

This newsletter, from the Diocesan Education Team, is sent to Church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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# Education newsletter



October 2023

## News from the Diocese

I hope that term has started well for you. This newsletter brings you information about resources and events which we hope will be of interest. We are very much enjoying our partnership with Christian Aid and hope many schools are finding their Global Neighbours Scheme a great way to develop courageous advocacy. It is lovely to read so many stories from schools of harvest festivals. We give thanks for God's goodness and share with those in need in our local communities.

May I commend our conference on Wednesday 1 November, to which you are warmly invited? We are holding this year's conference at the St Edmund Room at the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds and very much hope you can join us. Please see our programme [here](#). Our theme is Putting the vision into practice and our speakers in the morning are Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS, Gemma Taylor and Amy Arnold, Head of Barnham CEVCP School. In the afternoon, Professor Jim Walters from LSE will join us, followed by Elizabeth Olulari from the national Church of England Education Office on racial justice and Alex Green from Let's Go Zero.

At the last DBE meeting on 12 September, we welcomed Joanne Austin, Head at Bentley CEVCP and Copdock CP and Gill Mitchell, recently retired Head of East Bergholt CEVCP to the DBE. The DBE approved a revised academy strategy (available [here](#)), welcoming plans to create two new MATs from existing Stand Alone Trusts (SATs) at Elveden CofE Primary Academy and Debenham High School.

The DBE also discussed pupil forecast figures, which show a decline in Suffolk, as nationally, although less of a decline in church schools. If I can support in any way, please do contact me.

With all good wishes from all the team,

## School Visits by the Bishop

If you wish to request a visit from the Bishop, please do contact the Bishop's Office:

[email](#)

or telephone:  
01473 252829.

You will need to plan well in advance because of busy diaries!



## School Visits - Cathedral

The Learning Centre at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds has a dedicated team who work with all schools when they visit. For more information about visits, please click [here](#).

To contact the Learning Centre please [email](#).

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education

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Creator God,  
We acknowledge that as your handiwork,  
we stand alongside all that you have made.  
Trees and rivers, mountains and valleys,  
soaring birds and scuttling creatures,  
all are held within your care.  
May we grow in our love and appreciation  
for the fabulous variety around us;  
and may our awe and wonder draw us closer  
to the natural world, and through it to you,  
the God of all things.  
We pray in Jesus name, Amen



Photo: Kagera themed Day at Great Whelnetnam CofE Primary  
The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has had a partnership with Kagera Diocese in Tanzania since 1994. For more, please visit our [website](#).

In our schools, as we promote global citizenship, rooted in 'life in all its fullness', the Education Team encourages all schools to find out about life in Kagera. Some of our schools have links with Kagera and this summer Bishop Godfrey Mbelwa and Bishop Vitalis Yusuph visited Stutton CofE Primary and Capel St Mary CEVCP Schools during their last visit to our diocese.

We are exploring ways of building and developing further meaningful links, focusing on mutual benefits and reciprocity for children and teachers here and in Kagera. Please look out for further updates in our newsletter and communications with schools.

There is a possibility of a group of school staff visiting Kagera during the 2024 school summer holiday.

Please do contact me at [sue.todd@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:sue.todd@cofesuffolk.org) if you have anything to share about your school links with Kagera, have any ideas about building further links or are interested in a potential visit.



**Monday 17 June 2024**

We will be holding our annual service of celebration for church schools at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds at 1.30pm.

### **Autumn Forums**

#### **Small Schools**

Mon 16 October, 4pm

#### **Chairs of Governors**

Tue 21 November, 4pm

The Forums are free and via Zoom. For any queries or to book, please email:

[Jacqui Studd](mailto:Jacqui.Studd@st-edmundsbury.org)



### **Diocesan training 2023-24**

Details of our training programme is available on the Diocesan [website](#). Those running in the autumn term include:

#### **Leadership/Governance**

- \* Leading a Church School
- \* Monitoring for Governors
- \* SEND for Governors

#### **RE - recorded training**

- is available for the
- \* New RE Syllabus
  - \* New to RE
- further details below

To book, or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](mailto:Jacqui.Studd@st-edmundsbury.org)

## SIAMS Update

There is a new SIAMS inspection framework for church schools. All church schools will be inspected under this framework from now-on. The main change is that grades will be replaced by 'Judgements' and Church schools will be judged as either:

- J1 – 'The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.' or
- J2 – 'The inspection findings indicate that the school has strengths, but that there are also issues that leaders need to address as a matter of priority. These are listed in the areas for development.'

To find out more about the new 2023 framework please follow this [link](#). You can also access online training provided by the national team which is available [here](#).

