

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

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



May 2020

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

THANK YOU

I am writing this to offer our ongoing support and resources to church schools across the diocese. Above all, I wish to thank our Headteachers and school staff for all that they are doing and continue to do to deliver online learning to pupils at home and to care for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

It has been good to be in phone contact with Headteachers over recent weeks and I wish to pay tribute to Headteachers and all school staff for their creativity, resilience and positive approach. It has been so encouraging to hear of all that schools are doing. Schools are making huge efforts to deliver imaginative online learning, keep in touch with vulnerable families and ensure that free school meals are available to those who are eligible. The introduction of a national voucher scheme for parents has been challenging nationally and schools have been amazingly resourceful.

The DfE has tasked local authorities with co-ordinating the provision of childcare in schools across the maintained and academy sector. Karen Harman and I have shared joining first daily and now twice weekly Skype calls of the Schools Co-ordination Task Group. The group includes key senior SCC officers, DfE officers, other sector leads and the Executive Officer of the Suffolk Primary Headteacher' Association (SPHA). Various protocols have resulted from this close collaboration and issues have been escalated to the DfE. The group agrees key messages to go to all schools daily on [Suffolk Headlines](#). Please do email or phone me with any queries which you would like raised with this group.

I hope you have found the [list of resources](#) we sent on collective worship useful. Nationally the [Oak National Academy](#) is now offering online resources, including assemblies. If you haven't watched it yet, do watch the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby speak at the biggest assembly ever- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgdhOstV6iI>



At this unique and challenging time in the UK over 65 churches and movements, representing hundreds of others, have come together online to sing a blessing over our land. To see and hear this beautiful song, please click [here](#).

Messages for schools

The Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison, Bishop of Dunwich and Jane Sheat, DDE, have recorded messages for schools.

Bishop Mike's message is on generosity and can be heard [here](#).

Jane's message is on God's love and peace and can be heard [here](#).

Re-Opening Forum for Heads

The aim of the forum is to allow heads to share both their concerns and ideas

You may have seen the national launch of the Church of England's new [#faithathome](#) campaign on Thursday. It includes a thank you to [school leaders](#), to [parents](#) and to [church leaders](#).

There's a song that has been written for the campaign for schools to record called 'Looking for the Rainbow' – it's by Becky Drake from www.worshipforeveryone.com - she is Chaplain at a school in Birmingham, and they have made this multi-screen video of their students singing it – watch [here](#). The Church of England is about to launch a campaign to get 1000 schools to record this song in time for 'Thank a Teacher Day' on 20 May, and we would love schools to get involved. There is a really helpful [set of resources](#) which gives all the backing tracks and tips on how to do it technically which looks straightforward enough, and we'd love to get schools from our Diocese doing it. Then we'll share it out on social media etc. using the #faithathome hashtag.

Locally, Karen Harman has updated our [bereavement guidelines](#), published last year, with an [appendix](#) to deal with the current Covid-19 situation. You can find this along with all our other Corona Virus resources on our [website](#).

You may also find this [paper on trauma](#) helpful. I heard the author, Professor Christopher Southgate talk recently about the three phases of dealing with a trauma as the heroic phase, which is followed by the disillusionment phase, from which we hope to emerge into the wiser living phase. Professor Southgate was involved in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

The diocese has taken the decision to apply for the government's Job Retention Scheme, in common with many employers and dioceses. This means that the diocese is able to access government funding during a difficult period of financial uncertainty, when income from parishes is forecast to decline. 14 diocesan staff are currently on furlough, including two of the Education team: Phil Knowles and Gemma Kingston.

It is a feature of the government's scheme that staff on furlough are not required to undertake and must not undertake any work for the diocese. Schools are welcome to email me direct with any queries which they would have sent to Phil or Gemma. Karen, Jacqui, Daniel and I continue to work from home and we look forward to welcoming Phil and Gemma back to work soon.

We are anticipating a return to school and Karen has arranged to run Zoom meetings in May with heads to consider some of the practical issues about re-opening schools (see above). We await government guidance but will want to support schools as they wrestle with staff and parents' anxiety, social distancing and planning for a new Reception intake and how to end Year 6 well and prepare for transition to secondary school. We plan to deliver other planned training via Zoom, too, such as deep dives in RE and SIAMS (more opposite).

