

CEO MESSAGE

I honestly can't believe that we are nearly at the end of the year, or that this is the end of my second year working with SET!

At our recent Writing Moderation, it was great to hear the buzz of colleagues talking, debating and collaborating and the great relationships that have developed. Our SET Up sessions have been really useful and we have more planned for next year and our Staff Forum had representatives from almost every school and job family. It was great for different schools to mix, share ideas and generate solutions. I feel really proud of the organisation that we are building together.

If there are topics you would like training or information about - for any job family, please let us know. Also a reminder about Welbee, which can be accessed at toolkit.welbee.co.uk - with the holidays coming up you might want to explore :)

As we reach the end of term, many may be taking part in work events. This is a time to celebrate the end of another year and to enjoy ourselves but please remember that you are still representing your school and the Trust and may meet parents, colleagues from other schools or members of our community - after all, no-one wants to be that person who goes viral on Tiktok!

I would like to say thank you to everyone for all your hard work this year and wish you a lovely break - when it arrives.

Cathy Carlisle

In this issue:

CEO message

Be Energy Efficient

Working Together -
Director of Education
Update

Introducing...

News from our Schools

Safeguarding

Top Tip...

School Site Update

Be energy efficient and help to save money

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of turning off lights and ICT equipment when they are not in use, which is especially important with the impending summer break. This simple action can lead to significant cost savings for the Trust and contribute to our sustainability efforts.

Why It Matters:

- **Cost Savings:** Reducing energy consumption directly impacts our utility bills, allowing us to allocate those savings to other vital areas.
- **Environmental Impact:** Lower energy use means a smaller carbon footprint, contributing to a greener environment.
- **Equipment Longevity:** Properly shutting down ICT equipment can prolong its lifespan, reducing maintenance and replacement costs.

What You Can Do:

- **Classrooms and Offices:** Ensure lights and electronic devices are turned off at the end of the day.
- **ICT Equipment:** Shut down computers, monitors, printers, and other devices when not in use.
- **Common Areas:** Be vigilant about turning off lights in common areas such as hallways, meeting rooms, and break areas.

By working together, we can make a significant difference. Let's all do our part to save energy and reduce costs.

Mike Lilley - CFO



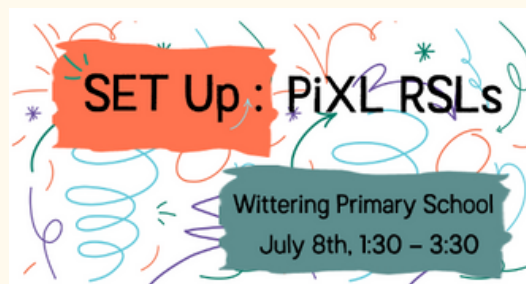
Soke Education Trust are on facebook and LinkedIn. Please follow us to see the latest news from our schools.

Working together

Our May and June, SET Up sessions were focused on assessment in foundation subjects and the Pupil Premium Grant respectively. Colleagues from across our schools, from various different roles, came together around these important aspects.

In the first session, we worked through the SET Guide to Assessment in Foundation Subjects, which brings together work we did with Robin Bone on our 2 SET Inset days last year, as well as research from the EEF and experts including Dylan Wiliam and Daniel Willingham and applies them practically to each foundation subject. In the Pupil Premium session, we again used the EEF guidance around this and explored the recommended strategies of focusing on high quality teaching, targeted academic support and wider strategies to enable success for all learners.


The next SET UP session in July, is our first chance for Raising Standards Leaders (RSLs) from each school to join together to look at how we make best use of PiXL. We will look at analysing QLAs and discuss strategies and resources that we can all benefit from using in school. I look forward to meeting RSLs then.



Teaching WalkThrus

The Trust has subscribed to the Teaching WalkThrus platform for the next 3 years: this is a resource that has CPD modules around relationships and behaviour and all aspects of teaching and learning and can be used by all staff in school, based on the work of Tom Sherrington - many of you will have seen or worked with his books.





