

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



March 2021

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues

This term has demanded much of schools as you have remained open for vulnerable and key worker children and provided remote learning for all other pupils, and fully re-opened from 8 March. Our appreciation and admiration go to all schools for your hard work, care and dedication in doing the very best for your pupils. Just as spring offers signs of new life and warmer weather, so Lent offers us a season of reflection and looking forward to Easter. I am grateful to Gemma Kingston for her collective worship resources which I know have been used by many schools - available on our [website](#). Her reflections on Lent remind us that whatever we are going through, Jesus went through suffering and pain and is with us in difficult times.

Whilst we have been, understandably, immersed in details of lateral flow testing (no small feat in our secondary schools) and operational concerns, it is important to keep our eye on the long term, on the recovery which will take many months. I am grateful to St Alban's diocese for sharing this thoughtful piece on emerging hopefully. Based on the feeding of the five thousand, it offers questions for reflection - please click [here](#).

My hope is that we are able to celebrate the return of all pupils for the remainder of this term and when it comes, to rejoice in the hope of Easter.

With all good wishes from all of us,

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education



National Day of Reflection - Tuesday 23 March 2021

This day will mark a year since the first UK COVID-19 lockdown. Coordinated by the charity Marie Curie and officially supported by the Church of England, the National Day of Reflection will give us a time to unite and reflect on this tragic loss of life and our collective grief as a nation. There will be a minute's silence at 12 noon to create a moment that shows support for the millions of people who've been bereaved. For more information and how your school can get involved, please click [here](#).

Prayers for Marking a Year of COVID-19

Produced by Illustrated Ministry for the National Day of Reflection, this resource provides reflective colouring page prayers to mark a year of COVID-19 and to help in times of anxiety. To download this resource (PDF), please click [here](#).

A Prayer

Lord, give us the constancy and the courage
of the snowdrop,
as it remains strong and beautiful throughout all
kinds of weather.

Give us the optimism and trust of the spring bulbs,
pushing through the soil to welcome the future.

Give us the joy and spontaneity of the robin,
singing to welcome the warmer lighter days.

Give us the daffodils' message of hope, bursting forth
each day, to greet us with their beauty.

And guide us too, through this difficult and
uncertain time,
Knowing that, like nature, we can trust in You.

Amen

Diocesan Bereavement guidelines

The guidelines aim to offer clear suggestions for coping in the event of a death in your school community and have been written for church and community schools. Available on our [website](#), together with further resources to help with bereavement.

News from Schools



Examples of the some of the great RE work from our schools which are being shared on the Emmanuel Project Facebook page. Please click [here](#) to visit.

We would love to see more of your RE work so please do visit and share on the Facebook page or contact [Gemma Kingston](#).

Gemma is aiming to write moderation materials to help with assessment in RE for the next academic year, and having more images of work, particularly from the Christianity units, would really help with this.



Virtual Training - Summer term

Including:

- * Diving Deeper in RE on 26 May;
- * Annual update for RE Subject Leaders on 10 June;
- * Spiritual development in primary schools on 15 June;
- * Assessment in RE on Thursday 24 June;
- * Monitoring training for Governors - more below;
- * the final twilight session on Leading a Church School on 29 June; and
- * Resilience events for Heads, governors and school administrators - more below.

For further information, please visit the [Diocesan website](#); or contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



Sunday 18 April

Please note that the annual church schools education service which had been provisionally planned for Sunday 18 April has been postponed.

Wednesday 3 November

This is the date scheduled for our annual church school leaders' conference this year.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to staff at **All Saints' CofE Primary School, Newmarket** who were very creative one weekend and made these amazing fruit friends for the online collective worship school assembly.

Congratulations to **Barnham CEVCP School** and their uplifting video which gives a little glimpse of the return to school last week. Please click [here](#) to see the Rise Up! video.

Congratulations to pupils at **Elmsett CEVCP School** who have been very creative during Zoom Assemblies this term! Along with Headteacher, Mrs Burdiss, pupils created a Cake in a Mug - thank you for the photos!