As a team, we are keen to support you in whatever way we can. Please feel free to contact us by email or mobile phone.

I wrote last time about trusting in the God who gives us hope for the future and hope is a feature of the Church of England's excellent resources. Whatever the next few weeks bring, we

around the 'reopening' of schools to a wider range of pupils.

The two sessions planned for Monday 11 and Wednesday 13 at 2.30pm are now fully booked. However we will run more sessions if there is demand.

If you would be interested in attending a future session, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#), 01473 298570.

Virtual Training - summer term

We will be running the following virtual courses:



[Diving Deeper into RE](#)

Thursday 25 June 2020
9.30am - 12.30pm
Come join us for a morning examining and exploring the RE curriculum.

The course planned for Tuesday 19 May is now fully booked but we do still have places for the course on 25 June.

[SIAMS: an introduction](#)

Tuesday 9 June 2020, 4pm
This twilight session will provide an introduction to the SIAMS schedule.

[Are you SIAMS ready?](#)

Wednesday 17 June 2020
This course will provide a thorough revision of the SIAMS inspection process and prepare schools to test the accuracy of their self-evaluation with confidence.

If you would like to book on any of the courses above or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).

can have confidence in him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

With all good wishes from all of us,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

The Rainbow Children

The history books will talk of now,
That time the world stood still.
When every family stayed at home,
Waved out from windowsills-
At those they loved but could not hold,
Because they loved them so.
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all the flowers start to
grow.

The sun came out, they can recall,
And windows, rainbows filled.
They kicked a football in their yards,
Until the night drew in.
They walked each day but not too close,
That time the world stood still.
When people walked straight down the roads,
That once the cars did fill.

They saw that people became ill,
They knew the world was scared.
But whilst the world stood still they saw,
How much the whole world cared.
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,
They cheered for the brave.
For people who would risk their lives,
So others could be saved.

The schools closed down, they missed their friends,
They missed their teachers so.
Their Mam's and Dad's helped with their work,
They helped their minds to grow.
The parents used to worry that,
As schools were put on hold,
Their children wouldn't have the tools,
They'd need as they grew old.

But history books will talk of them,
Now adults, fully grown.
Those little boys and girls back then,
The ones who stayed at home.
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,
Of all they would fulfil.
The RAINBOW children building dreams,
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still.

Gemma Peacock 2020



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus, from 21 May - 31 May 2020. For more, please click [here](https://thykingdomcome.global).



The Diocesan Buildings officer, Daniel Jones and his family created this beautiful rainbow collage over the Easter holiday to show support for key workers and all of those supporting them.

Child Wellbeing

Karen Harman writes:
If you have wellbeing concerns over children being cared for at home, do contact the support agencies.

Izzy Connell is clear that the County Inclusion Support Service (CISS) etc want to help wherever they can and you can still make referrals.

For further details, please click [here](#)

ADMISSIONS 2022-2023 - for VAs and academies

This is a reminder about your Admissions policy. Although I realise this is not a current priority, if your governors are planning to alter your Admissions policy for 2022/2023 entry, then this has to undergo consultation this autumn. Only such alterations as will impact a family's ability to successfully apply for a place, require consultation – dates etc do not. It is no longer a requirement that Voluntary Aided schools consult annually and none of our schools need to consult this year under the seven year rule.

The consultation window runs from 1 October 2020 to 31 January 2021 and if changes are planned then the policy must be up for consultation for a minimum of six weeks in that window. We are happy to support you with this process which is rigorous.

If changes are planned then it might be a good time for governors to discuss and decide this in preparation for the autumn as there will be much else to achieve as schools start to widen the intake of pupils.

Do not hesitate to contact either me, or [Jacqui Studd](#) our Administrator, for further advice and guidance.

[Karen Harman](#)

Deputy Diocesan Director of Education

For Governors

NGA guidance

Please find NGA guidance on business continuity and holding virtual meetings [here](#).

Schools' Choice -

A virtual governance model policy is available [here](#).

National Cyber Security Centre guidance on how to set up and use video conferencing services, safely and securely is available [here](#).



