s who sat their end of primary school SATs tests last week – I know your hard work and engagement in your learning will pay off and stand you in good stead for the next stage of your education at secondary.

Have a lovely May half term – see you all in Term 6.



Corsham PE Award

Corsham Primary School has been awarded the afPE Quality Mark for the third year running.

PE contributes to healthy and active lifestyles, and improves emotional wellbeing.

The prestigious award recognises high-quality PE, Sport and Physical Activity in schools, and highlights outstanding practice and a commitment to holistic pupil development through PE.



The Adventures of Tap & Switch Story

As part of the Trust's commitment to collaboration our deputy heads now meet three times a year in person in their hubs to discuss pupil collaboration.

The Deputies at the first North Dorset hub meeting, thought it would be a great idea to write a collective story for World Book Day. Each school spent time writing their chapter, following on from the first school's contribution.

The resulting story, [Tap and Switch](#), was the final product of all this hard work. Local author/illustrator, Kathryn Lamb, kindly supported the project providing the illustrations for the story, which are utterly brilliant. This project really highlighted the power and spirit of collaboration, and the dedication of all the staff and pupils involved.

With writing so much at the forefront of the educational agenda, it was great to see the creativity of writing promoted so well. A huge thank you to all the staff and pupils involved in an excellent example of what being part of a Trust is all about. We cannot wait to read the sequel, or see the film adaptation!

Pitton Asthma Friendly

We are delighted to announce that Pitton CE Primary School has been awarded the Asthma Friendly Schools accreditation.

The programme helps pupils by reducing asthma related school absences, promotes good asthma management and increases awareness for staff and pupils.

In January 2026, Ofsted carried out a routine inspection at Gillingham Primary School. It was one of the first schools nationally to be 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 found Gillingham Primary School to be a "happy, welcoming and nurturing school". They found a "culture of equality, where pupils feel special and cared for", and noted that "positivity ripples throughout the school".

The inspection team recognised that the "school is ambitious for pupils and wants them to achieve well", with the report stating that "warm relationships exist between pupils and adults [which] helps pupils to feel safe", and that "leaders enrich the curriculum with a wide range of trips and visits, both to the local area and beyond."

Quotes from the Gillingham inspection report:

- The school fosters positive relationships with families and takes a caring approach to identifying barriers and working together to overcome them
- The school's values of resilience, community, safety, respect, learning and ambition shape pupils' positive attitudes toward their learning and behaviour; A positive culture of respect runs through the school
- The school provides high-quality pastoral care for pupils who require behavioural and emotional support
- Children form positive relationships with both peers and adults. The learning environment, indoors and outdoors, is purposeful, sparking curiosity and sustained concentration
- Staff consistently model vocabulary and encourage talk through stories, role play and daily interactions. A range of leadership roles, including sports leadership and librarian roles, develop pupils' responsibility.

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

At the end of last term, children at Ivy Lane Primary enjoyed participating in their annual 'Performance Poetry' event. This whole school showcase involved children from Nursery to Year 6 learning and performing a poem of their choice to each other. I was privileged to attend and loved seeing children of all ages performing with such skill and enthusiasm.

Whilst the event is always very much a celebration of poetry and not a competition - there was nevertheless a friendly competitiveness surrounding the much-anticipated end of term performances, with classes demonstrating enthusiastic use of actions, props, facial expressions and instruments to enhance the well-rehearsed vocal delivery of their chosen poem.

As educators, we know the benefits of learning and performing a poem. The beauty of this annual event is that it excites children about poetry and provides broad exposure to language, vocabulary and rhythms of speech in an engaging and celebratory atmosphere. We are already looking forward to next year!

North Wiltshire Hub

South Wiltshire Hub

North Dorset Hub



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Pickwick Academy Trust, Pickwick Offices, Pound Pill, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9YW
www.pickwickacademytrust.co.uk; 01249 717090; admin@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk

