22nd July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the summer holidays approach, we can look back on a busy and successful year across all our schools. At our recent Board meeting we reflected upon the five values that underpin our Trust:

Wellbeing
We are called to nurture not just academic growth, but the fullness of life — supporting the mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of every child and adult in our care.

Continuous Improvement
In our leadership and governance, we commit to learning and growing, always striving for excellence in the service of others, knowing that God is still at work in and through us.

Compassion
In our interactions, decisions, and policies, may we always be mindful of the human stories behind every need and challenge.

Fairness
We are entrusted with the responsibility to ensure justice and equity across our schools — valuing each individual as made in the image of God, and worthy of opportunity and dignity.

Teamwork
We do not work in isolation. Together, we form one body — diverse in gifts but united in purpose. Let us support, trust, and uplift one another.

As we reach the year end, let us celebrate the success and recognise the ongoing challenges, both met through the upholding of our values.

We are a Trust that has both Mainstream Primary Schools and Special School Provision. We are uniquely placed in Somerset to understand the challenges we face in ensuring that every child, regardless of the barriers to learning they may face, gets the education they deserve. We do not always get it right, but we are working hard as part of the school system to ensure that our schools are inclusive and provide the best possible education.

Hill View – opening a new school with an SEMH focus, as you know has been hugely challenging and continues to be challenging. The challenges cover a whole range of areas across the Trust, not least financial challenges and challenges with the building. We have worked closely with the Department for Education and Somerset Council to meet these challenges. Hill View also constitutes a success. The 57 pupils who joined in September have had a successful year and are thriving. We are progressing a clear pathway for those learners going into Year 10, which looks towards qualifications and skills for independent living beyond Hill View.

Selworthy – has faced its own building challenges over the last two years. This summer will see the removal of the parts of the building that have RAAC. We continue to work, with the DFE, on the long-term plans of moving our Primary aged pupils to a brand-new building. This will take a number of years, so we must also remain focused on ensuring the best learning environment at Oakhill in the meantime. Under the new leadership team

at Selworthy we have also seen a significant transformation of the curriculum, with an even greater focus on skills for independent living and where appropriate qualification pathways.

Stoke Saint Gregory – this year has seen the successful transition of Headteacher. The school continues to progress towards a 'Good' judgement in the key Ofsted areas of Quality of Education and Leadership. The Headteacher has worked well with the Executive Team in the development of a distinct curriculum for Small Schools with mixed aged classes.

Primary schools – the challenges for our mainstream schools are no different to other schools, both locally and nationally – financial pressures along with a significant increase in SEND needs. We have not been satisfied that our outcomes are as strong as we would like. In previous years, we have focused on Reading which has seen our pupils better prepared for their next stage in education in this area; this year we have focused on writing and maths. Early indications suggest that we have increased outcomes for phonics and Multiplication Check at Year 4, as well as reading, writing and maths at the end of Key Stage 2. This better reflects the quality of education we strive for in all of our schools.

Place Based Developments – we recognise that your school is an important part of your community. We want to play a big role in supporting our local areas—not just by educating children, but by helping the whole community to thrive. We believe we works closely with our families, businesses, and organisations to support local-based developments and make sure the needs of our areas are at the heart of our work. Our schools are proud to be part of their community, and we work to help it grow stronger and more connected.

Below are some examples of how we have worked across our Trust and into our communities this year: achieving School Games Mark Award at Gold Level for three of our primary schools; engaging over 200 adults learners in Family Learning; working with employers to create opportunities and learning experiences for our young people across our Specialist settings. I have seen firsthand how this has led to internships for some of our former pupils.

Our Local School Committees are working closely with their Headteachers to see how we can listen and respond more to the wants and needs of our school communities and create even more opportunities for that wider place-based development. This will continue to be a focus of the Trust when we come back in September for a new year.

In the meantime, I would like to finish by thanking all our staff, in schools and Nurseries and across our Trust for their continued hard work and commitment to providing the best education for your children and young people.

Yours sincerely

Ian Robinson

Chief Executive Officer

Golden PE Success for Trust Primary Schools

I am delighted to announce that Blackbrook and Ruishton primary schools have achieved for the first time the School Games Mark Award at Gold Level for the 2024/25 academic year and that West Monkton has maintained this for a second year in a row.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, which has rewarded our schools with the highest level award in recognition for our commitment and development of PE, Physical Activity and School Sport.

The award also recognises a school's provision and uptake against the national benchmark of keeping young people active. Our schools have demonstrated this by:

1. Maintaining and growing our school's engagement in the School Games and the delivery of the Chief Medical Officer's 60 active minutes for every child or 20 minutes for SEND young people.
2. Delivering and engaging in competitions that have a clear intent and creates positive experiences based on the motivation, competence and confidence of our children.
3. A clear focus on inclusion for all our children across PE, Physical Activity and School Sport.
4. Supporting the personal development of targeted young people through engagement and leadership.
5. Promoting positive participation experiences for our children and building a positive relationship (Physical Literacy) with movement and physical activity, which will impact on both their physical activity levels now and hopefully into the future as well.
6. Providing our children with opportunities to mould and develop their provision around physical activity.
7. The key principle of equal opportunities for both girls and boys across PE and Schools Sports.

We, as a trust, are extremely proud of all our pupils for their dedication and hard work contributing to all aspects of the School Games Mark Award, including those who have represented the school in sporting activities whether it was 'having a go' at a brand new sport or representing our schools in 'competitive' inter school fixtures in football, netball and cricket to name just a few.

We also have to thank those children who have volunteered or become young leaders and given back to some of our younger children. In addition, we should thank the children across our schools who have helped shape our provision both this year and looking further into the future.

A huge special thank-you must also go to all of the staff who have helped to facilitate all of the children's physical development opportunities for this year. This award is truly a recognition of everyone's hard work!!!

Finally, I would just like to leave you with the following quote:

Dream as big as you can dream, and anything is possible!!!