

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

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December 2023



Enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Further information and ideas are available from the [Prayers Spaces in Schools website](#).

News from the Diocese

As we near the end of term, I do hope that you are able to celebrate the joy of Advent and Christmas as a church school. I hope that you have found the Church of England's Christmas resources, Follow the Star and Inspiring Angels- <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/for-ministers/worship-resources/resources-for-ministers/> helpful.

It was a joy to meet together in person for our annual church school leaders' conference on 1 November. We met in the Edmund Room at the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. We had a rich programme of speakers. Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS from the Church of England explained the changes to the SIAMS inspection framework and Gemma Taylor looked at how context plus theology equals vision. Amy Arnold, Headteacher at Barnham CEVCP illustrated how Barnham's curriculum was lived out of its vision. Professor Jim Walters from the London School of Economics offered a thought-provoking session on Leading church schools in times of cultural conflict. Elizabeth Olulari, National Education Lead for Racial Justice from the Church of England led a session on Developing an approach to racial justice and Alex Green led a session on Let's Go Zero- <https://letsgozero.org/>

Throughout the day we covered a lot of ground, with national and local speakers and feedback was very positive. As one Headteacher wrote,



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](#).

"It has continued to resonate with me long after I left and my practice is better for having attended."

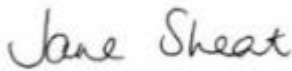
Whilst we are now in Advent, and looking forward to Christmas, we are already planning an event for the week before Easter. In partnership with Christian Aid, we are planning to hold a Big Sing at the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds on Tuesday 26 March at 10.30am. Please note this date in your diary, more information to follow in January.

It is always a pleasure to visit schools, and good to see Christmas celebrations across the diocese. In the midst of the busyness, I love this Advent season and the run-up to Christmas itself. May I offer this Advent prayer:

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.

On behalf of all the team, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas?

With all good wishes,



Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

School Visits by a Bishop

If you wish to request a visit from a 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!

Spring Forums

Admissions Forum

Wed 17 January, 4pm

Headteachers' Forum

Wed 24 January,
1.30pm

Small Schools Forum

Mon 12 February, 4pm

Chairs' Forum

Wed 13 March, 4pm

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

[Jacqui Studd](#)

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Katharine Minns, Head of School at All Saints CofE Primary, Laxfield** who won Teacher of the Year at the Suffolk Education Awards 2023 in November.

For more, please see the [East Anglian Daily Times](#) (EADT).



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.

Congratulations also to **Lis Sherriff, Teaching Assistant at Thorndon CofE Primary School** who was a finalist for the Teaching Assistant or Support Staff of the Year, and **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** which was a finalist for school of the year.



Congratulations to pupils in schools across the **St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan MAT** who have recorded a song to raise money for Save the Children this Christmas. Children have joined with Chris Warren, a teacher at St Matthew's CofE Primary School, Ipswich, who has written the special Christmas Song, Children of the World. Chris wrote the song focusing on some really relevant themes. He said, "My motive for the song was 'think bigger and do better' and I wanted the children to know they are not on their own, and that there is real meaning behind the words of the song". To see and hear the song, please click [here](#). To donate via JustGiving, please click [here](#).

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. The competition was won by Evelyn. For the words to the school's very first song, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to the **Friends of Barningham CEVCP School** who held a wonderful Christmas Fayre with games, a raffle, tombola, face paints, refreshments, and Santa's grotto and raised a whopping £1,178 towards fundraising for new interactive whiteboards for Rabbit class.



Congratulations to **Barrow CEVCP** which had a special Land Army Day to mark Remembrance 2023. Victoria Bush, Teacher writes:



Diocesan training 2023-24

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

Leadership/Governance

- * Being a Governor
- * Assessment for Governors
- * Monitoring for Governors

RE

- * Spiritual development in primary schools

Recorded training is available for the

- * New RE Syllabus
- * New to RE
- further details below

SIAMS

- * SIAMS: are you ready?