Hope Church School Governance Online Training Programme - Improving Church School Governance

Aimed at Governors and Trustees (Directors) in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees (Directors) committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. Start date is May 2020. For more information, please click [here](#)

Useful resources and websites

[Faith at Home](#) - national campaign from the Church of England to support the faith development and pastoral care of children and young people. Resources and activities will be available each week on a different theme aimed at school leaders, parents and church leaders. The first week's theme is hope.

Leadership resources

from the Ambition Institute - themes include promoting equality, school culture, developing others, raising aspirations of children, finding and keeping staff, Headteacher impact, engaging parents and wellbeing.

The Ambition Institute are running a summer series of free practical training webinars and virtual roundtables to address the current challenges schools are facing. For more, please click [here](#).

Resources for RE

and to support through the coronavirus crisis, RE Today, in partnership with NATRE, have produced a series of free, quality-assured online resources to support parents and their children with the provision of RE activities for use during the coronavirus crisis.

Prayer Spaces at Home

- beautiful accessible ideas for prayer spaces at home

Fischy Music

- online assemblies every Monday at 11am and parents and carers can access songs at home to help children during school closures.

Please also see the [Diocesan Coronavirus Support for Schools webpage](#) for details of other useful websites and resources,

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP School** who after taking part in the virtual #hymnflashmob in March have been invited to go and sing at St Paul's Cathedral.

The school has also won a competition to record a duet with Matt Lucas on his song [Thank You Baked Potato](#), which he released to raise money for the charity Feed NHS and which went to number one. The school will be going to record this when everything gets back to normal.

Congratulations to pupils from the following schools on some wonderful artwork and thank you to schools for sharing this:

East Bergholt CEVCP School for 3 beautiful and uplifting pieces of work below



Barningham CEVCP School who created this beautiful banner for the residents of Ashmore Nursing Home in Stanton.



More News from Schools

Congratulations to keyworker children at **Thorndon CEVCP** and **Worlingworth CEVCP Schools** who brightened up their communities by decorating colourful rocks and leaving them for neighbours to find. For more, please see the [East Anglian Daily Times](#)

A **thank you** to **Lee Gooderham** and his company, Ordtek Ltd based in Diss. Lee kindly arranged for free laptops to be delivered to pupils at **Wilby CEVCP School** who did not have access to a laptop at home. Lee has also kindly donated laptops to other local schools.



National charity PopUK has launched "[Kids at Home](#)" an exciting **FREE** singing project for all primary schools. Headteachers across the UK are encouraging parents to involve their children in learning a vibrant pop song with lyrics that bring hope and joy at this uncertain time. The song will then be sung in schools across the UK at the first assembly when schools return.

St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury with examples of some of the amazing work that children have doing at home



Daniel Woodrow, Headteacher, St Gregory writes: "One of our Year 3 pupils has set up her own Twitter account to chronicle life in lock down. It is rather brilliantly called 'Florentine In Quarantine' and she is putting lots of amazing work on there - well worth a look [here](#).

Congratulations also to staff at the following schools who have been putting together uplifting and positive videos for pupils:

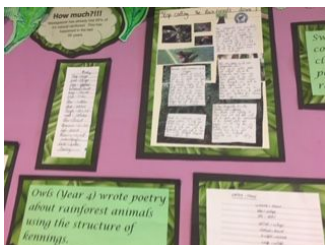
Kelsale CEVCP School. Clare McMeekin, Headteacher: "The videos have received lots of positive feedback from families and staff have had lots of fun making them - a win win at this difficult time for all." To see all the fun videos, please click [here](#). The videos were also featured in the EADT recently, please click [here](#).

Staff at **St Christopher's CofE Primary School**, Red Lodge danced to the song 'We're all in this together' and even included some dancing pets. The video was featured in the [Bury Free Press](#).

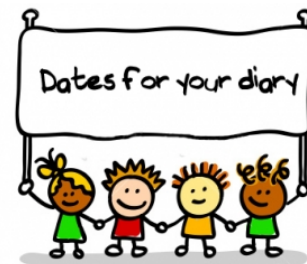
Staff at **St Gregory CEVCP School**, Sudbury recorded themselves saying what they miss most about the children and passing on a message to them which has been very well received: See the video [here](#).

