

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



July 2025

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

As we approach the end of term, with all the busyness of leavers' services, productions and trips, it is good to look back on this school year and give thanks for all the good things that have happened. We also look forward to a break over the summer, of course!



It was lovely to celebrate the work of church schools at our special cathedral service on 23 June. Many thanks to all the pupils who took part and to iSingPOP who led the singing. iSingPOP had led workshops in ten schools before the service to teach the children the songs. It was a joyful occasion!

Also in June I had the pleasure of attending a special service in Westminster Abbey to celebrate 80 years since Christian Aid was founded in the immediate aftermath of World War II. For more, please click [here](#).

It was a pleasure to meet our new diocesan bishop, Bishop Joanne Grenfell on 27 June. Bishop Joanne visited Debenham High School and spoke to students there as part of her visit. For more information please click [here](#).

Our special thanks go to several heads who are leaving this summer for all that they have done, and we wish them all the best for the future.

May I wish you a relaxing and restful summer?

With all good wishes from all the team



A Christian organisation that provides a hub of resources and events and equips schools with SIAMS-friendly tools to create inspirational collective worship experiences. They also support church leaders by providing exciting projects, dynamic interactive resources, and ready-made services to help them connect with their local community. For more, please visit the [website](#).

THE
EMMANUEL
PROJECT

Emmanuel Project 2025 - coming soon

The Emmanuel Project resources will be available online via a subscription model before the end of term.

All schools will be sent an email from Jacqui with details on how to subscribe.

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

For the latest RE and CW newsletter, please click [here](#).

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds** on the 475th anniversary of its opening which it celebrated in style! Celebratory activities included a meal for stakeholders, a free barbecue for students and staff, and ice cream vans and a special performance by the school orchestra before the unveiling of a plaque by the Deputy Mayor of Bury St Edmunds, Diane Hind. Visitors were able to step back in time with the school's 'stunning' collection of historical books and author Dr Francis Young delivered an 'inspirational' lecture on 'Schoolboy King: The Life and Legacy of King Edward VI'. For more, please see the school [website](#) and [Suffolk News Online](#).

Congratulations to **Acton CEVCP School** on raising almost £5k on the school's first ever colour run in May 2025.



Organised by the Friends of Acton School (FOAS), pupils ran an obstacle course on their playing field, while teaching staff and volunteers used paint powder and super soakers to make them as colourful as possible. Jonathan Gray, Headteacher said: "Huge thanks to the Friends of Acton School for organising such a memorable day, and to everyone who has donated so generously. The money raised will make a real difference to the experiences we're able to offer our children, and we're absolutely thrilled with the total raised."

Forums 2025-26

For Headteachers

Wed 24 Sep, 1.30pm
Tue 20 Jan, 1.30pm
Thu 30 Apr, 1.30pm

For Small Schools

Mon 20 Oct, 4pm
Tue 24 Feb, 4pm
Thu 21 May, 4pm

For Chairs of Governors

Mon 17 Nov, 4pm
Thu 19 Mar, 4pm
Tue 23 Jun, 4pm

Admissions

Thu 25 Sep, 4pm
Thu 8 Jan, 4pm

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



Conference

Our annual church school leaders' conference will take place at Ip-City in Ipswich on **Thursday 13 November 2025**.



Congratulations to pupils at **Fressingfield CofE Primary** who took part in the Whole Class Ensemble Teaching Music Festival at the Apex in Bury St Edmunds in June. The All Saints Schools Trust writes:



"Two classes joined with some 300 pupils from ten other schools to rehearse and then perform a series of pieces learnt over the previous term. The children had worked so hard to learn four pieces, including the Wicked (WCET) Festival Song, the Monkees' I'm a Believer and Beethoven's Ode To Joy. It was a real thrill to perform with so many other children and to hear how each learnt part contributed to the greater whole: it was an energy-filled, uplifting day. Well done to our musicians."



Congratulations to Y5 and Y6 pupils at **Old Newton CofE Primary** on their new classroom. The building, designed by the company IF_DO, was officially opened by Jane Sheat, Diocesan Director of Education. Parents and members of the community were invited to the event and each class performed a short piece to guests while all enjoyed refreshments and the chance to tour the new Eagle classroom. For more on this story, please see [Suffolk News Online](#).



We are pleased to award this certificate to

**Benhall St Mary's
COFE Primary School**

To celebrate their achievement of the

WIRE Award

2024-2025

Karen Harman

On behalf of Suffolk SACRL
July 2025



Congratulations to **St Mary's CofE Primary School, Benhall** for receiving the Wire Award 2024-2025. The school writes: "We're incredibly proud to have received the WIRE Award- recognising our commitment to a broad and inclusive RE provision. A huge thank you to our staff, students and community for their hard work and dedication in helping us achieve this."

