

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



March 2025

News from the Diocese

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. We aim to provide news and information, to share good news stories from schools and to signpost you to training and resources which you may find helpful. We are looking forward to our Big Sing at the cathedral on Tuesday 1 April, when over 500 children from 15 schools will be taking part. Our theme is Easter hope, appropriately in this season of Lent as we look forward to Easter.

We are always seeking to develop our support for schools. Here are a few updates.

We encourage schools to help children develop a deep understanding of issues of global justice, to use **Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Scheme** and to apply for one of their awards. Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP, Framlingham** which has become the first school in the diocese to gain a Bronze Award.

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has become one of the first in the country to partner with Christian Aid as an official [Global Neighbours Partner Diocese](#). This formalises the already close working relationship between the diocese and Christian Aid. Global Neighbours is an accreditation scheme developed by Christian Aid and the Church of England National Society for Education, awarding schools for outstanding global citizenship education. Tim Burdon, Global Neighbours Development Coordinator at Christian Aid, says: 'It is fantastic to be in partnership with the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. By working together in this way we will be able to enhance opportunities for children and young people across the diocese to become active global citizens and courageous advocates for justice.'

Schools can get 10% off the cost of Global Neighbours by using the code GNPARTNER10 when making payment. For the new website for Global Neighbours, please click [here](#).

From 1 April 2025, we will include **governor training** as part of our subscription scheme, so that there is no additional cost

Summer Forums

For Headteachers
Thu 1 May, 1.30pm

For Small Schools
Mon 9 June, 4pm

**For Chairs of
Governors**
Thu 26 June, 4pm

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



School Visits - Cathedral

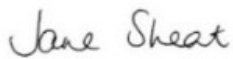
The Learning Hub at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds has a dedicated team who work with all schools when they visit. For more information, please click [here](#). To contact the Learning Hub please [email](#).

to schools or governors for attending training. Governors are free to attend as many courses as they wish. We hope that this will encourage governors to attend.

Rachel Cutts is currently updating the **Emmanuel Project** resources, with the help of a writing team, starting with the Early Years units. Please see below for more information.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help at all. May you celebrate the joy of Easter and enjoy a well-earned break when the school holidays arrive.

With all good wishes,



Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

Easter prayer

May God of the Easter garden
bless in every season of the heart.
May God of the mountainside bless in time set apart.
May God of the beach bless whether tides ebb or flow.
May God of the upper room
bless my doubt that I may know
afresh the deep love of God
that is stronger than death.
Amen.

Source: Tess Ward, The Celtic wheel of the year



Lent Appeal 2025

Every year in Lent, the diocese encourages us to reflect as well as to give. The theme of the Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is 'Bright hope for tomorrow'. If you would like to fundraise, e.g. by having a non-school uniform day, further information is available [here](#).

The Emmanuel Project, produced by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, is a high quality resource which aids primary schools with their RE teaching. It is written by experienced teachers and uses a wealth of research to enable strong RE learning for the classroom. In total, there are 51 units available to schools: including units focused on Buddhism, Christianity, Hindu Dharma, Humanism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhi. Each half termly unit has a key question and a key concept and uses the enquiry cycle to help children explore this key concept.

Schools' Adviser - Vacancy

We are currently advertising for a 0.4fte Schools' Adviser post to work with Rachel Cutts, starting in September 2025. Please see our [website](#) for further details.



Cathedral service

Our annual service for all church schools will take place on **Monday 23 June 2025** at 1.30pm. It would be lovely to see lots of schools there, so please do save the date.

Whilst we know transport costs can be expensive, maybe attending the school service could be part of a day trip to Bury St Edmunds.

If your school would like to take part in the service –e.g. singing a song, reading or praying - please let [Rachel Cutts](#) know by 30 April 2025.

Conference

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



Collective Worship

Rachel Cutts has written new plans which focus on the Fruit of the Spirit, which are available [here](#).

From July 2025, all of the Emmanuel Project resources will be available online via a subscription model. Each school will receive their own log in, which they are free to share with staff in their school setting. Links and accompanying resources will be checked termly by the Diocesan Education Team. Over a three year cycle, each individual unit will receive a full update so that they are in line with the latest research: starting this year, the Early Years units will be rewritten. We strongly believe that the Emmanuel Project will continue to be the go-to resource for RE teachers and urge schools to sign up to the annual subscription. This will be £50 per year, for which we plan to invoice primary schools in July.

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Barnham CEVCP School** and its amazing new altar cloth! The school writes: "Vicar Karen came in to bless the cloth which is something they do in church with new cloths. We were also privileged to have the creator of this amazing work of art, Mrs Berrington in our Collective Worship and we thanked her for her hard work. We were particularly interested to hear how parts of the cloth were made using recycled fabrics including red buttons from our old school uniform and pieces of material from wedding dresses and dance costumes! This is a very special cloth indeed and makes our sacred space and focus very meaningful. We absolutely love it! In the summer term, the children will be making things to add to this space."

Congratulations to **Capel St Mary CEVCP School** on being gifted £200 worth of books by a housing developer and also receiving a new sports kits thanks to local sponsors. The books were to mark World Book Day and cover a range of important topics such as managing emotions, diversity, friendships, and online safety. The new sports kits were used at a recent football tournament at Ipswich Town FC. For the East Anglian Daily Times articles, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

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

Latest Grove Booklet

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:

Using Stories to Encourage Racial Inclusion in Schools by Jane Kelly and Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde. This book offers helpful, practical advice on how stories and narratives can be used to enable all children to feel valued and heard, and to build children's (and adults') awareness and respect for those who are often left out by traditional imagery.



