

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



February 2025

## News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. We aim to provide news and information, to share good new stories from schools and to signpost you to training and resources which you may find helpful. As I write, the days are getting longer and it feels as if spring is just around the corner...

As a team we are keen to support schools in a variety of ways. I am delighted to let you know that, thanks to additional grant funding from the Keswick Hall Trust, we plan to expand our team slightly in order to increase our support for RE and Collective Worship, our core function. We hope to advertise for a part-time post to work closely alongside Rachel Cutts, our Diocesan Schools' Adviser, to start in September 2025. Rachel is currently working on updating the Emmanuel Project.

Nationally, the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill is at committee stage. Ofsted has published details of its new report card for consultation, due to be introduced in November 2025 (see below). It proposes a five point evaluation scale: exemplary, strong, secure, attention needed and causing concern. All inspections will be graded inspections.

The DfE has also published for consultation its approach to accountability measures and set out the role of its Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) teams (see below). From September 2026, the DfE proposes that schools that have consistently underperformed over time ("stuck schools") will receive mandatory targeted intervention from a RISE team.

In the meantime, both Ofsted and SIAMS inspections continue apace.

As schools become ever busier, I am struck by the need to find stillness and peace. Schools which have created a few minutes of quiet, say after lunch, report real benefits

## Forums spring and summer terms

### For Headteachers

Thu 1 May, 1.30pm

### For Small Schools

Tue 25 Feb, 4pm

Mon 9 Jun, 4pm

### For Chairs of Governors

Wed 19 Mar, 4pm

Thu 26 Jun, 4pm

The Forums are free, via Zoom. For queries or to book, please email: [Jacqui Studd](mailto:Jacqui.Studd)



The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is Living Hope. A brand new free collective worship resource for Lent 2025 aimed at KS2 and KS3 learners is available. For more, please click [here](#).

in terms of children's wellbeing and work. You may like to try introducing a few minutes of peace, when no talking is allowed (adults as well as children) and children may draw, read, rest or reflect. It is a gift!

I hope that you are able to rest during half-term. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.

With all good wishes,

*Jane Sheat*

Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education



All admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements, including their PAN, for the 2026/2027 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 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 arrangements must remain on the school's website until the end of the relevant school year.

An admissions padlet which contains lots of admissions advice, resources and information is available on our [website](#).

### **Diocesan Board of Education**

If any Headteacher is interested in serving on the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE), please let Jane know [jane.sheat@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:jane.sheat@cofesuffolk.org). The board meets four times a year in Ipswich.

### **Weekly prayer meeting for children and young people- Growing Younger**

The diocesan Mission and Ministry team hosts a weekly online prayer meeting for children and young people on Monday mornings from 9am to 9.30am. Please email Matt Levett at [matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:matt.levett@cofesuffolk.org) for the Zoom link. All welcome.

### **Calling all RE leaders!**

Please do come along to one of our networking events. Both are free to attend. Pick whichever meeting you'd prefer to join.

#### **Monday 24 Feb, 4pm for a 4:15pm start, Wetheringsett Primary School, IP14 5PJ**

We will do some informal monitoring of RE work from the previous 1.5 terms (for those that wish to) hear some RE news. Please bring along any scrapbooks and/or pupil books.

#### **Thursday 6 March, 4pm Online via Zoom**

An RE bulletin and some networking in break out rooms. Please sign up using the short form [here](#).



**Cathedral service** - our annual service for all church schools will take place on **Monday 23 June 2025** at 1.30pm.

**Conference** - our annual church school leaders' conference will take place on **Thursday 13 November 2025**.



**The INSPIRE Prayer Space - available to use across the Diocese**

**What is a Prayer Space?** A prayer space is an area that is transformed for a few days. The

## Diocesan Growing Younger Conference Worship. Input. Networking. Workshops.

Saturday 8 March 10am-3.30pm  
St Michael's Church, Church Street, Framlingham  
IP13 9BJ

Growing younger is at the heart of our mission. We seek to support and enable those working with children, young people, families, and young adults to come alongside young people to grow in their faith and become confident disciples of Christ. Archdeacon Rich and the Growing Younger team are hosting a Growing Younger Conference, with Lucy Moore, who leads the CofE Growing Faith Foundation, as the keynote speaker.

The day will also include worship, workshops, and networking. Come along as individuals or bring a team!

Book your places [here](#)

### Farewell to Bishop Martin

Bishop Martin retires at the end of February after ten years in the diocese. We are grateful for his commitment to children and young people and wish him every blessing in retirement. Bishop Graeme Knowles, former Bishop of Sodor and Man and Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, has been appointed Acting Diocesan Bishop after Bishop Martin's retirement while a recruitment process is ongoing.