For further information about the Wire Award, please visit the Suffolk Learning [website](#).

Pupils at the school also spent a day in London exploring key landmarks. All Saints Schools Trust writes: "The day began with a train journey into the capital, followed by a visit to the Houses of Parliament. Students had the chance to see the House of Commons and the House of Lords in action, gaining

School Visits - Cathedral

The Learning Hub at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds has a dedicated team who work with all schools when they visit. For more information, please click [here](#). To contact the Learning Hub please [email](#).



Training programme 2025-26 NEW

Our training programme for the next academic year is now available on the Diocesan [website](#).

Courses for the autumn term include:

Admissions

- * New to admissions

Leadership/Governance

- * Being a Governor
- * Leading a church school
- * Monitoring for Governors

Ofsted/SIAMS

- * Ofsted
- * SIAMS: are you ready?

RE/CW

- * Christianity as a Global World Faith
- * CW in our church schools
- * New to Teaching RE
- * New to RE leadership
- * RE in our church schools
- * REfreshers
- * SIAMS and RE

Wellbeing

- * for Headteachers

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

a clearer picture of how decisions are made at the national level. We're very grateful to Jenny Riddell-Carpenter for taking the time to speak with our group. In the afternoon, we visited Westminster Abbey. Walking through its historic spaces offered students a chance to reflect on the Abbey's role in the cultural and spiritual life of the UK."



Congratulations to pupils at **St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall** who celebrated Pentecost. The school writes: "On 5th June, St Mary's held their own Pentecost service for the upcoming Pentecost celebration in the Christian calendar. The children all came to school dressed in flame colours and enjoyed a service led by Rev. Sue from St Mary's church."

The children enjoyed celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit. They also discovered that the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit were 'joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control' which we will try to remember throughout our daily lives. We then all enjoyed cake to celebrate the birthday of the church. We all had a fantastic celebration!"



Congratulations to Y4 and Y5 pupils at **St Matthew's CofE Primary, Ipswich** who created this marvellous rainforest mural in the library. The school were visited by local artist Lily Hammond who helped Y4 pupils design the mural and Y5 pupils paint the mural. For more, please visit the Diocesan MAT [website](#).



New Updated KS2 Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

A **brand-new** version of the **KS2 Award** for use by schools will be available from September 2025 which will enhance pupils' leadership journey and support schools further to create a **culture of justice and responsibility**.

The unit topics and much-loved central character Archie remain, but a brand-new design threads through the resource, with a wide range of new activities organised under the headings **Spark, Discover, Act** to help explore local, national and global communities. If you already run the AYLA, you don't need to do anything, the team will be in touch as usual before your renewal point.

Information Webinars for schools new to the AYLA

If you've not run the **AYLA** before, you can find out more about the programme through free online sessions. For more information and sign up for a session, please visit www.abyyt.com/events.

Creative for Climate Justice

#ChristianAid



Congratulations to Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary which made the final of the Suffolk Farming School of the Year and were highly commended. The school writes: "A huge congratulations to our 5 presenters who presented an 8 minute presentation about chickens at the Suffolk Show. You were all utterly amazing."

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](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **St Peter & St Paul CofE Primary School** who recently completed a mini marathon. The All Saints Schools Trust writes:



"Children took part in a Mini Marathon, running, jogging, or walking their way through the afternoon in support of local charity 'Eye Opportunity Group'. Our KS2 children took on the challenge at The Pennings, while EYFS and KS1 completed their routes around the school grounds. We were so proud to witness incredible determination, perseverance, and team spirit from every pupil involved! Eye opportunity group is a local charity that supports families with young children (0-5) who have specific additional needs. We were delighted to raise over £1000 to donate to this fantastic cause."



Dates of interest

Summer Reading Quest
19 July - 31 August 2025

National Read a Book Day
6 September 2025

Roald Dahl Day
13 September 2025

Education Sunday
14 September 2025

International Day of Peace
21 September 2025

National TAs Day
26 September 2025

National Poetry Day
3 October 2025

World Animal Day
4 October 2025

World Space Week
4 - 10 October 2025

World Teachers' Day
5 October 2025

Dyslexia Week
6 - 12 October 2025

Cycle to School Week
13 - 17 October 2025

World Food Day
16 October 2025



Congratulations to **Tudor CofE Primary** which received Suffolk Show gold! The school writes: "We entered the Suffolk Show again this year with a garden that the children had planned and designed, grown from seed and then presented to the judges on the day of the show. The judges were very thorough with their questioning and the children did a superb job! And we got a gold certificate which we are delighted with!" The photo shows the school's garden based on the story book 'Tiddler'. Tudor also visited the Cathedral.