Several church schools in our Diocese are due to be inspected this academic year 2023-2024. Please follow this [link](#) to the list of schools to be inspected (see page 13) to check if your school is one of them.

We also provide a one-day 'SIAMS Are You Ready?' training course each term. For further details, please click [here](#).

Finally, the Diocesan Education Team are here to support you as you prepare for your SIAMS inspection. Please contact us in the usual way. We'd be very happy to hear from you.

## News from Schools

### Congratulations!



**Congratulations** to Annie, Evie M, Hamish, Logan and Evelyn, pupils at **Barnham CEVCP** who took up the challenge to create a school song to represent the school's vision of Inspire, Cherish and Believe. Voting is taking place and there will be more on this story in the next issue.

**Congratulations** to **Barningham CEVCP** which celebrated Harvest Festival at the end of September. Families donated to the local food bank with generosity and kindness.



### Collective Worship

For ideas for CW planning, based on Christian values and seasons, please click [here](#)

For CW resources, please click [here](#)

For resources on religious festivals, please click [here](#)

### RE resources

For resources for RE subject leaders, please click [here](#)

Subject knowledge for RE subject leaders is available [here](#)

Padlets for teachers of RE by phase to help support implementation of the new syllabus:

[Teachers of EYFS RE](#)

[Teachers of KS1 RE](#)

[Teachers of KS2 RE](#)

For resources on worldviews by faith, please click [here](#)



### RE recorded training

Recordings of Gemma's training on the New RE Syllabus and for her New to Teaching RE course are available. If you would like to receive the recording and accompanying resources (cost £60.00), or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).

**Congratulations** to **Bawdsey CEVCP** which was awarded the Platinum School Games Sports Award 2023. The School was delighted to have received this award for its children's commitment to sports and activities last year.

**Congratulations** to Y6 Edme Class at **Chelmondiston CofE Primary** who hosted the school's annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Families from the school and the local community helped to raise £206 for this worthwhile cause.

**Congratulations** to Y9 students at **Debenham High School** who won the Dora Love competition 2023. Dora Love was a Holocaust survivor and the prize aims to inspire students to take action against discrimination. Debenham High School's project was inspired by studying the experience of Roma and Sinti communities in the Holocaust. For more, please click [here](#).

The Y9 students have also signed the Pledge to help those in the Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater (GTRSB) communities, especially children and families with children. For further details please see the [letter](#) written by the Year 9 Dora Love Prize Team.

**Congratulations** to **Great Barton C of E Primary Academy**, which has been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark. This award celebrates a school's commitment to excellence in science leadership, teaching and learning. For more, please see the [Suffolk News article](#). For more about PSQM, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to pupils at **Great Whelnetham C of E Primary School**, who were visited by History Off The Page in September. The Hall was transformed into Victorian rooms and Reception and Year 1 children, as well as staff, dressed up as Victorians for a truly immersive experience. For more, please see the [Suffolk News article](#)

**Congratulations** to pupils at **Rattlesden C of E Primary Academy**, who enjoyed a performance by a string quartet from Suffolk Philharmonic Orchestra in September. Suffolk Wildlife Trust also came along and spoke to the children about the lark and Suffolk's natural habitats. For more, please see the [Suffolk News article](#)

**Congratulations** to pupils at **Ringsfield C of E Primary School**, who have laid a time capsule in the new roof of their local church. The time capsule contains various items including a photo of pupils, pictures they had drawn and descriptions of memories from their time at school. For more, please see the [Suffolk News article](#)

**Congratulations** to pupils, staff, parents and governors at **St Edmundsbury CEVAP, Bury St Edmunds** who won this year's Gold award in the Bury in Bloom competition. The judges were very impressed with the wonderful work done. The award ceremony takes place this month and there will be more on this story in the next issue.

**Congratulations** to pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** who made a special video for National TA Day (29 September) to say thank you to all of their amazing teaching assistants. For the video, please click [here](#).



**Shine Your Light – Children's** highlights the importance of the peer-to-peer approach of sharing faith. It gives children the opportunity to consider how they might reach their peers with the good news of Jesus. Designed for use with those aged 8 to 11, especially during the Halloween season, this resource provides an adaptable session outline for use in a variety of contexts. To download this free resource, please click [here](#).



**Global Neighbours Accreditation Scheme**  
The Global Neighbours Team at Christian Aid is supporting our church schools with courageous advocacy through the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme. This involves termly meetings with our schools of which there have been three so far. For further information about the accreditation scheme, please click [here](#).

The date for the next termly meeting is **Tuesday 10 October at 3.45pm** via Zoom.

To book, for slides from previous meetings or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



**Congratulations** to **Orford CEVAP** which hosted an annual Harvest Service. Gemma Cannon, Headteacher writes: "The school hosted its annual Harvest Service on 22 September at St Bartholomew's Church, with presentations from each class including harvest poems and a retelling of 'Stone Soup'."