Staff at **St Matthew's CofE Primary School** who dedicated their rendition of 'Sing' to everyone in the St Matthew's family. Please click for the [video](#).

Congratulations to staff from **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary School** who have done some work to go with the school's new rainforest display on the overarching Curriculum theme "Curiosity". Also to the Head of School, Imogen Wallis, who has made this into a wonderful display for the children to see when they return.



It's Your Move - a fun and friendly guide to moving to secondary school. This revised edition offers lots of advice, together with stories of real people who have already made the move. This book makes an ideal gift for Year 6 pupils. Currently they are on special offer - £16 for 10 instead of the usual £22.50. Please click here for [more](#)



Thank a Teacher Day
20 May 2020

Pentecost
31 May 2020

Child Safety Week
1 - 7 June 2020

World Environment Day
5 June 2020

Children's Art Week
6 - 14 June 2020

World Oceans Day
8 June 2020

Healthy Eating Week
8 - 14 June 2020

Father's Day
21 June 2020

Suffolk Day
21 June 2020



The School's PTA also raised funds for a new trim trail which the school got installed before lock down. Again another treat for the children when they return (Key Worker children gave it a trial run!)



Springs Dance Company is offering to schools its latest **[Parables of The Good Samaritan & The Lost Coin](#)**, and **[The Selfish Giant](#)** workshops both of which are available for booking for this or next academic year. The workshops are a great way to bring children back together when the schools re-open and can be pencilled in and date adjusted as required due to the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Ofsted Inspections

Outcomes

Capel St Mary CEVCP

Good

Cockfield CEVCP School

Good

Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to Mrs Lesley Etchingham, who has been appointed Head at Chelmondiston CofE Primary School from 1 September 2020.

Also a correction from the last newsletter, congratulations to Jess Damant who has been appointed Acting Headteacher at Kersey CEVCP School from Easter 2020.

We are grateful to Lynne Golding, Head at Whatfield CEVCP School and Frances Parr, Head at Barningham CEVCP School, who are now staying on for a further term until 31 December 2020.

For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane or Karen will attend any virtual 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.

From the Diocese

To join in prayer and watch broadcasted services taking place in the Diocese, please visit the Diocesan [website](#).

If you would like to keep up to date with Diocesan news, please click [here](#)



To find out more about Christian Aid Week, please click [here](#).

Department for Education

Remote education practice for schools during coronavirus

This guidance issued on 5 May provides best practice for remote learning. It outlines some approaches that have worked for schools and includes case studies and information about supporting pupils' wellbeing; adapting teaching practice and the curriculum for remote working; and keeping pupils motivated and engaged. Available [here](#).

Church of England

The Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership is offering five free network sessions to school leaders exploring the concepts in the [Called, Connected, Committed](#) document as well as weekly mailouts with resources and a reflection.

For further information and to register for the network sessions please click [here](#).

To subscribe to the mailouts, please click [here](#).

A prayer for a global pandemic (Christian Aid)

'Love...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.'
(1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

Loving God,
strengthen our innermost being
with your love that bears all things
even the weight of this global pandemic
even the long haul of watching for symptoms
of patiently waiting for this to pass
watching and waiting,
keeping our gaze fixed on you,
and looking out for our neighbours near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls
the belief and hope that all things
are possible with your creative love
for strangers to become friends
for science to source solutions
for resources to be generously shared
so everyone, everywhere, may have what they
need for your perfect love that knows no borders
may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends
be our comfort, strength and guide
for the wellbeing of all and
the glory of God. Amen.

A Prayer

We are not people
of fear:
we are people of
courage.

We are not people
who protect our own
safety;
we are people who
protect our
neighbours' safety.

We are not people
of greed:
we are people of
generosity.

We are your
people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.
Amen

Barbara Glasson,
President of the
Methodist Conference

News from YOUR School

What we are asking for is photos, short articles, web-page references, etc that we can highlight in the next and subsequent editions of this newsletter so that your school's achievements can be broadcast to a wider audience. Please send items electronically to [Jacqui](mailto:jacqui@cofesuffolk.org) and we'll be pleased to include them.

From your Diocesan Education Team:

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