Dear Parent and Carers,

We are writing to you today to update you on an important and exciting step we are taking to secure the successful future of our school.

Over many months, Governors and School Leaders have been busy researching the different Multi-Academy Trusts (MAT) available for us to join, exploring how well their values and vision match those of our school.  We have undergone initial checks in regard to their reliability, reputation and educational standards. We have looked at how the leadership of each Trust impacts the education of the children in their schools and how well staff are trained and supported.

We are excited to let you know that it has been unanimously agreed that our chosen MAT would be Pickwick Academy Trust.  We have now written to James Passmore, Chief Executive Officer of Pickwick Academy Trust, officially confirming that we would like their Trustees to consider our request to join their family of primary schools**.**The Pickwick Academy Trust Board have met and unanimously voted for our school to proceed to the next stage.You can find out more about Pickwick Academy Trust and their schools on the Trust website: <https://www.pickwickacademytrust.co.uk/>

We will be finding out more about the Trust systems, finances and governance.  You will not be surprised that the Trust will also be finding out more about us!  Trust leaders will be getting to know us better, spending time in school meeting pupils and staff.  They will particularly be looking at the achievement of our pupils, the quality of teaching and learning and of course, our buildings, resources and finance.

During this stage of checking, we would like to consult you as parents and carers.  We will arrange two opportunities for you to meet one of our Trust leaders and hear more about what joining Pickwick Academy Trust will mean for pupils and parents. The date of this meeting will follow in further communication but we really hope that you will be able to join us for these meetings.

It is usual these days for schools to join MATs in small groups and it is likely that we would be joined by other Salisbury primary schools who are also making this move.

We would like to reassure parents that the process of joining will be a smooth transaction.  Pupils and parents should not see any big changes.  Teaching and learning will continue as normal and there will be no significant changes to staff, uniform or after school provision.

We hope that this information will give you reassurance that the school will continue to provide the safe, secure and happy learning environment for your children and preserve the identity of Gomeldon Primary School.  We are at the beginning of a new and exciting era for our school.  Within the Pickwick Academy Trust family, we will be able to retain our values and essence of character but will have the economic stability and wider educational support necessary for us to achieve our vision.

Best wishes

Catherine Windross