Teaching WalkThrus will be launched across the Trust in October and we are currently planning carefully how to make best use of this in each school's individual context. As part of our planning, Sarah Nicolson and I attended the annual Teaching WalkThrus conference on 13th June, and learned about the questions that drive all of the CPD modules in the WalkThrus: Is everyone thinking? Is everyone making meaning? Is everyone practising?

We look forward to sharing the WalkThru platform with you all soon.

Elaine Crane - Director of Education

Trustee Update



Trustees take on the role for a four year term and we are sorry to be saying goodbye to Julia Walker-Smith & Barry Webb at the end of this academic year. Where one door closes another opens - in this case three! We are pleased to be joined by Lewis Tasker, Otsaye Kirk and Mark Crane (no relation to Elaine) and look forward to the support that they will bring to our next chapter.

Introducing...Steve Gerrard

As a new addition to the SET board my driven passion is primary education, having had over 12+ years within primary school governance and leadership, where my roles have been vice chair and chair of the resource and finance committee. Alongside this, two key achievements in my time within these roles has been when I was part of a governor team that was a finalist in the National Governance Association Awards UK, as well as this I have been the project lead to build and deliver a purpose built stand alone nursery school building and setting which now operates a complete wrap-around care facility.

Furthermore, I have extensive leadership and commercial expertise having worked in the drinks Industry for over 32 years, the last 8 years as Director of International Sales for a multi million pound premium wine business.

My extensive leadership, commercial business knowledge, and governance experience will really allow me to support the Soke Education Trust and its schools communities in delivering on its vision and strategic direction to allow it to navigate through the challenging education landscape.



Our newsletter and blog are now available on the Soke Education Trust website

News from our Schools

Wittering



At Wittering we have been raising money. The sponsorships from our Sports for Schools Event raised a whopping £2745.90, we were overwhelmed with the support from this event. A massive thank you for all the money raised this will help support GB athletes to inspire the next generation and help buy new sports equipment for our school.

The children were so inspired by the event and our pictures sum it up!



Alderman Jacobs

On Thursday 27th June, AJS teachers were joined by academics at ARU Peterborough Campus to celebrate the completion of the 'Close to Research Professional Development Project'. Teachers have been working with ARU since the Autumn Term, forming teams to research and evaluate aspects of pedagogy to address a number of bespoke challenges. These challenges ranged from engaging Year 2 pupils in History, to progression in Oracy skills in EYFS/ Year 1 to adapting classroom environments to encourage independence. Teachers presented their work at the event and details of the project will be published in the ARU research journal.



In our Year 6 Residential to York, over 50 Year 6 children and 5 staff recently enjoyed a 4 day trip to York. Staying at a lovely Youth Hostel on the outskirts of the city, children took part in a wide variety of experiences, ranging from visits to Jorvik, Railway and Chocolate museums, a tour of York Minster and a boat ride along the River Ouse. A special thanks to the staff who accompanied the children in York and to those who helped organise the visit behind the scenes - a great time was had by all!

In personal news Sophie Deplancke, who has been teaching in Year 2 this year, had a baby girl last week - Freya. Mum and baby doing well!



Northborough

An enthusiastic team of dancers from Northborough School attended The Primary Schools Country Dancing Festival on Thursday 6th June at The Peterborough School. It was a lively, fun evening of traditional dance accompanied by the excellent live music of "Avalon" where children got the opportunity to perform the skills they had learnt in country dancing club with Mrs Young.



Northborough children greatly enjoyed the chance to work with Mike Horne from the Langdyke Trust. He came to rejuvenate the pond for us, and helped children investigate and identify insects and invertebrates. It is looking very healthy and is a great habitat for domestic wildlife.

John Clare

It has been a busy term of learning across the school At John Clare.

Buttercross (Reception and Year 1) enjoyed investigating the life cycle of butterflies. They were captivated by exploring the metamorphosis of the tiny caterpillars that came to live in their classroom. After a very short period of time, they were no longer tiny, little caterpillars!