Wellbeing

- * for Administrators (please see below)

To book, or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)



Collective Worship

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

For CW resources for Lent and Easter, please click [here](#)

"Holly Breagar and her team from the Women's Land Army Trust and Suffolk Horse Welfare Trust visited to share stories of the role Suffolk women played in WW1 and 2. The children loved meeting Teasel, the Suffolk Punch wearing his spectacular brass and leather tack and understanding how horses like him helped feed the country.



The children explored case studies of the different roles women took up, such as rat catchers, lumber jills and glass-house workers. It was a fascinating day, and it was very moving to hear the WLA prayer before our 2 minutes silence. The team are hoping to visit every primary school in Suffolk over the next few years!"



Congratulations

to pupils at **Bentley CEVCP** who have been looking at angels. Joanne Austin, Headteacher writes: "As we launched into Advent, children explored the role angels played in the Christmas story. Following a special collective worship on the book 'An Angel Just Like Me',

children spent time reflecting on the messages of hope and encouragement they have received, and messages they would like to send to others. They all dressed as an angel whilst visiting our reflective space in the woodland and their messages were strung through the trees in the hope they would carry on the breeze to their loved ones."



Resilience event for Administrators and Bursars

Thursday 29 February 2024, 10.00am - 1.30pm

Our speaker for this event is Joyce Crawford. Joyce's experience in Suffolk schools is wide-ranging and Joyce will offer her unique insight, which promises to be very interesting and relevant for all Church School Administrators and Bursars. For further information, please click [here](#)



Walk Through Bible has a free Easter resource for schools which includes:

- 4 sessions that cover the story of Easter aimed specifically at Years 5 and 6
- interactive videos filmed on location in Israel
- objectives linked to RE, PSHE and Citizenship
- a colourful and comprehensive downloadable activity booklet, including stories from the Bible and opportunities to reflect and respond
- a 2 week writing plan for Year 6 that links to the Easter videos.

For more information on the Easter resource, click [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Capel St Mary CEVCP** who received a new Buddy Bench in time for anti-bullying week. Donated by David Wilson Homes, the bench has an inscription that reads: "We sit, we chat and ask each other questions. We leave as friends, with all good intentions." Sean Cornish, Headteacher: "Making sure that the children can access our outside space is vital and doing so in a way that encourages children to develop friendships is essential to their well-being." The story is featured in [Suffolk News](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **Cockfield CofE Primary** who have been focusing on exploration and collaboration this term. Including an exciting journey to Bury St. Edmunds to delve into the world of different industries, a visit to Thurston Secondary School for the older children to foster strong links and build connections and friendships with older peers.



Plus a delightful day bread baking and learning the art of baking and for reception class embracing "Muddy Mondays" with open arms. For more on this, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Janita Betts, Headteacher** at **St John's CEVAP, Ipswich** who recently completed a CMI Level 7 Certificate in Leadership Coaching and Mentoring. If you are interested in exploring the use of coaching in your school, please contact Janita direct at headteacher@st-johns.suffolk.sch.uk



Congratulations to **Kelsale CEVCP** which celebrated and raised awareness for World Mental Health Day in October 2023 by wearing yellow, taking part in the #helloyellow campaign and having a new intervention space opened.

Clare Wells, Headteacher writes "World Mental Health Day



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](#).



Tales From The Miracle Book is a collection of fun and engaging short films, assemblies/ Collective Worships or lesson plans designed to bring Bible stories and their meanings to life. Ideal for the teaching of RE and PSHE in Primary Schools. Accredited by Understanding Christianity and perfect for SIAMS, Tales From The Miracle Book enable theology to be easily taught by non-specialist staff. For more, 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

seemed an ideal opportunity for Councillor Julia Ewart to open our new pastoral intervention space, which will provide a calming and safe environment for children accessing individual or small group pastoral support. The children, parents and staff are also taking part in a sponsored cycle today to raise money to buy resources for our new space. Our target is to reach 900 minutes by the end of the day." They did reach their target and have so far raised £1,500 for resources to fill the new intervention/pastoral cabin. Well done to all involved!

