



Message from the CEO

It has been a great start to the academic year 2025-26. We will soon have sixteen schools in the Trust, and it is a privilege to visit them and see the excellent work our pupils are doing. I have been fortunate this term to attend Harvest Festivals and meet some of our new pupils. You might have seen some of the estates work which has happened over the Summer. We have replaced fencing, signing in systems and many boilers to ensure our schools will be both secure (and warm!) this Winter. As ever there is so much good news and so many lovely events going on across the Trust. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I enjoyed receiving the news to write it!

Melanie Barrow- CEO



All Saints, Laxfield Primary

Robins Class visited Framlingham to carry out geography fieldwork. The children conducted a traffic survey and interviewed visitors to learn why they had come to the town. They also gathered similar data in Laxfield, allowing them to compare two different types of settlement.

Benhall St Mary Primary

A big thank you to Miss Nicholas, who gave so much of her time over the summer to refresh and improve our EYFS area. The space is now more inviting and better organised, and it's been great to see the children quickly settling in and making good use of the resources. We really appreciate the effort that went into these changes and look forward to seeing how the children continue to enjoy and learn in their updated environment.



Charsfield Primary

We are delighted to have joined up to the Wilder Schools project with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust for the next three years. Our first session involved looking for evidence of nature in our school grounds. We found lots of things, including an interesting looking caterpillar. We then talked about what we could do to encourage even more nature in our grounds, and in our next session we will start making our ideas a reality. The children had a wonderful time exploring our

extensive grounds and we are looking forward to our next sessions this term.

Cockfield Primary

The new school year has got off to a wonderful start at Cockfield. We are so fortunate to have a beautiful leafy site to learn in and our youngest children in Lime have been making the most of their outdoor learning with Welly Wednesdays. Children discussed how we would be safe and respectful in the forest: staying where adults can see us, taking care of the environment and any creatures we find, careful listening and empty mouths were all things we talked about. Then they read a story called Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert. The children loved identifying what had been made from leaves in the illustrations. We collected leaves to make our own leaf people and leaf animals. The children also enjoyed exploring the forest, climbing and balancing, playing in the mud kitchen, looking for insects and putting new vocabulary to good use.



Dennington Primary

We have had a super start to the year with 11 new Reception children starting in Chaffinches and everyone settling in really well- it's as if they have always been here! Robins (Yr 1&2) have been visiting Forest School every week and making some beautiful arts and crafts there. Wrens (Yr 3&4) have been doing some interesting science lessons, making robot hands that show how the muscles and tendons work in the real things! Swallows (Yr 5&6) have spent a day at the Workhouse in Gressenhall, to bring to life how the Victorian inmates would have lived - oakum picking, laundry using

a dolly stick, lessons in a very strict schoolroom and even potato picking in the fields. It certainly made us appreciate all that we have today!



Fressingfield Primary

There was great excitement at Fressingfield Primary School as the children welcomed author Guy Bass to officially open the new school library. Guy, author of the Stitch Head books, the first of which is due to be released as a feature length animation in February, spent the day with us at Fressingfield, leading an assembly, signing books and generally creating a buzz about books. The children loved Guy's fast-paced, energy-filled assembly, which included a mixture of drama, stand-up, poetry, stories from his childhood and readings from his books, including Stitch Head and Scrap. In the afternoon, the children all gathered for the official opening of the revamped school library. This was the culmination of a year-long project to transform the previously uninspiring space into a haven for books and reading. It was a fantastic day, which marked a fabulous new beginning for our school library.

Great Whelnetham Primary

At Great Whelnetham we have started the new school year in a healthy and active way. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have competed in two sporting events as part of the 'School Games' calendar; a mixed 7v7 football tournament and a challenging Cross Country event. We are very proud of all the pupils who took part showing their great enthusiasm, commitment and teamwork. As part of the PSHE curriculum, all the classes have also enjoyed a visit from 'Dentaid' teaching our pupils the importance of brushing their teeth and how to do this effectively.



Hardwick Primary

Hardwick Primary School is delighted to have launched OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) lunchtimes. Children now enjoy a variety of play zones, each filled with opportunities for fun and creativity — from Lego building and writing stations to science investigations, building blocks, den building, dressing up, and even a dinosaur adventure mound where they can bring prehistoric play to life. It has been wonderful to see pupils working together, using their imaginations, and thriving during lunchtimes.

Honington Primary

Year 6 turned into master bakers this half term as they got busy preparing for our Macmillan Coffee Morning! The children whisked, stirred, and decorated a mountain of cakes in class before opening the doors to friends and families. They took charge of everything—welcoming guests, serving tea and cake, and making sure everyone had a smile. By the end of the morning, they had raised an amazing £600.28 for Macmillan Cancer Support - a remarkable achievement that reflects both their hard work and their commitment to helping others.



