

Autumn One 2026

NEWSLETTER

A Warm Welcome from Our CEO

As I write my first newsletter for Forward As One, I want to begin with a very warm hello to everyone across our Trust.

It is a real privilege to be leading Forward As One, and I am incredibly excited about the journey ahead of us. Over the past few weeks, I have already had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful colleagues, visiting our schools and seeing first-hand the care, dedication and passion that make our Trust such a special place.

For those I haven't yet had the opportunity to meet, I am really looking forward to doing so!

I firmly believe that the greatest strength of any organisation is its people. Every single person, whatever their role, plays an important part in making a difference to the lives of our children and families. My commitment is to ensure that everyone feels valued, supported, listened to and proud to be part of Forward As One.

I have always said that one of my personal missions as a leader is **to create a place where everyone looks forward to a Monday morning!** Somewhere people feel happy, inspired, empowered and excited about what they can achieve together. That is the culture I want us to continue building.

As we look towards the future, there will undoubtedly be opportunities, new ideas and some changes along the way. But what excites me most is what we can achieve when we bring together our strengths, share our experiences and truly work as one family.

I want us to celebrate the brilliant things already happening across our schools, learn from one another, be brave enough to try new things and, above all, never lose sight of why we are here – **to give every child the very best opportunities to achieve, belong and flourish.**

Thank you for the warmth and kindness you have already shown me. I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of this team, and I cannot wait to see what we achieve together.

Here's to an exciting future, lots of reasons to celebrate and, hopefully, plenty of happy Monday mornings!

One Team. One Mission. One Family.



Sophie

Chief Executive Officer
Forward As One Trust

Welcome new members of our One Team....



Beacon Primary School

Kaitlin Warburton Caitlin Flatley



Canon Johnson CE Primary School

Lewis Wilson Ellie Hull Ella Starling



Gorsefield Primary School

Liz Dwarampudi Aimee Chilvers
Calvin McSherry Sadie Ireland



Greenhill Primary School

Alice Watt Rebecca Dempster
Fiona Law



Middleton Parish Church School

Tiffany Thwaite	Brittanya Whitehead	Ellie-Jane Sharp-Robertson
Summer Stamp	Paige Osborne	Shannon Wilks Carly Burke
Rebecca Soanes	Jade Coyne	



MAT Central Team

Millie Reda-Jones
Olivia Ridsdale



Parochial CE Primary School

Madeline Young
Humaira Rahman



St James' CE Primary School

Ismha Shabbir Nadia Jardim
Rebecca Mahony



St John with St Michael CE Primary School

Rebecca Hughes



St Paul's CE Primary School, Bolton

Lucy McGreavy
Nurjaha Ibrahim



St Paul's CE Primary School, Bury

Joshua Bond Alison Joan Wilkinson
Haleemah Noorgat



St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School

Kirsty Davies
Lucy Hargraves



St Anne's CE Primary School

Isha Azam



St Chad's CE Primary School

Sarah Clayton
Simon Gilder



St George's CE Primary School

Hollie Nelson



St John's CE Primary School

Alison Kennedy	Emma Davies	Hannah Aziz	Tia Horrocks
Jackie Ostell	Molly Prowse	Letitia Harrison	Victoria Woods

Updates from across our One Family...



Canon Johnson CE Primary School

Celebrating Harvest Through Art and Poetry

Canon Johnson has been working in partnership with **Canon Burrows** and **Christ Church** to create beautiful artwork celebrating Harvest.

The school was delighted to welcome its neighbour, Canon Burrows, for two wonderful art workshops led by the Canon Johnson team.

Alongside their artwork, the children also created **acrostic poems celebrating Harvest** and all that they are thankful for.

The children will have the opportunity to share their artwork and poems during the schools joint service at Christ Church.

The team at Canon Johnson would like to wish a **huge thank you to everyone involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of this wonderful partnership.** They are so grateful to all the staff who helped make this meaningful collaboration possible!



St Anne's CE Primary School

Awards, Achievements and New Beginnings



St Anne's is delighted to welcome new ECT, **Isha Azam**, and Learning and Support Assistant, **Natalie Williams**, to the team. Both have made a fantastic start to the academic year and have quickly become valued members of the school community.



Last year, the school signed up to **My Happy Mind** and successfully achieved the **Bronze Award**. More recently, at the My Happy Mind National Conference, **St Anne's was shortlisted for the Parent Engagement Award**, competing against more than 3,500 schools nationwide! While **the school was named runner-up**, this was a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff and families alike.



The school also enjoyed a wonderful celebration of **Black History Month**, with each year group presenting their research and learning. Pupils recently took part in a **Spanish-themed day**, which was greatly enjoyed by all. Looking ahead, everyone is excited to take part in an **African drumming workshop** on the first day back after half term!