Pupils have also cooked and decorated Heart Biscuits and created multi-coloured Caterpillars for the NHS which were displayed in windows at home. For World Book Day, the children joined together for a zoom assembly and made and wore hats from a favourite book.



Congratulations to **Elveden CofE Primary Academy** on the lovely new log cabin which will be used as an outdoor classroom. Everyone is very excited and can't wait to use it. Pupils also received a keepsake copy of *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy at the welcome back assembly.

Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP, Debenham** which was able to purchase laptops for children without access to devices thanks to the help of St Mary's Church Debenham which opened a just giving page. A lovely reminder of God's generosity.

Congratulations to **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** which has received a card recognising them as Lockdown Heroes.



Lockdown Hero is a new award category within the Pearson National Teaching Awards. This special award celebrates schools or individuals who have stepped up to support others despite the extraordinary challenges presented by lockdown. For more about this award, please click [here](#). Please note, deadlines for nominations closed on Friday 12 March.

Well done St Gregory! If you have also received this award, please do let us know.



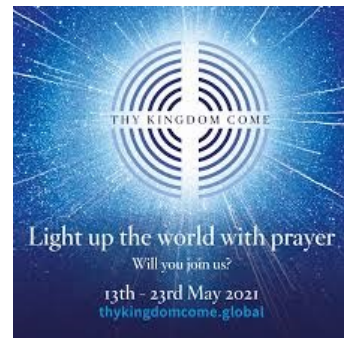
Dates for resilience events in the summer term

For school administrators
- Friday 21 May

For Governors
- Friday 18 June

For Heads/senior staff
- Friday 2 July

Each of these events will involve guest speakers leading reflections and will include time to reflect, network or pray. More information will be available in due course. For any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost (13 - 23 May) for more people to come to know Jesus. For this year, resources have also been designed to refresh, encourage and inspire worshipping communities, families and individuals who may have struggled with the idea of Church at Home. For more, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Daniel Jones, Diocesan/MAT Buildings Officer** on the birth of his son Gryff on Monday 22 February 2021.

Congratulations to **St Margaret's CEVAP School, Ipswich** which has received the National Wellbeing Award for Schools and is the first school in Suffolk to do so. The award recognises the positive impact of wellbeing and mental health being fully embedded in all policies and practices throughout the school. It focuses on establishing and creating a positive culture across the school community through whole school awareness and training in aspects of mental health and wellbeing, excellent network of support for all stakeholders and providing an inclusive environment that is welcoming to all. For more on this story, please see the [East Anglian Daily Times](#) (EADT). Further information on this award is available [here](#).

Congratulations to pupils from **St Mary's CofE Academy Mildenhall** who have helped keep Mildenhall tidy. Many pupils have been seen out and about with their parent/s getting great exercise and in addition keeping the environment clean, tidy and litter free.

Congratulations to **St Mary's CofE Primary School, Woodbridge** which is successfully fundraising for a new play area for pupils using Gofundme. The School together with the Friends of St Mary's want a place for "pupils to enjoy being outside, to get fresh air, to move and to just PLAY with their friends". For more on this story, please see the [EADT](#).



Congratulations to staff at **Worlingworth CEVCP School** who welcomed pupils back to school with an 'AHoy there!' pirate themed week. Pupils enjoyed activities such as flag designing and making pirate ships to ease anxiety and make the students' first week back after lockdown memorable. For more on this story, please visit the school [website](#) and [EADT](#)



We offer our thanks and best wishes to all those staff who are leaving their current school this Easter.

Headteachers' Forum

Next Forum takes place via Zoom on **Monday 22 March at 1.30pm.**

The Forum is free. For any queries or to book, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)



Further dates.....

Palm Sunday
28 March 2021

Easter Day
4 April 2021

The Big Pedal
19 - 30 April 2021

St George's Day
23 April 2021

World Book Night
23 April 2021

National Share a Story Month
May 2021

Children's Book Week
3 - 9 May 2021

May Bank Holiday
3 May 2021

Christian Aid Week
10 - 16 May 2021

Foster Care Fortnight
10 - 23 May 2021

Ascension Day
13 May 2021

National Children's Day
16 May 2021

Walk to School Week
17 - 21 May 2021

National Children's Gardening Week
29 May - 6 June 2021

Headteacher retirements/resignations

We offer our thanks and best wishes to Katie Jenkins, Headteacher at St Mary's CEVCP, Benhall who is leaving at the end of the spring term.