## News from Schools

### Congratulations!



Gold LOTC Mark

**Congratulations** to **Barnham CEVC Primary School** on receiving the Gold Mark for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC). Amy Arnold, Headteacher, Barnham CEVCP said: "Being awarded the Gold LOTC Mark is a fantastic achievement for all the staff here as it shows that we have really put in the work to ensure our students have access to vital opportunities to learn outside the classroom. We're thrilled to get official recognition for our efforts, and we look forward to continuing to embed LOTC within our school curriculum to help more students achieve their potential."

space offers students a range of creative activities that prompt and encourage personal reflection on contemporary issues. **INSPIRE Prayer Space** contains instructions, resources and equipment and can be assembled for use in any church or school.

### How would it benefit my local school?

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Taking a broadly Christian perspective as a starting point, prayer spaces give children an opportunity to practise skills of personal reflection. They allow pupils of all faiths and none to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Prayer spaces give students the opportunity to find out what prayer might be like for Christians. They also make a valuable contribution to schools' statutory responsibility to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

To date, the **INSPIRE Prayer Space** has been used mainly within Ipswich and we would now like to offer it for use across the diocese – all we ask is that someone would be able to collect and return it to/from Ipswich and that any consumable resources are replaced ready for the next user.

**If you would like to find out more about what is available in the **INSPIRE Prayer Space** resource; to talk to us about how to use a prayer space in your context or arrange to borrow it, please contact Helen Smith at**

[inspiring.ipswich@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:inspiring.ipswich@cofesuffolk.org)



A community of over 150,000 parents working together to change the culture around children and smartphones. For more, please click [here](#).

The LOTC Mark is awarded by the [Council for Learning Outside the Classroom](#), the UK-wide charity that champions all learning that happens beyond the classroom. Their work supports educators, schools and organisations who are dedicated to ensuring more children and young people have opportunities for life changing learning experiences beyond the classroom, whether these happen indoors or outdoors, close to home or far away. Providing students with more opportunities to access high quality learning beyond the classroom experiences can open their eyes to the world around them and allows them to develop into wellrounded citizens.

Dr Anne Hunt, Chief Executive of CLOTc said: "Learning outside the classroom has many proven educational benefits as well as providing some of the most memorable experiences in a child's school life. Achieving the Gold LOTC Mark demonstrates that Barnham CEVC Primary School is committed to developing and delivering genuinely valuable learning outside the classroom experiences for their children and young people and I congratulate them on achieving this award."

**Congratulations** also to **Barnham CEVCP** on another award. Barnham have been celebrating becoming the 47th school in the country to receive a 'Thrive School of Excellence' award. The whole community celebrated with a special Collective Worship, tea and cakes and a morning of Thrive activities. Lewis from the Thrive team came to present the award and was delighted to see how deeply embedded the culture is and the positive impact it is having.

**Congratulations** to **Cockfield CofE Primary School** which has transformed its library into "a bright, colourful and inviting space for pupils." The school has worked closely with a variety of local organisations and individuals to develop the design of the library and fund-raise. For more on this story, please see the Suffolk News article [here](#).



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Creting St Mary CEVAP** who performed their nativity in December to fellow pupils, parents, staff and the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Bishop Martin said: "This was such a joyful occasion to be able to take time with primary school children and to share in their wonderful portrayal of the events of Jesus' birth. I was moved by the seriousness, energy and delight with which the children performed – and by some lovely moments of



### **Collective Worship**

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

### **Growing Faith in Schools**

We are pleased to be sending Headteachers and foundation governors recently published booklets from the Grove Book series. This series is designed to offer and promote Christian thinking rooted in practice for all involved in schools and churches. The latest booklet is available to download from the link below:

#### [Growing Faith in Schools?](#) by

Anna Shaw, School Ministry Development Officer, this book explores how the Church of England's education can be implemented locally for the benefit of families, churches and the wider community.

### **Online SEND training**

A limited number of places are available at just £75 per head for SEND Law training.

This online training for SENDCos is on 31 March 2025 from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Delivered by the Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (IPSEA), it is suitable for both existing and new SENDCos. For more about IPSEA, please click [here](#). Please contact [Jane Sheat](#) to book a place. With thanks to Claire Bourne, Head of Inclusion and SEND for the Diocesan MAT for making these spaces available.



humour." For more, please click [here](#) or for the East Anglian article, [here](#).