Updates from across our One Family...



St Chad's CE Primary School

Celeb Visits and Community Inspiration

This half term, the pupils at St Chad's were delighted to welcome author and TV personality **Tom Read Wilson**, who people may recognise from I'm a Celebrity. Tom came back to school to celebrate the launch of his new book, **Prickle Papers' Letter Magic**.

Tom read his story to the school, shared the inspiration behind his work, and even answered some questions about the jungle!

Illustrator **Rebecca Bagley** joined Tom on the visit, who illustrated a new character, **Jimbo Jigaloo Felicia**, using the children's ideas. The school loved having Tom and Rebecca back to school!

Year 5 and 6 pupils also had the opportunity to support local legend **Sir Kevin Sinfield** during his inspiring **7 in 7 Challenge**. One of the schools parents was even part of Kevin's team! The children lined the streets of Uppermill to cheer him on, chanting Kevin's name so loud that people further along the route thought Sir Kevin was already approaching!



St John with St Michael CE Primary School

Little Oaks Learn Alongside



St John with St Michael recently held a **Learn Alongside** for their **Little Oaks Early Years** children and families. The day was hugely successful, with many parents and carers joining in with the activities and learning alongside their children!

The session provided a great opportunity for families to explore **how children learn through play and creativity**, while taking part in a range of engaging and exciting activities together. There was lots enthusiasm and positive feedback from families, with smiles all round!

The school would like to send a **special thanks to everyone who attended and helped to make the day such a success!** They look forward to hosting more opportunities for families to learn and play together in the future!

Updates from across our One Family...



St John's CE Primary School

Celebrating New Provisions and Creative Learning

St John's are delighted to have opened their new **Little Stars 2-Year-Old Provision** and **full-time 3-Year-Old Provision**. The school would like to wish a huge thank you to **Lauren Gardner** for securing LA funding to make this possible. The new spaces look fantastic and are a real testament to the hard work and dedication of the St John's team. We look forward to seeing the youngest of learners thrive in their new environment!

Year 5 have been investigating historical sources to discover what they can tell us about **Tutankhamun**. By examining evidence from the past, the children have developed their understanding of the famous pharaoh and how historians learn about **Ancient Egypt**. They have also been **learning about pollination and the different parts of plants**. Using this knowledge, they designed their own unique plants, showcasing how their features would help them successfully reproduce!



St Paul's CE Primary School, Bolton

Growing Leadership, Opportunities and Community Connections



St Paul's recently fully established their **Pupil Leadership Teams** across the school and are already making a positive impact. Children have been working together to create and implement action plans, helping to drive improvements in key areas of school life and ensuring that pupil voices continue to shape the school community!



The school are delighted to have **expanded their extra-curricular offer**, providing even more opportunities for children to discover new interests and talents. New clubs such as **cycling, girls' football and Forest School** have proved extremely popular. They have even successfully launched **School's Out Afternoon Recreation (S.O.A.R)**, a new wraparound care provision, which is already providing a fun and supportive environment for pupils beyond the school day.



Staff have also been joining St Paul's children at **Junior Parkrun** on Sundays. What a wonderful way to promote healthy lifestyles, encourage positive wellbeing and strengthen connections within the local community!

Updates from across our One Family...



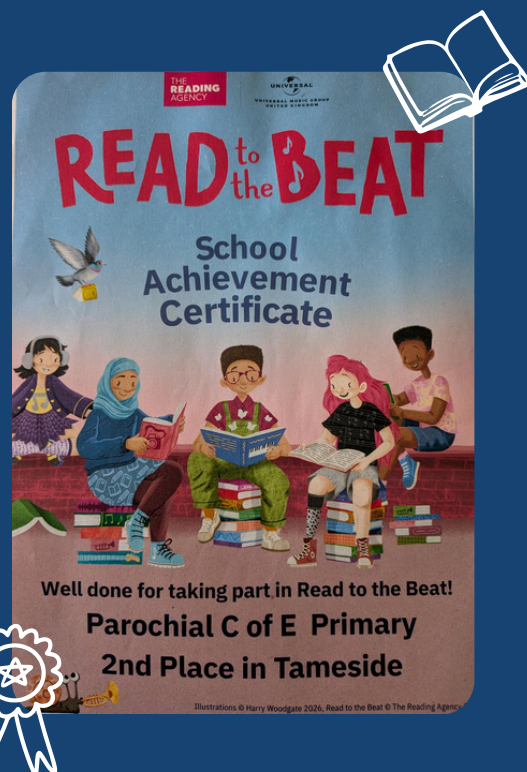
Parochial CE Primary School

Pupils Shine in Summer Reading Challenge

Just before the summer break, pupils at Parochial welcomed a visit from **Ashton Library** to launch the **2026 Summer Reading Challenge** and reminded children of the fantastic range of facilities available at the library. The visit helped inspire a love of reading across the school and encouraged children and families to continue enjoying books throughout the summer holidays.