Congratulations to pupils at **Norton CEVCP** who raised £147.66 for the Rural Coffee Caravan, the school's chosen charity. The school welcomed 'Audrey' the campervan and her team to receive the donation and to explain to them the different ways that they help others in the community. Inspired by their work, the Worship team are hoping to plan ways that the school can help people in the local community.



Congratulations to pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** who received a letter from the King and Queen, thanking them for their Coronation celebrations which went viral in May. For more on this story, featured on ITV Anglia, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall** on its Big Tidy Up which saw the local community of Mildenhall pulling together to help achieve a huge list of odd jobs at the school. Roxanne Rutter, Headteacher writes: "We painted, cleaned, built and moved and achieved a huge amount of jobs.



We built sand pits, sheds, mud kitchens, fixed broken equipment, landscapers and electricians came to help us and upholsterers transformed old furniture. It was a marvellous event and we were blown away by the level of support."

The school's approach to supporting Social Emotional Health in school is taking shape as they create a new resource called The Nest, which will offer support for a range of child and parent needs as well as being home to the before and after school care club.

termly meetings with our schools of which there have been four so far. For further information about the accreditation scheme, please click [here](#).

The date for the final termly meeting is **Tuesday 16 January at 3.45pm** via Zoom. To book, for slides from previous meetings or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



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](#).



Teach the Teacher
A student-led environmental campaign which supports young people to deliver a lesson on climate change directly to their teachers. Provides free online training and resources, and guides students through every step involved in delivering their session. For more, please click [here](#).



Photo: St Edmundsbury CEVAP

Congratulations to pupils at **St Edmundsbury CEVAP** for winning the Gold Award in the Bury in Bloom competition. The Bury in Bloom Greenfingers Awards ceremony took place in October.

Congratulations to pupils and junior road safety officers at **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School** who have achieved keep clear markings after raising their concern that parents at the school were parking dangerously. The school arranged for the pupils to present their arguments for double yellow lines at the village's parish council in October last year which the parish council supported. For more on this story, please see the [EADT](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **Tudor CofE Primary, Sudbury** who raised more than £150 during a charity cake sale in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital which is treating one of the school's pupils. For more on this lovely story, please click [here](#).



Jo Pitt, Foundation Governor at Mellis CofE Primary School, recently wrote about her vocation as a foundation governor.

Read Jo's full story on her vocation journey on our [website here](#).

Ofsted inspections

Whatfield CEVCP	Good
Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary	Good
Great Whelnetham CofE Primary	Good
St Matthew's CofE Primary, Ipswich	Good

Worlingham CEVCP

Outstanding

SIAMS inspections

SIAMS inspections	Outcomes
Brampton CofE Primary	J1
All Saints CofE Primary, Laxfield	J1
Cavendish CEVCP	J1
Barnham CEVCP	J1

Outcomes



Dates of interest....

Epiphany

6 January 2024

Big Bird Watch

8 January to 19 February

Holocaust Memorial Day

27 January 2024

(please see below)

National Storytelling Week

27 January-4 February 2024

Candlemas

2 February 2024

NSPCC Number Day

2 February 2024

Children's Mental Health Week

5-11 February 2024

Safer Internet Day

6 February 2024

Chinese New Year

10 February 2024

Shrove Tuesday

13 February 2024

Valentine's Day

14 February 2024

Random Acts of Kindness Day

17 February 2024

National School Governors' Awareness Day

28 February 2024

World Book Day

7 March 2024

Red Nose Day

15 March 2024

World Water Day

22 March 2024

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 appointment

Congratulations to Gemma Taylor, appointed permanent Head at Nacton CofE Primary School, with effect November 2023.

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](#).

Lots of resources on **Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice**- <https://www.cefel.org.uk/EDIJ/>

Considerations for Schools in Supporting Pupils and Staff at times of International Conflict

October 2023

To see the document, please click [here](#).