Training on monitoring: getting the balance right - Thursday 24 June, 7.15 - 8.30pm

Governors need to know and understand their individual schools and how the school is performing in terms of attainment, progress and safeguarding as well the Christian Ethos. This new course will cover:

- how to find information so governors have an accurate whole picture of the school;
- established official monitoring ideas and what they tell us;
- exploring less obvious ways to find out about vision and values which need monitoring but are harder to measure and quantify;
- ways for governors to share the load and play to individual strengths and avoid possible pitfalls; and
- ways to develop a practical system that works collectively for both governors and their particular school.

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

CofEPQH Presentation - Tuesday 23 March

To complete his Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship, Darren Gates, Head at St Matthew's CofE Primary School, Ipswich, must give a 15 minute presentation to his peers and diocesan colleagues. In the presentation, Darren will share his journey and how his learning throughout the CofEPQH- in particular his understanding and application of the CofE vision for education- has helped him to lead his school community. The title of Darren's presentation is: Leadership through love: "Whatever you do, do it with all your heart".

You are warmly invited to attend Darren's presentation on Tuesday 23 March at 4.00 - 4.45pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#). For more on the CofEPQH, please click [here](#).

News from the Church of England

SIAMS - Two new senior appointments have been made within the National Education Team to lead the new framework for SIAMS which comes into effect from September 2021. For more, please click [here](#).

Faith at Home -the CofE's national campaign to support the faith development and pastoral care of children and young people. Resources and activities are available on different themes aimed at school leaders, parents and church leaders.

For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Head, 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 and make sure that we are available for dates for shortlisting and interviews.



Spring Dance Company

presents PARABLE, a new professional performance and integrated workshop providing schools with a chance to boost children's engagement with RE. For further details, click [here](#).



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 on special offer - £14 for 10 instead of the usual £22.50. Please click [here](#) for more including tips for using It's Your Move during lockdown.

Easter Collective Worship resources have just been published. For more, please click [here](#). Further links to collective worship resources for Easter are available on our website, please click [here](#).



News from the DfE

Schools national funding formula: changes to the sparsity factor in 2022-23 - this consultation seeks views on proposals to provide greater support to small, remote schools through changes to the national funding formula's (NFF) sparsity factor in 2022-23. Deadline is 9 April 2021. For more, please click [here](#).

School governance update - provides the latest government advice to those on governing, trust boards and clerks/governance professionals. Please click [here](#) for the update.

A Prayer for School Leaders as Schools Fully Reopen

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
You know what it takes to live well together,
To form and reform community,
Welcoming, healing, rebuilding and renewing,
Bound together in perfect love.
So we look to you now.

For our students returning to school
After a long time at home -
May they know they are loved, valued and included,
Welcome just as they are, however they feel.

For the students continuing on in our school
After their different experience of learning this term -
May they feel safe and important as their classes fill up,
Adjusting to change and busyness in their space
once again.

For staff moving back into their learning environments
After teaching and supporting all over the place -
May they believe in their power to transform and
inspire,
Knowing their expertise makes a difference to all.

And for ourselves, managing yet more full-scale
change,
After a year of challenge upon challenge upon
challenge,
May we know we're not alone, but surrounded by love,
Connected to so many who walk this path, too.

Draw us together with a hope that is real,
Rebuild our school upon your cornerstone,
Mend any disconnections with your infinite love,
And renew our community to shine once again.

For our children, For our staff,
For our families, For our governors,
For our communities and also for ourselves -
We look to you now, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen

Let's Share the Easter Story like never before

The Real Easter Egg is the only Easter Egg which has an Easter story book, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. For schools, inside the Easter story books there is a chance to win £200 worth of book tokens. For more, click [here](#).

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

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