"From our nursery and reception children, there was a performance of 'Big Red Combine Harvester'. Families gave generously for the Orford community food larder; Year 4 pupils Bradley, Zack, George and Isla very kindly boxed all of the donations up, delivered them and then stocked the larder themselves after the service!"

**Congratulations** to **Thurston CofE Primary** which collected donations for the Gatehouse Food Bank as part of the school's Harvest Festival. After the success of the school's pictures in previous years, they had a challenge to come up with a great picture idea this year and settled on a Harvest Apple Tree (see opposite).



Pupils throughout the school visited the dance studio through the day to add their donations to the picture and think about why they were making these donations and other ways they can help those less fortunate than themselves.



**Inter Faith Week**  
12-19 November 2023  
Provides an opportunity to:  
\* Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels

\* Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society

\* Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

To find out more, please click [here](#)



**CYM's Basecamp** is an adventure based residential activity programme nestled in the heart of rural Suffolk for KS2 students. It is designed to strengthen confidence, teamwork and build a wider understanding of the world whilst meeting key national curriculum learning objectives. For more information, please click [here](#) for the CYM website and [here](#) for the flyer.

**Congratulations** to pupils from **Wetheringsett CofE Primary** who were invited to lead the prayers at the County Harvest Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on 1 October 2023. The theme was the Water of Life. The pupils wrote their own prayers based on the theme of water.



**Congratulations** to **Whatfield CEVCP School** and its newly enhanced early years outdoor area which was officially launched last month. The school writes: "It was fabulous to see so many people from the local community, prospective parents, existing parents, children and governors all coming to take a tour of our setting."



"We were also very fortunate to have the official opening of our newly enhanced early years outdoor area blessed by Bishop Graeme Knowles and officially opened by James Buckle, a local businessman, without whose kind donation the improvements wouldn't have been possible."



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Worlingworth CEVCP School** whose prayers and artwork were appreciated by everyone at the Harvest service in September. The school also collected lots of donations for the local foodbank.



## Dates of interest....

### **Black History Month**

October 2023  
see below

### **All Saints Day**

1 November 2023  
see also [CW planning](#)

### **Children's Book Week**

6 - 12 November 2023

### **UK Parliament Week**

6 - 12 November 2023

### **Remembrance Day**

11 November 2023  
see also [CW planning](#)

### **World Kindness Day**

13 November 2023

### **Inter Faith Week**

12 - 19 November 2023  
see above

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

13 - 17 November 2023

### **Nursery Rhyme Week**

13 - 17 November 2023

### **Children in Need**

17 November 2023

### **Road Safety Week**

19 - 25 November 2023

### **Universal World Children's Day**

20 November 2023

### **St Andrews Day**

30 November 2023

### **Advent**

3 December 2023  
See [Advent padlet](#)

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

7 December 2023

## Ofsted inspections

Framlingham: Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP

## Outcomes

Good

## SIAMS inspections

Bentley CEVCP

## Outcomes

J1

Lawshall: All Saints' CEVCP

J1

J1 - Through its vision and practice, the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

## Headteacher appointments from September 2023

Congratulations to Jo Ling, appointed Head at Crawford's CofE Primary School, Haughley with effect September 2023.

## Headteacher resignation

We offer our thanks and best wishes to Shaun Valentine, Headteacher at St Edmundsbury CEVAP, who leaves this term.

## For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane, Sue or Phil will attend meetings with your Governors to advise on the headship appointment, alongside the Local Authority. We can be in contact with your Chair of Governors and make sure that we are available for dates for shortlisting and interviews. Many thanks.

Do contact Sue or Phil if you would like them to be your external adviser for Headteacher performance management reviews.

## News from the Church of England

### Growing Faith and Sustaining Hope: National Conference 2024

Thursday 1 February 2024

Saint Church, Hackney, Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD  
Speakers include: The Most Revd Justin Welby, Sonia Thompson, Krish Kandiah, Laura McInerney. For more information, please click [here](#)

### Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good

This new publication from the CofE outlines its hopes for students, teachers and educators to flourish across the schools system.

For more information, please click [here](#).



## Black History Month Pack - Picture News

Picture News have produced an assembly and class resource pack to help teachers explore Black History Month - October 2023. To download the free pack please click [here](#).



## The Good Childhood Report 2023

Published by The Children's Society, this year's report reveals that too many young people are unhappy with their lives. 10% of the children aged 10 to 17 who completed the household survey in May and June 2023 had low wellbeing, and almost a third were unhappy with at least one specific area of their lives. For the report, please click [here](#).



