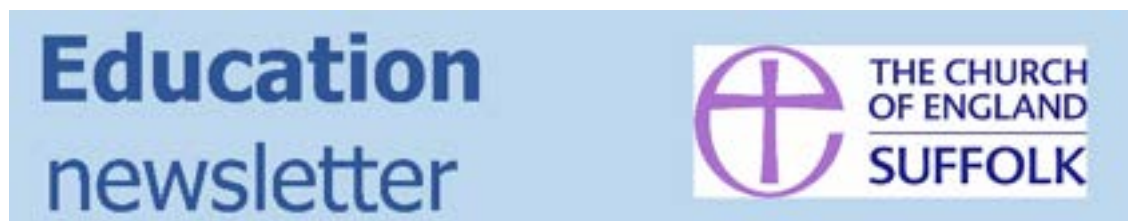


This newsletter, from the Diocesan Education Team, is sent to Church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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(best option)

For printable version please click [here](#)



February 2024

## News from the Diocese

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. We aim to provide news and information and to signpost you to training and resources which you will find helpful.

I am very conscious of the many challenges facing schools, from attendance to special educational needs to parental complaints. Our various online forums are a useful way of connecting with others so that we can share experiences and good practice. Please see our [training programme](#) for details of all our training. We are looking forward to our 'Big Sing' at the Cathedral on Tuesday 26 March. This event, organised in partnership with Christian Aid, will bring together pupils to sing and share examples of how schools are learning about global justice and taking action.

On a wider scale, it was good to attend the national Church of England education conference held in London on 1 February with a group from our diocese and many school and diocesan leaders from across the country. A range of speakers included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Laura McInerney, founder of [Teacher Tapp](#) and Krish Kandiah, author and broadcaster. Justin Welby described the [Difference course](#) which is a powerful free five session course designed to help pupils to navigate disagreement well.

We also heard about the Church of England's Flourish programme, as mentioned in our October newsletter. A national pilot will seek to develop worshipping communities in schools. This might involve developing chaplaincy, music and worship or prayer spaces. We are looking at developing a few pilots with schools and churches locally.

Krish, who leads the Sanctuary Foundation, spoke about the [No Place like Home art and poetry competition](#). This competition for 7-18 year olds is aimed at encouraging children to relate to those who are displaced from home through original art or poetry.

As we seek to educate our pupils for wisdom, may I offer this prayer, adapted from the Church of England's Vision for Education:



### **Monday 17 June 2024 1.30pm**

We be holding our Annual Church Schools' Service in the Cathedral. Our theme this year is Wisdom and Respect. It would be lovely to see lots of schools there, so please do save the date.

Whilst we know transport costs can be expensive, maybe attending the school service could be part of a day trip to Bury St Edmunds.

If your school would like to take part in the service – e.g. singing a song or performing a dance - please let [Sue Todd](#) know by the end of this term.

### **Wednesday 6 November 2024**

This is the date for our annual church school leaders' conference which will take place at the Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket.

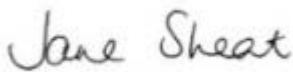
We understand Jesus to be the Word of God,  
your self expression and self-giving,  
who relates to us and the whole of creation,  
so we set the horizon for education that looks to you,  
seeking truth and wisdom in relation to all reality.

We delight in wisdom and the passionate pursuit of it,  
for the pursuit of wisdom, knowledge and skills  
is in tune with how you have shaped the world  
and ourselves.

Our hope is in you, and in your wisdom,  
and the possibilities you bring for reconciliation  
and transformation, in which there may be times of  
lament, but not of despair.

We celebrate the ultimate worth of each person,  
grounded in being created in your image.  
We celebrate your love and compassion for each  
individual. In this spirit of wisdom, we gather.

With all good wishes,



Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education



We have created a new admissions padlet which contains lots of admissions advice, resources and information. A link to the padlet will be sent out to Headteachers and admin staff in all VA schools and academies after half-term. We hope that you find this useful, but as always do contact [Sue Todd](#) if you have any admissions queries.

All admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements, including their PAN, for the 2025/2026 school year by **28 February**.