Woodgate (Y1&2), Broadwheel (Y3&4) and Swaddywell (Y4&5) Classes have all been working hard on developing their Design Technology skills this term and have enjoyed using the new resources that we have been able to buy. They have made puppets, purses and pasta bake!



Torpel Class (Y6) have been working towards their East Anglian Air Ambulance Challenge badge. They have to meet certain criteria including: map reading; first aid knowledge; design a new helicopter and take part in first aid training. To meet the fundraising criteria they are organising a bake sale and book sale on 11 July. Torpel are also looking forward to their residential trip to Hilltop on 12th July.

As this academic year comes to an end, we would like to say a huge thank you to Emily Carter, who has been with us covering maternity leave. We have all thoroughly enjoyed working with you and wish you all of the best in your next role.

The John Clare team would also like to wish our colleagues across the Trust a very happy and restful summer.



Gunthorpe

At Gunthorpe Primary School we are hugely excited to be starting our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project ahead of our full launch in September. Our outdoor area is in the process of being transformed into a multi-zoned space in which children will be able to engage in a wide range of exciting, hands-on play activities at lunch times. We hope that this will benefit the children's social and communication skills, raise their enjoyment of play times and increase their readiness for their afternoon learning. Further updates to follow!

Werrington



Werrington Primary School were blessed with the perfect weather for our Sports Day on Tuesday. It was lovely to have so many parents come along to support the children. I was very impressed by how kind and supportive the children were to each other. It was a very enjoyable day for all.

In Geography, we have begun a mapping unit, looking specifically at Ordnance Survey maps. It was great to learn about the different symbols we might find on a key and we enjoyed hunting for symbols representing natural and physical features, roads and pathways, railways and vegetation



Safeguarding

Thank you to all our DSL's who continue to keep up to date with changes and guidance and provide regular updates across our schools. Safeguarding is the golden thread through every school and at this point in the year, please continue to remind children about the different ways that you have taught them to keep themselves safe, whether out and about or online.



GDPR Top Tips

Remember only collect the data you need!

- When you request personal data (i.e. via const forms, admission forms or surveys), ask yourself, “do i really need this?, What will I use it for?”
- If you only want it ‘just incase’ - don’t collect it
- If you have already collected personal data that you don’t need - delete/destroy it/!

Keep the data you hold up to date and accurate.

School Building Projects

The Trust aims to keep all school buildings safe and in good working order to continue to improve the learning environment for our pupils and working environment for all of the staff. One element of the Trust Estate Strategy is to utilise the opportunity to apply for capital funding from the Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) in an annual bidding round. This funding is an opportunity open to eligible academies (sixth forms and voluntary aided schools) to access funding for projects that address building compliance, buildings in poor condition and health and safety issues.

As this academic year nears completion so do 4 large CIF projects at 3 of our schools. Through Boiler and Heating upgrade projects Gunthorpe Primary School and Werrington Primary School now have brand new modern gas fired condensing boilers with new controls to manage heating zones and reduce heating costs. New heating distribution pipework and low surface temperature radiators will improve control with consistent, regulated heating. Both schools will soon see the benefits of reliable and energy efficient heating systems that are easy to operate and maintain. The Fire and Electrical Improvements projects at Gunthorpe Primary School and Northborough Primary School have provided new electrical wiring installation, improvements to fire alarm systems, emergency lighting and fire exit signage along with LED lights throughout to provide suitable and sufficient lighting and improve energy efficiencies.

Moving forward Alderman Jacobs School will soon be starting an exciting Security and Safeguarding improvement project This project will bring additional security through improved fencing, automated vehicle and pedestrian gates and CCTV as well as improved school entrance/reception provision for visitors. Wittering Primary School was successful in securing funding for a Fire and Electrical Improvements project which on completion will mean that 4 of our 6 schools will have reliable, compliant and efficient electrical systems with suitable lighting and improved fire detection and safe means of escape.

The schools involved in these projects have built good working relationships with the contractors and worked hard to contribute to successful project outcomes. Preparations are now in place to support submissions for the next funding round with at least one application for each school in the Trust!