



# Children First Trust Autumn Newsletter

December 2024

The latest news & updates from across the Trust

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## Trust Updates

I hope that you have had a successful term. Well done to you all as I know this is a long and busy term.

Thank you to those leaders who filled in our satisfaction survey so that as a Central Team we can look to deliver an ever-improving service to you in schools, allowing us to achieve our vision of enabling you to focus on your core purpose – providing the best education for our children.

Louise Davies, our Director of People and Operations, will be leaving us at the end of her contract in February. We wish her the very best of luck for the future. As a result of this, we have made a few more changes to the Central Team.

Claire O'Brien has moved from her Finance Manager role to the Operations Team and will be working with schools on Contract Management and Procurement. Julie Chapman is also part of that team and is working to support Health and Safety Compliance.

Both Julie and Claire will support the management of our buildings. Marion Green continues to work on Human Resources and our People Strategy.

Our Finance Team has a new Manager, Risanth Sivanathan, who will work with Shashwati Wilkinson, Director of Finance, and the team to ensure we manage our resources well.

In terms of Quality of Education, Dominic Smart (Deputy CEO) is working with Headteachers, Lisa Wise (Executive Leader) and Senior Leaders in schools to continue the journey of all our schools reaching the 'exceptional' in terms of our curriculum and our pedagogy.

Honilands Primary is still waiting to join us, there seems to have been delays at the DfE due to the pre-election period, but we hope this will progress soon. We have begun to work with Honilands so that transfer will be smooth when it happens.



## School Updates

As always it has been a long and busy term and I know I only get to see a snippet of all that is happening. The broad curriculum on offer to our children is something we should be really proud of. If you do not already, please do follow us on 'X' (formally Twitter) as our family of schools share some of the amazing things we do. I have included a selection below:



## Our People Strategy

Thank you to all of you who completed the staff survey that was sent out via the Teacher Engagement Platform. You may remember that last year we had only about a 30% response to the paper survey and this time we are up to about 65%, with some schools having much higher engagement than that. Of course, we want 100% engagement and we hope that as you see leaders responding to the feedback more, you will see the worth in completing the survey. Next term leaders will be sharing with you what priority actions they will be taking because of your feedback.

We are busy planning our next Trust wide training day for February. The format will be slightly different from last year with different training in different schools. Following feedback from last year we aim that there will be something for everyone and you will get to meet people who do the same or similar job as you during the day. More details to follow next half term.

**As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all your hard work and commitment and I hope you all have a relaxing holiday and a well-earned rest.**