By **15 March**, Determined School Admission Arrangements should be emailed to [sue.todd@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:sue.todd@cofesuffolk.org) and [george.beard@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:george.beard@suffolk.gov.uk) and must also be published on the school's website. The 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 arrangements must remain on the school's website until the end of the relevant school year.

### 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!



### 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](#).



The Bible Society has published brand new **Rainbow Good News Bibles**. If your school would like a copy, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).

We have 10 copies available on a first come first served basis, with grateful thanks to Helen Matter.



- Supporting farming initiatives and good practice in agriculture
- Training of evangelists and clergy at Kagera Christian Theological College
- Resourcing of pastors in their parishes
- Continuing our support for healthcare.

Click here for more information or details on how to donate.



Every year in Lent, Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike encourage us to reflect as well as to give. The theme of the Bishops' Lent Appeal this year is 'Faith in Action – Transforming lives in Kagera.' If you would like to fund-raise, e.g. by having a non-school uniform day, further information is available [here](#)

Daily reflections on praying for Kagera for schools for use during collective worship or at class reflection time, is available on our website, by clicking [here](#). For Collective Worship resources for Lent and Easter, please click [here](#).

## News from Schools



**Trinity CEVAP School, Stowmarket** is using Stormbreak to help pupils to develop resilience and to help with their mental health. For more information please see <https://stormbreak.org.uk/>  
Photo above: Stormbreak rainbow and certificates for Trinity's Ducklings Class.

**Congratulations!**



**Congratulations** to **Barnham CEVCP** which wanted pupils to be immersed in the Nativity story. Pupils dressed up to play Mary, Joseph, the angel Gabriel, shepherds and wise men and were also joined by two donkeys and a real baby Jesus! For more on this story, including a video, please see Suffolk News [here](#).

## Chair of Governors Forum

Wed 13 March, 4pm  
The Forum is free and via Zoom. For queries or to book, please email: [Jacqui Studd](mailto:Jacqui.Studd)



A brand new free collective worship resource for Lent 2024 aimed at KS2 and KS3 learners. Schools are invited to *Watch and Pray*, discovering what it means to wait, bringing wisdom and hope for Lent and life. For more information, please visit the Archbishop of York's Trust website by clicking [here](#). There are 6 weeks of resources including: liturgical suggestions; bible passage activity; video exploration; practical and prayerful actions; prayer; and additional ideas for connecting home, church and school.



**The Big Help Out**  
**Friday 7 - Sunday 9 June**  
Back for its second year, the Big Help Out has created a series of specialised resources for teachers to get involved and create a new generation of volunteers. There are lots of ways schools can get involved, including hosting Big Help Out assemblies. More information and resources for schools to download are available from [The Big Help Out website](#).



**Congratulations** to pupils from **Acton CEVCP School** who took part in the Young Voices Choir at the O2 Arena in London. The concert also featured a special guest performance from Heather Small, lead singer of pop band M People, who performed the hit song Proud with the pupils.



Jonathan Gray, Headteacher said: "To see the children representing our school at the O2 in London is something I'm very proud of indeed." For more on this story, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to **Creeping St Mary CEVAP**

which held its annual 12 days of Christmas for the local Food Bank last term. Children were asked to think about Christmas being a time for giving as well as receiving and donated items each day for 12 days in the run up to the end of term.

The School was overwhelmed by the generosity of pupils, parents, staff and the wider school community.

**Congratulations** to **Debenham High School** which took the top place in Suffolk in the overall performance at end of key stage 4 for 2022-2023. For the East Anglian Daily Times article, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to the music programme students at **Eyke CofE Primary School** who, together with the Morabe Community Choir, sang some festive classics and definitely brought some Christmas joy to their audience in a local care home last term. For more, please click [here](#). For more about Morabe Rural Music, which provides music tuition, instruments and performance opportunities to energise schools and communities, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to **Moulton CEVCP School** which scored the highest average for Reading and Maths at KS2. **Congratulations** also to **St John's CEVAP School, Ipswich** which tied with Moulton for the highest average in Maths. For more, please see the EADT article, by clicking [here](#).



**Diocesan training 2023-24**

Our training programme is available on the Diocesan [website](#). Upcoming courses include:

**Leadership/Governance**

\* Monitoring for Governors

**RE**

\* Spiritual development in primary schools

**SIAMS**

\* SIAMS: are you ready?

