

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 2022

News from the Diocese

This newsletter, with news and resources, is a reminder that we are here to support you in these challenging times.

The third reading of the Schools Bill has been delayed, along with other legislation which is now under review. I will update Headteachers and governors from maintained schools at a session on Wednesday 30 November at 4pm on Zoom on the latest position on full academisation by 2030.

In the meantime, I am very aware of the financial pressures which all schools are facing. With inflation well above the proposed pay awards for teachers and support staff in schools, and rising energy costs, the current funding for schools leaves a shortfall. I have therefore lobbied all Suffolk MPs to urge them to provide additional funding to schools to cover the full cost of teaching and support staff pay awards and to expand the Free School Meals criteria to enable more families to access this much needed support. Schools may wish to consider lobbying their local MP. With increasingly complex special educational needs, it is important that schools can afford the staff they need. All of this is of course set against a backdrop of pressure on public sector pay and possible strike action more widely.

Closer to home, may I commend our conference on Wednesday 9 November, to which you are warmly invited? We are holding this year's conference at the Edmund Room at the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds and very much hope you can join us.

Our keynote speaker is Dame Estelle Morris. Estelle is an excellent speaker and is well placed to provide an expert perspective on education, as former Secretary of State for Education and a member of the House of Lords. Matt Fulford from Inspired Efficiency will also be speaking about how to reduce our carbon emissions. Given the Church of England's commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions and the current fuel crisis, Matt is definitely worth listening to.

We will also hear from Lyndsey Allsopp, Headteacher and Revd Dr Karen Burton, Chair of Governors about their school

Meeting on Academisation

Wed 30 November,
4.00pm via Zoom

A session for Heads and Governors to discuss the implications of the DfE's White Paper in relation to full academisation by 2030.

For any queries or to book, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)



Wednesday 9 November

This is the date for our annual church school leaders' conference this year. Please click [here](#) for the programme and details of how to book.

Monday 19 June 2023, 1.30pm

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

improvement journey together at Ixworth CofE Primary School. Pupils from Eyke CofE Primary School will be performing for us in the Cathedral and Lucie Fairweather, Headteacher will outline her school's vision for music. Gemma Taylor will speak about how to evaluate your school's Christian vision.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to join us for this year's conference. It will be so good to meet in person.

Our training programme for 2022/23 is on our [website](#) and I would encourage you to have a look and book on any courses which interest you.

I am pleased to report that we have appointed a full-time CEO to the Diocesan MAT from January 2023. Pete Bloomfield is currently Deputy Director of Education at Academies Enterprise Trust and was previously Director of Education at Inspiration Trust, having held headship and leadership roles in schools in Norfolk. I will continue to be a MAT director but will revert to my substantive full-time role as Diocesan Director of Education from January.

In spite of all of the challenges, we remain hopeful. If you have not used them, may I commend some of the Church of England's excellent leadership resources: [Called Connected Committed: 24 Leadership Practices for Educational Leaders](#) These support the Church of England's [vision for education](#). The vision, based on educating for hope, wisdom, dignity and community is as relevant as ever.

As we approach half term, may I offer this prayer from David Adams, in the hope that you find rest over half term?

Let Me Rest in You

Lord, I have raced through this day
Forgive me when I have ignored you
The times I have been unaware of your glory
When my eyes have been blind to your beauty
When my ears have been deaf to your call
The times I have been insensitive to wonder
When my heart has been hard and cold
When my mind was too preoccupied

Still me, Lord, and teach me to love
Still my restless being with your peace
Still me in body, mind and spirit
Let me rest in you and in your power
As the darkness comes, heal me
Transfigure me with your glory.

With all good wishes from all the team,



Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education



Upcoming Diocesan courses this term

Leadership/Governance

- * Assessment for governors
- * Leading a church school
- * Monitoring for governors
- * SEND for Governors

RE/CW

- * Assessment in RE
- * Courageous Advocacy
- * CW/RE for foundation governors
- * Spiritual Development in Primary Schools

SIAMS

- * Are you SIAMs ready?

For any queries or to book, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

Schools and churches working together

Our case studies provide examples of how schools across the Diocese are engaging with their local churches in innovative and effective ways.

We have recently added to new case studies for Blackbourne Team Ministry and South Hartismere Benefice. For more, please click [here](#).

News from Schools

Congratulations!

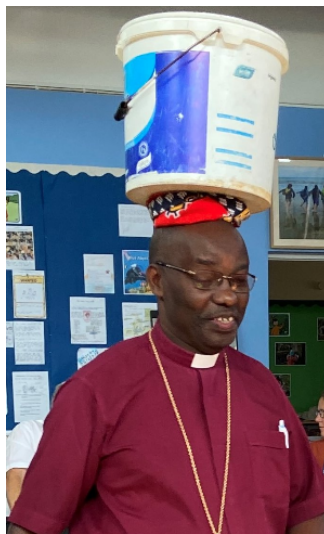


Congratulations to pupils and staff at **Capel St Mary CEVCP** and **Stutton CofE Primary Schools** who welcomed Bishop Godfrey Mbelwa during his recent visit to our diocese from the diocese of Lweru, Tanzania.