As part of the school's ongoing commitment to promoting reading for pleasure, **Year 3 pupils visit the library each year to sign up for their own library cards**, helping them develop independence and a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

Enthusiasm for reading was reflected in this year's Summer Reading Challenge results, with **the school achieving an impressive second place across Tameside** for the number of children who successfully engaged with the challenge. This fantastic achievement highlights the dedication of pupils, families and staff in fostering a positive reading culture!



Well Done, One Family!

A huge well done to all our pupils, families and staff for a fantastic start to the year. From exciting learning opportunities to achievements in and beyond the classroom, there has already been so much to celebrate!

Enjoy a well-deserved break. We look forward to another successful half term together.

Updates from Learn With FA1...

Initial Teacher Training

A warm welcome to all of our new trainee teachers who joined us this September to begin their **Initial Teacher Training (ITT)** journey. We are delighted to have welcomed such a dedicated and enthusiastic cohort, all taking their first steps towards a rewarding career in education.

Over the coming months, they will develop their confidence and teaching knowledge through a combination of academic study and hands-on classroom experience. We look forward to supporting them throughout their training year and watching them grow into inspiring future teachers who will allow their classrooms to *flourish*.



September 27 applications are open!

Know someone who could inspire the next generation? Perhaps you're a teaching assistant ready to take the next step, or a member of school staff who dreams of standing at the front of the classroom!

Applications are now open for our **Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme**, offering a supportive and school-centred route into teaching. We would encourage school leaders to share this opportunity with colleagues who demonstrate the passion and potential to become outstanding teachers.

Apply now!



Updates from Learn With FA1...

Early Career Framework

This September, we welcomed our sixth cohort of ECTs and Mentors onto the revised ECTP Programme. Again, we have attained the recruitment target agreed for us by Ambition. We used a new venue for the first time this time around the **Great Lever and Farnworth Golf Club** for the two face to face conferences.

The feedback received was **very positive** with the layout being more conducive to networking and group discussion. Once again, the option of attending either a face to face or virtual event proved very successful as it gave schools the added flexibility to release ECTs and Mentors to attend one or the other.

Overall, **the average conference attendance was over 90%**. The majority of ECTs and Mentors were able to onboard smoothly onto the programme. We were also pleased to welcome back our **experienced team of VFs** for this cohort who have made the delivery of the programme such a continued success.



National Professional Qualifications

It has been another highly successful half term for our NPQ programmes, in what has been an exceptionally busy period for everyone involved at Learn.

We were delighted to celebrate some fantastic outcomes from our recent cohorts. The October 2024 Leadership cohort achieved an outstanding overall pass rate of **98%**, while the Spring 2025 Specialist cohort secured an impressive **96% pass rate**. Congratulations to all FA1 colleagues who completed their programmes and achieved these excellent results.

September was also a busy month as we hosted **four Leadership Second Conferences**. A huge thank you goes to all our facilitators for their dedication and hard work in making these events such a success. The feedback from participants was incredibly positive. Special thanks also to Lucy and Ian for their invaluable support in helping to coordinate these conferences.

Since applications opened in June, we have been preparing for our **tenth NPQ cohort**, and we are thrilled to have **recruited more than 315 participants across the nine NPQ programmes**. Applications have now closed, and we look forward to welcoming participants to our launch conferences after half term. These events will mark the beginning of their NPQ journey and provide the support and guidance needed to get started successfully.

We're also pleased to welcome **several new facilitators** from across the trust as part of this new cohort. Thank you to everyone who has already committed their time to training and supporting our programmes. If becoming an NPQ facilitator is something you would be interested in, there is still time to get involved. Please [get in touch](#) before the end of the month to find out more.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the Learn team for their continued support, energy and commitment throughout another successful half term. Your hard work makes these achievements possible.



Sam

NPQ Lead

Congratulations to members of our One Family...

Congratulations to our members of staff across the Trust who have successfully completed their NPQs!



NPQ Headship (Church of England)

Colette Thomas- Beacon Primary School

Kirsty Pollard- Canon Johnson CE Primary School

NPQ Senior Leadership (Ambition Institute)

Jade Sells- Parochial CE Primary School

Lucy Crossley- St John's CE Primary School

NPQ SEND (Ambition Institute)

Kate Thomas- St Anne's CE Primary School

Kirsten Topping- Beacon Primary School

Louise Thompson- Parochial CE Primary School

Rhianna Penney- St John's CE Primary School

NPQ Leading Behaviour & Culture (Ambition Institute)

Paul Dunn- Beacon Primary School



The social media round-up...