**Wellbeing**

\* for Administrators (please see below)

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



**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](#)



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP, Framlingham** who wrote to their local MP about a range of issues important to them, such as Climate Change and the cost of living. The letters were taken to the Houses of Parliament during a visit in January. They are keeping their fingers crossed for responses!

The school also had a visit from The Venerable Rich Henderson, Archdeacon of Suffolk. The school writes: "It was a privilege to welcome Archdeacon Rich to the school community."



"He talked about his role overseeing 212 churches across East Suffolk. He also spoke fondly about the interesting work that he undertakes including supporting and advising churches, visiting schools and other groups. Angus was invited up to try on the robes that he wears. Angus said they were very heavy so imagine wearing them all day!"

Archdeacon Rich said: "It was a joy and a privilege to spend time with the pupils and staff at Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP and I really appreciated their warm welcome."



**Congratulations** to pupils from Explorers Class and Pathfinders Class at **Sproughton CofE Primary School**, who put on a wonderful nativity, The Sleepy Shepherd. The school writes: "It really was a treat for the eyes and a gift for our hearts. The pupils did a professional job of speaking clearly, using expression, positioning themselves on stage and singing with the voices of angels."



Further **congratulations** to the school on the children's playground designs which have been brought to life with new markings. The school writes: "Thank you to the SSA and all



### **RE recorded training**

Recordings of Gemma Taylor'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](#).



### **Dates of interest....**

St David's Day  
1 March 2024

**National Day of Reflection**  
3 March 2024

**World Book Day**  
7 March 2024

**Cultivation Street Week**  
4-10 March 2024

**British Science Week**  
8-17 March 2024

**Mothering Sunday**  
10 March 2024

**Commonwealth Day**  
11 March 2024

**Red Nose Day**  
15 March 2024

**St Patrick's Day**  
17 March 2024

**World Poetry Day**  
21 March 2024

**World Water Day**  
22 March 2024

our families who have supported their fundraising efforts. What an achievement for a small school!"

**Congratulations** to the dodgeball team at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** who have made it through to the county finals with lots of dodging, ducking, dipping and diving! Good luck in the finals.

St Gregory is also excited because BBC cameras will visit early in March to film material for Comic Relief to broadcast during their live Red Nose Day programme! More to follow....

**Congratulations** also to the dodgeball team at **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary** who reached the semi-finals and just missed out on a place in the county finals.

**Congratulations** to pupils at **St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall** who visited the local church's Amazing Angels and Shining Stars festival before Christmas. Pupils completed the three challenges about the Christmas story while admiring the trees and angels and stars, finishing the visit with a sing song!



**Congratulations** also to the choir at the school which visited Mildenhall Lodge Care Home to sing and spread some joy!

**Congratulations** to the School Council at **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary** who inspired and led the Community Hub at the school. This offers preloved uniform as well as books, toys and many other non-perishable items. The School writes: "A huge thank you to the magical fairies who have sorted out all of the amazing donations we have had for the community hub. It looks amazing and we are truly blessed to have so many kind hearted people who have donated alongside some amazing people who have re organised everything without any expectation of thanks. This is exactly what our school is about - working together."



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Stonham Aspal CEVAP School** who visited St Mary and St Lambert Church to find out more about Prayer Space last term. Prayer spaces give children a way to explore personal reflection and prayer for themselves using a selection of engaging and creative activities. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on issues such as

## Headteacher Update Podcast: A school leadership survival Guide

This Podcast offers crucial advice and lots of practical tips to help primary school Headteachers – especially those new to post – to survive and thrive in the top job while maintaining their own wellbeing and work/life balance. For the podcast, please click [here](#).



**SuperKind** is an award-winning, free platform for schools to bring active citizenship and philanthropy into the classroom. Resources include lesson plans and videos as well as fundraising ideas for schools. There is also a Social Impact Schools Award which celebrates and showcases schools' commitment to having a social impact and provides formal recognition of those schools placing social action and charity-work at the heart of their education. For more, please click [here](#).



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



forgiveness, injustice, thankfulness, big questions, identity and stillness. Pupils and staff enjoyed the experience and activities.