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**Congratulations** to [Debenham High School](#), [Elveden CofE Primary](#) and [Moulton CEVCP School](#) which have all been featured recently in the Suffolk Headlines Spotlight on Suffolk Schools. Please click on the school name for the report.

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**Congratulations** to Lucie Fairweather, Headteacher at **Eyke CofE Primary School** who shares how the school is involved with Morabe Music in a showreel included in the Smiley Charity Film Awards. To find out more about Eyke's music provision, please contact Lucie Fairweather, Headteacher at [lfairweather@eykecevcpprimary.org](mailto:lfairweather@eykecevcpprimary.org). To see the Morabe showreel, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to **Great Barton CofE Primary** which is working with Suffolk Wildlife Trust on a Wilder Schools Project. Please click [here](#) to read the blog.

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**Congratulations** to **Kersey CofE Primary School** which has been awarded a £5k donation as part of Tesco's Stronger Starts scheme, which saw customers given the chance to find a specially created gold version of Tesco's famous blue voting token. For more, please see the EADT article [here](#).

The scheme is open to all schools with priority given to projects that provide food and support to young people. For information on Tesco Stronger Starts, click [here](#).

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**Congratulations** to **Risby CEVCP School** which has a new outdoor classroom which includes built-in benches, drop down panels for added shelter and a whiteboard for creative play. Congratulations also to the PTA for fundraising for the facility. For more on this story, please see the Suffolk News article [here](#)



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**Congratulations** to EYFS and KS1 pupils at **St Edmundsbury CofE Primary Academy, Bury St Edmunds** who performed a nativity in St Johns Church in December. Kim Bramley, Head of School writes: "It was a lovely community occasion and families enjoyed celebrating in the church."



## Training programme spring term 2025

Our training programme is available on the Diocesan [website](#). Courses this term include:

### Leadership/Governance

- \* Leading a church school
- \* Monitoring for Governors

### RE/CW

- \* Spiritual development in primary schools

### SIAMS

- \* SIAMS: are you ready?

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



## Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA) Free information sessions

Are you looking to develop a culture of Justice and Responsibility in your school? Do you want to support your pupils to become Agents of Change, taking an active role within the community? Are you keen to find ways to improve the social skills, confidence and resilience of your pupils?

The **Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA)** is a fully resourced leadership and character education programme that could support your school in enabling pupils to flourish.



**Congratulations** to **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** which is helping Comic Relief celebrate its 40th birthday by coming up with 40 ways to make the world a better place. Each class will come up with four things that they are going to do before the end of February.

They will also do eight things as a whole school. The school has received video messages from Rob Beckett, Andy Day and Kevin Sinfield to encourage them as well as a letter from Sir David Attenborough. To find out more, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School** on the 175th anniversary of its opening. The school celebrated with a church service attended by pupils, staff and guests including the Archdeacon of Suffolk, Ven Rich Henderson, Jane Sheat (Diocesan Director of Education) and Tracey Caffull (Diocesan MAT, CEO). The service was followed by a celebratory afternoon tea.

**Congratulations** to **Tudor CofE Primary School** in Sudbury which recently held two concerts led by ISingPop. The school writes: "Everyone loved the songs and we will enjoy singing them for months to come." To find out more about iSingPOP, please click [here](#).

Finally **congratulations** to **Daniel Woodrow, Headteacher at St Gregory CEVCP School** in Sudbury who recently celebrated 10 years as Head. Daniel writes: "Three Ofsteds, two SIAMs, a pandemic, countless mistakes, lots of laughs and one near-total hair loss later, I feel so blessed to still be a part of this incredibly special school community."



Empowering pupils to find their voice - a light-touch, high-impact personal development and oracy approach for the whole school. For more, click [here](#).

To find out more about the **AYLA** programme and the free online sessions for both Primary and Secondary schools, click [here](#).



'We Hear You' has been released by the Growing Faith Foundation, in conjunction with the 30k Project. The concept is simple – school, church and community leaders run the four ready-to-use activities and then feedback their findings. The findings will help with understanding of what children and young people value in their leaders and what the next generation of school and church leaders could look like. To find out more, visit ['We Hear You'](#).



### **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](#).

## Recent Ofsted inspections

### Graded inspections

Schools receiving a graded inspection from September 2024 are no longer given an overall effectiveness grade. They are graded on: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years provision. We show outcomes below in order of these judgements as O for Outstanding and G for Good.

All Saints CofE Primary, Laxfield	O/O/O/O/O
Barrow CEVCP	G/O/O/G/O
Thurston CofE Primary	G/G/G/G/G
Old Newton CofE Primary	G/G/G/G/G
Norton CEVCP	G/O/O/G/O

### Ungraded inspections

Long Melford CofE Primary  
Mellis CofE Primary

These schools were judged to be good schools before September 2024 and have been inspected to determine whether they have taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at that previous inspection, which they have.