Celebrating Diversity – Enabling Flourishing Christianity As A Global World Faith

Features three podcast episodes that delve into the theme of "Christianity as a Global World Faith." To listen to the podcast, click [here](#).

Educating for Hope and Aspiration – Healing Relationships Pursuing Renewal

The podcast features Faye McGuinness, Education Support and Hannah Williams, CEO Proton Foundation and explores their experiences, insights, and the impact they're making in the world of mental health and well-being. To listen to the podcast, click [here](#).

Holocaust Memorial Day

is on **27 January**, and schools can get involved.

There are lots of [free resources online](#) to help lead assemblies, activities or lessons with students.

Contact the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Senior Education Officer for help and support and to get started, email:

education@hmd.org.uk

Add your school to the HMDmap [here](#) to share your involvement.

The Holocaust Educational Trust is hosting its annual Holocaust Memorial Day webcast on **Tuesday 23 January 2024** from 10am-11am. This is a special event where hundreds of schools and thousands of individuals across the UK come together to hear from one survivor about their experience during the Holocaust. Students will also be able to send in their own questions, making this an interactive and meaningful way to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2024. To register please fill in the [form](#) or for more information email webcast@het.org.uk.



Inter Faith Week 12-19 November 2023

Thousands of people of different backgrounds and all ages took part in the Inter Faith Week. The Week was established by the Inter Faith Network for the UK to:
* strengthen good inter faith

In conjunction with the Church of England, the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust is offering the following Church of England NPQs:

- Headship (NPQH) working in partnership with the Diocese of Norwich
- Leading Primary Mathematics (NPQLPM)
- Leading Teaching (NPQLT)
- Senior Leader (NPQSL)

NPQs are accredited and fully funded by the DfE. In addition, the **DfE will now pay £800 to schools with 1-150 pupils on roll**

The CofE are also providing a NPQ Small route specifically designed with small schools in mind. Both the delivery (fully virtual with a choice of when to attend some of the sessions) and the content (including case studies and examples from small schools) are designed to help develop leaders in small schools and beyond. For more, please click [here](#).

The deadline for applications for cohort 6, starting in spring 2024 is 2 February 2024. For more information, click [here](#).



Listening to, and learning from, parents in the attendance crisis Published by Public First in September 2023
This research by Dr Sally Burtonshaw & Ed Dorrell seeks to understand the views of parents and the lived experiences that lie beneath attendance statistics. For more, please click [here](#).

News from Ofsted

Education update for headteachers: autumn 2023

Published 24 November 2023

Includes: changes to post-inspection arrangements and Ofsted's complaints handling process; Ofsted Annual Report (see below); Early years 'Best start in life' research series; changes to how we inspect schools; a reminder on materials and resources for schools; and inspecting careers provision in secondary schools. For the newsletter, please click [here](#).

The Annual Report of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2022/23

Published 23 November 2023

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

Some useful blogs

- [How we inspect safeguarding in schools](#)
- [When will my school be inspected?](#)

and webinars

- [Ofsted's school inspection update: autumn 2023](#)

relations at all levels;
* increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK; and
* increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.
A sample of the activities which took place this year can be seen [here](#).



Spirited Arts Competition 2024

Get creative through this cross-curricular competition! Entries can be submitted in (almost!) any art form including:

- Art (painting, drawing, sketching, etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture

The competition runs from the beginning of the school year to 31 July 2024. For more information, please visit the [NATRE website](#).



Spring's Dance

Company workshops in the spring term include:

Creation Project

introduces the Genesis narrative of creation in a fun, inclusive and engaging way through dance;

Parable is a curriculum based interactive performance and workshop that reimagines religious stories, based on the parables that Jesus told; and



RISE Theatre's New Interactive Primary Day is an exciting performance and workshops for the whole school exploring themes around the environment, climate change, God's love for each of us and how we can care for God's amazing planet! For more please click [here](#).

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](#).

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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