Pupils were also treated to a visit by a Gritter. Suffolk Highways brought 'Grit Rhys Jones' along for them to look at!



**Congratulations** to pupils in Grebes class at **Tattingstone CEVCP School** who have set up 'The Nelly Campaign' and also led two assemblies to make pupils aware of the cruelty towards elephants and rhinos. They held a dress-down and activity day on 8 February to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and to raise awareness of their campaign.

**Congratulations** also to the school's Eco-Council which has started working through their environmental review and looking for areas to focus on this year. This involves analysing 10 different areas such as waste, energy etc in the school to find those areas which score least. The Eco-Council has enjoyed looking through the review together and talking as a team, and have a number of ideas/projects. More to follow....

### Ofsted inspections

### Outcomes

Great Barton CofE Primary	Good
Hintlesham and Chattisham CofE Primary	Good
Elveden CofE Primary	Outstanding

### Headteacher appointment

Congratulations to Mrs Lora Cann, Acting Headteacher at Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP who has been appointed permanent Headteacher.

### Headteacher resignations and retirements

We offer our thanks and best wishes to the following Headteachers who are leaving their current school at the end of the summer term:

- Vicky Allen, Bramfield, Brampton & Ringsfield CofE Primary Schools
- Helen Ballam, Rattlesden CofE Primary Academy
- Darren Gates, St Matthew's CofE Primary, Ipswich

information and ideas are available from the [Prayers Spaces in Schools website](#)



### Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Scheme

The last meeting with the Global Neighbours Team at Christian Aid took place last month. The team kindly offered support to our church schools with courageous advocacy through the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme. If you were unable to make any of these meetings, the team are running free webinars and you can find out more [here](#). For more information about the Scheme and to register, please click [here](#).



### Archbishops' Young Leaders (AYLA) Award webinars

are a great way to find out how the AYLA works. Just 45 minutes, the twilight 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. For dates of sessions running this term and next term, and to register, please click [here](#).

### **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.



Creative and imaginative ways to boost children's engagement with RE and PSHE from Springs Dance Company!

**PARABLE** - a curriculum-based interactive workshop that reimagines religious stories based on the parables that Jesus told.

**The Good Samaritan** - based on one of the Parables that Jesus told, these workshops provide opportunities for children to explore the importance of helping others and standing up for them, even if they are not like you. The workshops touch on themes of living in a multi-racial / multi-religious society.

**You Are Special** - based on Max Lucado's book of the same title, these workshops tackle the big issue of self-esteem and create opportunities for the children to discuss ideas about self-worth and how we treat others.

## **News from the Church of England**

### **Net Zero Carbon Resources for Schools**

Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 3pm

This webinar is for anyone interested in cutting carbon emissions in schools: school leaders, governors, decision makers. New resources to help schools understand their carbon footprint and learn how to decarbonise your school estate will be showcased during the webinar. To register, please click [here](#).

### **SIAMS Inspectors**

The Church of England is looking for new SIAMS inspectors. The next round of training for new inspectors begins in September 2024. The deadline for applications is 22 March at 12 noon. For an informal discussion please contact [Phil Knowles](#). For more information, please click [here](#).

## **News from DfE**

### **Workload reduction taskforce: initial recommendations**

Initial recommendations from the taskforce working towards reducing the workload of teachers and leaders. For the policy paper, please click [here](#).

### **Gender Questioning Children: Non-statutory guidance for schools and colleges in England**

Gender questioning draft guidance for consultation. Closing date for consultation 12 March 2024. For the consultation, please click [here](#). If you have any comments you would like to feed in, please contact [Jane Sheat](#).

### **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children**

The DfE published a new edition of its statutory guidance in December 2023. To see the guidance, summary and statutory framework, please click [here](#).

## **News from Ofsted**

### **Prevention of Future Deaths report (Regulation 28): Ofsted's response**

To see Ofsted's formal response to the Prevention of Future Deaths report issued by HM Coroner, please click [here](#).

### **Area SEND inspection of Suffolk Local Area Partnership**

For the report, please click [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](mailto:Jacqui) and we'll be pleased to include them.

### From the Diocesan Education Team

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