## Archbishops' Young Leaders (AYLA) Award webinars

are a great way to find out how the AYLA works. Just 45 minutes, the sessions help you think about how you might develop courageous advocacy in your school and equip the next generation of young leaders. The session will unpack how the Award helps learners grow and develop in key leadership skills and character virtues and the kinds of social and environmental action projects which schools get involved in within their communities. Register [here](#) for a place.

## SIAMS Annual report 2022-2023

To read the report, please click [here](#).

### Called Connected Committed: Celebrating Diversity – Empowering Voices

The latest CofE podcast features Gillian Georgiou, Diocesan RE and SIAMS Adviser at the Diocese of Lincoln, who will be shedding light on the empowering journey of "Empowering Voices" and the remarkable collaboration between the Diocese of Lincoln and Re-Connection Lincolnshire. To listen to the podcast, please click [here](#).

## News from Ofsted

### Schools monitoring handbook September 2023 version

Updated 13 September 2023

This sets out changes made to reflect the inspection practice. For the summary, please click [here](#).

## News from the DfE

### Working together to improve school attendance

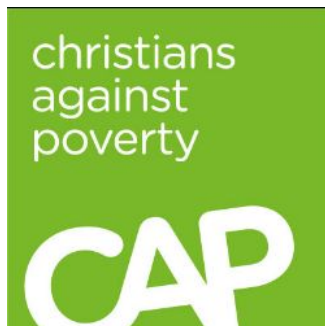
Guidance for schools, academy trusts and governing bodies which now includes a Toolkit for schools: communicating with families to support attendance and Annex A: example attendance letters and emails to parents and carers. Please click here for [more](#).

**The Suffolk Coastal Debt Centre (SCDC)** is running a sponsor scheme to deliver Youth or Kids Money courses in schools. Last year, Suffolk County Council commissioned the SCDC (part of the CAP network) to undertake financial education in the county's schools.

SCDC's trained and experienced teachers delivered superb teaching materials to children, offering a can-do approach supporting financial understanding and wellbeing. SCDC is currently seeking additional funding to re-run an enlarged course in East Suffolk over the whole of the new academic year.

Would you, as a church, like to sponsor a class in your local school? For more, please click [here](#). If you are interested, please contact the Revd Nic Stuchfield, Chair of SCDC ([nic@skc.church](mailto:nic@skc.church)), who will provide you with more information about how this scheme works. Alternatively, please visit [www.skc.church/capschools](http://www.skc.church/capschools). For the Sponsor a School Application form, please click [here](#).

SCDC would love to work more closely with you to help people experiencing disadvantage and poverty, please sign up to their newsletter by contacting: [dougfletcher@capuk.org](mailto:dougfletcher@capuk.org).



### Follow the Star: Join the Song

The Archbishop of York's Trust is inviting schools to join in Follow the Star: Join the Song this advent. This will explore the carol 'The First Nowell' and what the first Nowell was like for the shepherds, angels and kings in the Christmas story. For more information, please click [here](#). There is also guidance from *Growing Faith* on how the resource can be used in church settings and in the home.

Schools can pre-order or sign up [here](#).

Alongside this collective worship resource, schools are invited to take part in a national campaign to sing a new version of the carol The First Nowell.

[Follow the Star: Join the Song - Resources for churches | The Church of England](#)



The Anglia Care Trust have produced a guide on **'Reducing Everyday Living Costs'** as part of their Money Advice Service. To download the free resource, please click [here](#).



### Spring's Dance

**Company** workshops in the autumn and spring terms include:

[The Nativity Project](#) - brings to life the traditional, much-loved scenes of the



**Norfolk, Essex and Suffolk Teacher Training**

(NESTT) is a merger of SCITT and BEC Teacher Training.



Christmas story, then continues the story after the birth of Jesus, highlighting the importance of showing hospitality to others; [A Christmas Story](#) - guides pupils on a journey of dance, drama and discussion inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story Refuge; and [The Easter Project](#) - provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. Further details on all projects for schools can be found [here](#).

Those interested in training to teach can explore next year's courses and applications will be accepted from 10 October. If schools would like to find out more about working with NESTT, please visit the [website](#) or [contact](#) them directly. If you have staff who may be interested in training to be teachers or you would like to host trainee placements, they can visit you in school to discuss the programme in more detail. Please note that NESTT is not a brand new organisation and that if people had planned to train with Suffolk and Norfolk SCITT, they should now apply to NESTT.

**News from YOUR School**

If you have any stories you would like highlighted, please do send us details and we will include in our next newsletter. Please send photos, short articles, web-page references, etc. electronically to [Jacqui](#) and we'll be pleased to include them.

**From the Diocesan Education Team**

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This newsletter is sent to all church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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