Ickworth Park Primary

Children at Ickworth Park have been making the most of their brand-new outdoor classroom, a space designed to bring learning to life in the great outdoors! From science investigations to creative writing and art, the outdoor classroom is giving children new and inspiring ways to engage with their learning. A huge thank you goes to Yardistry who met with the school to design a space to meet all our needs. We've also been building a partnership with the National Trust gardening team at Ickworth Park, and are looking forward to growing a variety of fruit and vegetables in our new allotment area. Our student Wellbeing Ambassadors have taken the lead in transforming the space into a lunchtime hideaway, offering a calm and inclusive environment for everyone. Each day, a different activity is on offer; from chess and book clubs to Lego building and quiet reflection. With big plans ahead, our Wellbeing Ambassadors are just getting started - watch this space!

Occold Primary

The children at Occold Primary School loved lining the streets to watch the Tour of Britain cycling event. Lots of the children designed their own flags to wave. Everybody loved watching the police cars, police motorbikes, ambulances, equipment vans and of course the cyclists whizz past! We made sure to give them a big cheer. It was a brilliant way to start the very first day of the new academic year.



Sextons Manor

Year 6 from Sexton's Manor had a fantastic residential at Hilltop in North Norfolk. The children took part in a range of activities including the Big Zipper, Treetop Trail, archery, Team Challenges and the Power Fan. They fully embraced the idea of challenge by choice and were great supporters of each other as they took part in the experiences. We were very proud of them and sure that they will take their increased confidence into the rest of the academic year!



St Peter and St Paul, Eye

Year 5 pupils from St Peter & St Paul, Eye, recently took their Religious Education lesson into the heart of the church, where they explored the significance of the Gospels within the Anglican tradition. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding in a meaningful setting. The children were especially engaged during their time with Fr Guy, who spoke with them about the role of the Gospels in worship and daily life. They asked thoughtful questions and expressed enthusiasm for having more RE lessons in the church. One pupil commented, "*I feel so peaceful here,*" reflecting the calm and reflective atmosphere the church provided during their learning. Bringing learning to life through real-world experiences like this is something our pupils thoroughly enjoy and greatly benefit from.



Stradbroke

Year 4 and Year 5 had a wonderful time at the Horstead Centre in September. They enjoyed various outdoor adventurous activities, such as canoeing, crate-stacking, archery, rock-climbing and the zipwire, developing teamwork skills. It was brilliant to see the children push themselves out of their comfort zones and excel in different environments. We are so proud of them all and how they demonstrated kindness, respect and supportiveness to others!



Thorndon

It has been wonderful to experience the vibrant atmosphere of learning returning to school. Each class has commenced their new topic, engaged enthusiastically through their introductory hook day, and are now fully immersed in their lessons. Willow Class – Maafa. This project introduces children to Africa's rich history and contemporary culture, with a particular focus on Benin. Oak Class – Misty Mountain, Winding River. This geography-based project explores the physical features and ecosystems of rivers and mountain ranges around the world. Children will investigate the processes that shape these landscapes and the environments surrounding them. Holly Class – Movers and Makers. This history-led topic focuses on influential individuals who have made a significant impact on the world. Pupils will use timelines, stories, and historical sources to learn about these figures and understand their contributions through historical enquiry.





Wortham

At Wortham, we've brought History to life by arranging exciting workshops and trips for the children. KS2 enjoyed a fantastic experience day to launch their new history topics. Year 6 immersed themselves in the Shang Dynasty, asking thoughtful questions and exploring this fascinating period like true historians. Meanwhile, Year 4 and 5 stepped back in time to the world of the Vikings, discovering daily life, acting out different roles and retelling mythical stories. It was a brilliant start to the term's history learning, leaving the children eager to delve further into their topics in the weeks ahead.

Trust News

All Saints Schools Trust held an "Effective Communication Conference" on our first day back of the Autumn Term. It was an amazing way to start the term! Highlights included workshops on "Unconscious Bias" from Aspire Black Suffolk and "Well-Being" from Dr Amanda Hull from Acorn Tree Psychology. Our keynote speaker was Nicky Perfect, a former hostage negotiator talking about "Effective Communication".



Thank you to all schools who held Harvest Festival services this half term. As usual there was some lovely hymns lead by children and donations to local food banks.

We were really pleased to welcome Honington Primary to the Trust this Autumn. It already feels part of our family of Trust schools, and we are enjoying working with the schools new Headteacher Mrs Boyd and her team.

The SIAMS annual report for 2024/25 was published recently- see link [Inspections — National Society for Education](#). It was a pleasure to see St Peter and St Paul mentioned!- see para 2.6 on page 18 which says:

"At St Peter and St Paul Church of England Primary School in the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, there is a 'deep, consistent understanding of spiritual growth.' Leaders have engaged in a thoughtful process to understand what is right for their context and have supported staff to have the appropriate language and planned opportunities to talk about spirituality. As a result, 'intentionally planned moments of awe and wonderment feed pupils.' "

A huge well done to staff and pupils and thank you to Mrs Jarvis!

SEND news- we are delighted to welcome Mrs Zoe Clancy back from Maternity Leave to a new role as our SEND Strategic Lead. She will be working alongside the Senior Trust Leadership team and will be working closely with all SENDCOs. Look out for the Trust SEND newsletter which will include lots of useful SEND advice, news and signposting to events and training to support parents.