Crystelle Edwards, Head, Stutton CofE Primary wrote: "The visit was a huge success. Before the visit, we learned about the importance of Kangas (African clothing) and their mottos and the children designed and made a Kanga with the motto Be Kind."

Bishop Godfrey joined us for collective worship and during assembly the children showed him some of the work they had done preparing for his visit, including a colourful kanga they had decorated. Bishop Godfrey demonstrated to them how Tanzanian children used a kanga on their head to help balance a bucket full of water they have collected from the well. The children also had a chance to ask lots of questions!



Bishop Godfrey then visited **Capel St Mary CEVCP School** and was overwhelmed by the wonderful school facilities as he compared the class sizes of 23 with the typical 100 per class in his own country. The Bishop led collective worship with Revd Sally Letman and shared slides and information about where he lives. Revd Sally said "It was a joy to see how the children responded to the challenges so vividly and clearly shared by Bishop Godfrey. The conversations brought to life the wider world and relevance of God's Creation but also highlighted the differences. Today's visit really did enable the children to understand how resources are not shared out equally in our world."

The school's motto from Matthew 13, 31-35 is 'With faith as small as a mustard seed, you can move mountains.' With this in mind the school has committed to launch a link with a local school in Tanzania and to raising funds for their school books as part of their courageous advocacy.



Inter Faith Week

13 - 20 November

Provides an opportunity to:

- * Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- * Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, 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](#)



Collective worship resources

CW planning based on the Christian value for Curiosity has recently been added to the Diocesan website. To see this and other planning ideas, please click [here](#)

For the CW padlet resource for schools, please click [here](#).

RE resources

For links to resources on world faiths, please click [here](#)



Congratulations to pupils at **Acton CEVCP School** who won Sudbury in Bloom's Best School Wheelbarrow competition last term.

Congratulations also to **Great Waldingfield CEVCP** and **Tudor CofE Primary Schools**, who finished runners-up.

Acton CEVCP School writes: "The wheelbarrows were fantastic examples of super collaborative work, care and attention to detail (from the art work to the upkeep of the plants) and a celebration of the planting and growing process. Today in Star Assembly, we excitedly opened our prize which was a WIFI connected Weather Station so will be able to monitor the temperature, wind speed, humidity and forecast – so we know when our water butts will be full and when the plants will need watering!"

Congratulations to Winne, a Year 2 pupil at **Boxford CEVCP School** who made a wonderful gesture by having her long hair cut and donating just under half a metre to the Princess Trust. The charity provides thousands of real hair wigs to sick children and young people, aged up to 24 years across the UK and Ireland. In doing this, Winnie raised an amazing £356 for the charity – well done Winnie!

Congratulations to pupils at **Crawford's CofE Primary School** who collected 'a fantastic amount' of donations for Stowmarket Foodbank. For the East Anglian Daily Times article, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Ixworth CofE Primary School** for earning a bronze award from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools. For the Suffolk Press article, please click [here](#)

Congratulations to pupils at **King Edward VI School** who have created a sculpture as part of the Abbey 1000 celebrations. The sculpture, 'Wolf Crown' is inspired by the legend of St Edmund and the wolf and has been unveiled in the Abbey Gardens ruins. For more, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Rougham CofE Primary School** for raising £10k for its Swimming Pool Appeal. The pool is used by the school and local community and the school and parents have organised a number of fundraising events. For more on this story, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School, Framlingham** on its new library which was opened by local comedian and author, James Campbell. For more on this story, please see the [EADT](#).

Congratulations to Owl Class Brass Group and singers at **Wilby CEVCP School** who performed for the residents of Hartismere Place Dementia Unit in Eye in June. The School writes: "Our friendship with the home is very important to us



From the Diocese of St Albans, a school-based resource to encourage primary and secondary schools to theologically and practically reflect on the issues of climate change. Released in instalments over 2 years, the first instalment ('Day 1'), focusses on the theme of electricity and includes:

- * Ideas for spiritual reflection in reflective areas and home
- * Heart for the Earth examen guide
- * Class/tutor group-based worship
- * Collective worship plans

To see these resources, please click [here](#).



Bible Chat Mats

From the Diocese of Bath and Wells, the 19 Chat Mats are themed around Christian Values with links to well-known Bible stories. Bible Chat Mats allow children, young people and adults to read the Bible and have conversation together.

Available to purchase for £10 as a downloadable pack.

Please click [here](#) for more.

News from Ofsted

Inspecting schools: guide for maintained and academy schools

This guide gives a summary of what schools should expect and what they need to do as part of an Ofsted inspection. Please click [here](#) for the Guide.

and the children were delighted that their performance was so appreciated by the residents."



Congratulations to St Gregory CEVCP School for collecting donations for the local foodbank. These were displayed at All Saints Church ahead of the School's Harvest service.

The School received a thank you from the Storehouse Foodbank for the generous donations and "for giving a message of hope for many families and individuals facing tough times in our community."

Church Schools marked the Queen's death with assemblies and silences, and discussed loss and grief with pupils as well as the implications of having a new monarch. Below are examples of what some of our schools did....