### Monitoring inspection

Cavendish CEVCP

Leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the school to no longer be judged as requiring special measures.

### SIAMS inspections

### Outcomes

Norton CEVCP	J1
Palgrave CofE Primary	J1
Rougham CofE Primary	J1

### Headships

We offer our thanks and best wishes to Sean Cornish, Headteacher at Capel St Mary CEVCP who leaves at Easter.

### 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



### Dates of interest....

#### Children's mental health week

3 - 9 February 2025

#### NSPCC Number Day

7 February 2025

#### National School

#### Governors' Day

13 February 2025

#### St David's Day

1 March 2025

#### Cultivation Street Week

3-9 March 2025

schools are also encouraged to enter the School Garden competition

#### World Book Day

6 March 2025

#### British Science Week

7-16 March 2025

#### COVID-19 National Day of Reflection

9 March 2025

#### Commonwealth Day

11 March 2025

#### St Patrick's Day

17 March 2024

#### Great Big School Clean

21 March - 6 April 2025

#### Red Nose Day

21 March 2025

#### World Poetry Day

21 March 2025

#### World Water Day

22 March 2025

#### Big Walk and Wheel Week

24 March - 4 April 2025

#### Mothering Sunday

30 March 2025



of Governors and make sure that we are available for dates for shortlisting and interviews. Many thanks.

## News from the Church of England Flourishing together: A collection vision for the education system

This paper sets out a joint vision from the Church of England, the Catholic Education Service and Confederation of Schools Trust. For more details, please click [here](#) for the CofE website.

## News from DfE

### Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024: policy summary

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill aims to change the law to better protect children and raise standards in education. For the policy summary notes, please click [here](#).

### Consultation on school accountability reform-

Deadline for responses 28 April 2025.

[School accountability reform – school profiles, improvement and intervention](#)

## News from Ofsted

### Big Listen action monitoring report: December 2024

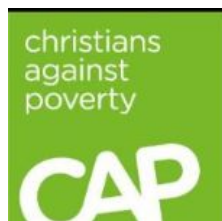
Ofsted has published an update on its actions following its Big Listen-

[Big Listen action monitoring report: December 2024](#)

and is consulting on its new report card due to be introduced in November 2025:

[Improving the way Ofsted inspects education: consultation document](#)

See also the Ofsted blog for Ofsted's review of the area SEND inspection framework by clicking [here](#).



### The Suffolk Coastal Debt Service

is looking to employ a part-time Schools Money Course Co-ordinator to promote and deliver the CAP Schools Money Course in schools across the SCDC region (areas IP12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and NR34).

It would suit someone with experience in teaching or working with primary aged children.

For a job description, please click [here](#).

For further information email [dougfletcher@capuk.org](mailto:dougfletcher@capuk.org)

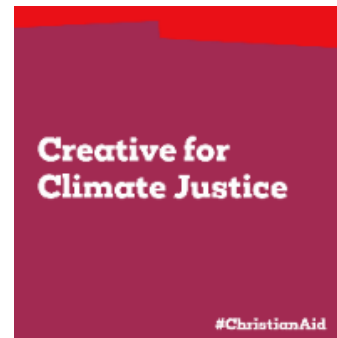


Founded in November 2021 by the National Literacy Trust and Penguin Books, the Libraries for Primaries campaign (formerly the Primary School Library Alliance)



The Mothers' Union in Suffolk is looking for someone to help deal with correspondence. The role is voluntary. To find out more, please email the President, [Jeanette Appleton](#)

## News from Christian Aid



Christian Aid is inviting pupils to think critically about climate justice, creatively and collectively represent their hopes and dreams for the future in art and creative writing and organise an exhibition of their work in school. It's open to all primary and secondary schools. For more information and free resources, please click [here](#).



### Springs 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

#### The Easter

**Project** provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. Further



is a group of organisations who work to address the lack of investment in primary school libraries. For more, please click [here](#).



**NATRE's Spirited Arts Competition 2025**

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 until 31 July 2025. For more information, please visit the [NATRE website](#)

**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.

details on all projects can be found [here](#).



The RISE for Schools Competition is a chance for pupils to think about climate change and how the world can be made a more sustainable place. Pupils of any age can enter and poster entries are free.

Further details are available on the International Sustainable Ecological Engineering Design for Society (SEEDS) Conference website by clicking [here](#). The closing date for posters is Friday 4 April 2025.

**From the Diocesan Education Team**

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