The school writes: 'Y5 and 6 pupils had a wonderful trip out to visit the Cathedral to learn all about the Eucharist. They experienced many activities, including dressing as a priest, reflective story telling, cross crafts and even watching a real Eucharist service taking place. It was wonderful and the children loved it!'

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, G for Good and RI for Requires Improvement.

Worlingham CEVCP

O/O/O/O/O

Ungraded inspections

This school was judged to be an outstanding school before September 2024 and has been inspected to determine whether the school has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at that previous inspection, which they have:

Worlingworth CEVCP

These school 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:

Capel St Mary CEVCP
St Mary's CofE Primary, Hadleigh

Recent SIAMS inspections

JI= The inspection findings indicate that the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

Barningham CEVCP
Bramfield CofE Primary
Kersey CofE Primary
St Peter and St Paul CofE Primary, Eye
Stutton CofE Primary

Headship Appointments

Congratulations to Matt Vale-Smith who has been appointed Headteacher at St Mary's CofE Primary School, Hadleigh

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.

Headteacher Performance Management Reviews

Phil and Sue are able to help governors to have external advice on their Headteacher's performance management. They can offer support, at £350 per



Springs Dance Company

Workshops include:

Nativity brings to life the traditional, much-loved scenes of the Christmas story, then continues the story after the birth of Jesus, highlighting the importance of showing hospitality to others;

Good Samaritan focuses on the importance of helping others and standing up for them, even if they are not like you; and

Refugee through learning, creating and performing movement children will explore themes of welcome and showing kindness.

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



Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust (FACT)

is a long-established charity based in Essex with a vision for young people to experience a unique blend of fun, adventure and inspiration, in the midst of a caring, waterside community, which is all anchored by Christian faith. FACT provide bespoke adventure and educational programmes, tailored to each groups' needs and requirements that can include activities such as sailing, powerboating, high ropes, archery, climbing, team building games and a range of environmental studies while enjoying a stay on our lightship.

They are in an unusual position in that they have a couple of weeks which have become available in 2026:

review, to include preparation, the review itself and write-up. If you would like support with a mid-year review as well, this optional extra is available at £150.

- 13 - 17 April and
- 7 - 11 September 2026.

News from the Church of England

SIAMS 2025-26

For the list of schools likely to be inspected in 2025/26, please click [here](#)

'FlourishED National: Class of 2040: Putting young people at the centre'

SAINT Church, Hackney, Thursday 22 January 2026
The focus of next year's national conference will be celebrating young people, sharing new opportunities for them to grow and develop and reminding ourselves of the reason that we as leaders are working so hard (often in adversity) to enable children to flourish. For more please click [here](#).

News from DfE

Conversation guide for workload and wellbeing in schools and academy trusts

Published July 2025

Question prompts to stimulate conversations with governors, trustees and staff in schools and academy trusts about workload and wellbeing. For more, please click [here](#).

The writing framework

Published July 2025

The writing framework outlines a common approach to teaching writing based on evidence and existing good practice. For more, please click [here](#).

Revised guidance on 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' which will come into force on 1 September 2026

Published July 2025. For more, please click [here](#).

News from Ofsted

Ofsted sets out measures to ensure steady and assured start to inspections under the renewed framework

Published July 2025. For more, please click [here](#).

Highlights from Ofsted's area SEND inspection framework review

Published July 2025. For more, please click [here](#).

Education inspection framework: engagement programme

Published July 2025. Details of Ofsted's programme of webinars to help familiarise providers with the November 2025 education inspection framework changes. For more, please click [here](#).

Dame Christine Gilbert announced as chair of Ofsted

Dame Christine will replace Sir Hamid Patel, who is currently

As a charity they work hard to keep prices competitive and also have a bursary fund that is used to ensure that those who face financial barriers can be supported in having a stay onboard. This fund is available to all those who need it.

To find out more, please visit the FACT [website](#).

The Education Endowment

Foundation (EEF) is an independent grant-making charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement, ensuring that children from all backgrounds can fulfil their potential and make the most of their talents. The EEF provides a news alert service and Blog which can be found [here](#).

A recent submission to the Blog is by Clare Lamb, Headteacher, All Saints' CEVCP, Lawshall on 'How can we ensure Teaching Assistant preparedness: Ensuring Teaching Assistant preparedness through structured collaboration, clear roles, and evidence-informed strategies'. Click [here](#) for the post.








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

interim chair, and will take up her new role at Ofsted from 1 September 2025. For more, please click [here](#).

[Jacqui](#) and we'll be pleased to include them.

From the Diocesan Education Team

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