Cockfield CEVCP School held a special assembly with the children and used resources especially prepared with a time of reflection for the older children. The school addressed any worries that came to light and celebrated the fun moments including the Queen and James Bond, and Ma'amlade sandwich Your Majesty?



East Bergholt CEVCP School created a display for the children to remember the Queen.

Elveden CofE Primary Academy held an assembly 'to explain and mark this sad but momentous occasion'. Children were supported in sensitive discussions.

Great Barton CofE Primary Academy held a special collective worship for years 1 – 6, giving thanks for the life of the Queen and sharing memories of the Queen.

Great Finborough CEVCP School held a Paddington Tea party to celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

Great Waldingfield CEVCP School took part in a special assembly to remember Her Majesty the Queen and give thanks for her long life and her life long service to the nation and beyond.

Kelsale CEVCP School held a special collective worship assembly. Claire McMeekin, Headteacher writes: "Rev'd Dave is coming in to deliver our collective worship, marking the significance of this event for our children. We really are very lucky to have his proactive help and support as part of our school team, especially as Friday is his day off!!"

Pupils at **Old Newton CofE Primary School** attended a special, reflective service at the local church and had a prayer



Dates of interest....

All Saints Day
1 November 2022

Remembrance Day
11 November 2022

World Kindness Day
13 November 2022

Inter Faith Week
13 - 20 November 2022
see above

Anti-Bullying Week
14 - 18 November 2022

Nursery Rhyme Week
14 - 18 November 2022

Road Safety Week
14 - 20 November 2022

UK Parliament Week
14 - 20 November 2022

Children in Need
18 November 2022

Universal World Children's Day
20 November 2022

Advent
27 November 2022

Christmas Jumper Day
8 December 2022

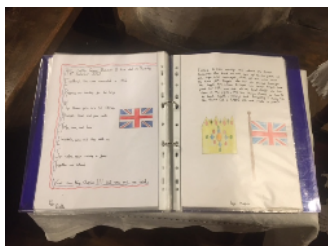
News from the DfE

New Secretary of State for Education
For more, please click [here](#).

School admission appeals code 2022

Statutory guidance on how schools should organise and run their pupil admission appeals. For the statutory guidance, please click [here](#).

tree in the school hall with photographs of the Queen. Pupils had written to Her Majesty to congratulate her on her Platinum Jubilee and had received a response from the monarch two days before Buckingham Palace announced the death of the Queen. For more, please click [here](#).



Orford CEVAP School created a book of remembrance. Every child in the school drew a picture or wrote a letter, poem or personal reflection to honour the late Queen's life and reign.

Class 3 attended a small service at the church to present the book. The book is proudly on display in the the local church.

Daniel Woodrow, Headteacher at **St Gregory CEVCP School** queued for over 12 hours in London, to represent his family, his school and his community, and say a heartfelt 'thank you' on their behalf.

Jo Gunn, Headteacher at **St Margaret's CEVAP School, Ipswich** travelled 810 miles overnight in order to catch a glimpse of the Queen lying-in-state in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. For more on this story, please click [here](#).

Ofsted inspections

Bardwell CofE Primary
Fressingfield CofE Primary
Stradbroke CofE Primary

Outcomes

Good
Good
Good

SIAMS inspection

Walsham le Willows CEVCP

Outcomes

Good

Headteacher resignation

We offer our thanks and best wishes to the following Headteacher who is leaving their current school at Easter 2023:

- Lynne Stabler, St Mary's CofE Primary Academy, Mildenhall

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.

For advice for admission authorities, parents and guardians, please click [here](#).

School governance update: September 2022

For the latest news and communications relating to governance in maintained schools and academy trusts in England, please click [here](#).



Following the success of Inspiring Angels in Ipswich last Christmas, this year we would like to offer you the opportunity to roll this out across the diocese. We hope that angels in a variety of shapes and sizes will appear all over Suffolk - in schools, shops, on public buildings, on the pavements, in bedroom windows, wherever people's imagination takes them!

For more information on how to get involved, please click [here](#).



The Good Childhood Report 2022

The latest report from the Children's Society looks at the wellbeing of children in the UK. The report presents the most recent trends in children's subjective wellbeing and this year looks in more detail at how children feel about school, recognising the pivotal role it plays in their lives. To see the report, please click [here](#).

News from the Church of England

Flourishing Together: National Conference

Friday 27 January 2023

Union Chapel and St. Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington

Speakers include: Lord Boateng, Dame Rachel de Souza, Mary Myatt, Dame Alison Peacock, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell

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

SIAMS 2023

Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS, will be setting out the ways in which SIAMS will develop from September 2023, explaining what the developments will mean for schools. All staff, governors, and clergy of Church of England and Methodist schools are invited to attend national online sessions taking place on 3 November.




There is no need to book, the links below will allow you to gain direct access to the session of your choice:

- Thursday 3 November 10am - 11.30am
[Click here to join 10am meeting](#)
- Thursday 3 November 6pm - 7.30pm
[Click here to join the 6pm meeting](#)

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.

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