No Place Like Home - Art and Poetry Competition for Schools

Sanctuary Foundation is inviting schools to take part in an exciting art and poetry competition that invites students aged 7-18 to reflect on what life is like for the 43.3 million children around the world who are displaced. Deadline for submissions: Friday 9 May 2025. For more, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Debenham High** which is the second happiest secondary school in Suffolk. This is according to recent analysis, done by the Times, of Ofsted surveys and the results taken from parental survey submissions between 2020-2025. For more please see the [EADT](#).



Year 10 students at the school also had an opportunity to undertake a workshop on how to be advocates for "Progressive Masculinity". They were joined by the BBC to look at the work being undertaken which was shown on Politics East on Sunday 16 March, available to watch on [iPlayer](#) and reported [here](#).

Training programme spring term 2025

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

Leadership/Governance

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

RE/CW

- * Annual RE Subject Leader update
- * Inspirational CW
- * New to RE

SIAMS

- * SIAMS: are you ready?

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

Congratulations to **Elveden CofE Primary** which has had plans approved for a new communications and interaction unit for 18 children with special educational needs at the school. For the Suffolk News article, please click [here](#).

A new partnership between the Elveden Estate and the school located on the estate, will see an experienced chef cook school dinners using, where possible, produce from the estate. For the Suffolk News article, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Old Newton CofE Primary** who as part of Children's Mental health week, dressed in blue and held assemblies and created artwork thinking about their strengths.

Congratulations also to the school on a new classroom building that boasts sustainable design and which will enhance the learning environment for pupils.



Congratulations to pupils at **Rattlesden CofE Primary Academy** who have been learning about Fairtrade.



Gemma Cannon, Head writes: "KS2 pupils received a visit from Richard, our local Fairtrade ambassador. He led an assembly on what fairtrade is and the importance of supporting fairtrade farmers."

Scripture Union - 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 on special offer £20.50 for 10 copies until 31 March 2025.

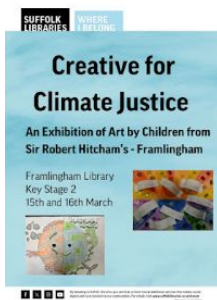
In the ZIP folder of additional downloads, there are a variety of supplementary resources for working with pupils as they look to move to secondary school. For more, please click [here](#).

He then visited each class and played a game where each group represented a different nation with differing amounts of wealth, resources and bartering power. This really brought the idea of Fairtrade and its impact to life. The children were so inspired that they're regularly showing school staff fairtrade items they've found at home or persuaded parents to buy over non-fairtrade.



Beech class have also started work towards a Fairtrade School award.

Congratulations to pupils at **Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP, Debenham** who have been using the school's new postbox to post about a particular injustice that they feel strongly about and what they would like to do to help bring about change. Recently pupils have raised money for the fire department in Los Angeles fighting the wild fires and one pupil is researching the introduction of reader pens to help dyslexic pupils.



Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP, Framlingham**, which has not only become the first school in the diocese to gain a Global Neighbour's Bronze Award, but has also taken part in Christian Aid's [Creative for Climate Justice](#). This supports pupils to explore climate change as an issue of social justice and make artworks to showcase their ideas, and their hopes for a just and sustainable future.



Pupils created artwork and wrote letters to the local library and Business Association to ask about exhibiting their work. The library hosted a gallery of their artwork over two weekends with explanations of how the classes thought about what they wanted. The Business Association invited representatives from the School Council to a meeting to speak on this. One of the pieces of artwork was also sent to the Houses of Parliament for the exhibition there last November. An important lesson for pupils was knowing that their letters had an impact."



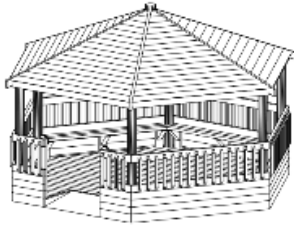
Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA) Free information sessions

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



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 the **Faith Council** at **Sproughton CofE Primary** who have been working on a new prayer area for the school.

The school writes: "We've worked with the Sproughton School Association and managed to raise £9000 to build the prayer area outside in the playground for everyone to use to reflect and pray. A quiet space is important for us as it helps us to be calm, to find peace and to be closer to God. The new 2025 Faith Council will now take over this project as it needs planning permission before we can do it."



Congratulations to **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** which has completed its fundraising project, 40 Ways To Make The World A Better Place, to help Comic Relief celebrate its 40th birthday. The 40 ways have included: visiting care homes, collecting for food banks and charity shops, carrying out litter picks and planting trees, ice cream for breakfast, playing a giant game of hide and seek around the school, surprising local residents with a hokey-cokey flashmob as well as celebrating Christmas 300 days early! For the EADT article, please click [here](#). For the video showing the 40 ways to make a world a better place, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to KS2 pupils at **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School** as their hard work has paid off and the school is through to the Semi-finals of the Suffolk Farming School of the Year.



Congratulations to pupils at **Stonham Aspal Primary** who were visited by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and built a 'minibeast mansion' to encourage the bugs to stay long-term, not just visit for a holiday!

Pupils also planted 75 trees creating a new 17m+ hedge and built a herb planter, as part of the school's ongoing Wilder Schools project. For more about Wilder School Projects, please click [here](#).

Congratulations also to Sycamore Class who raised £400 in their Wilder School Fundraiser for the above project. The school writes: "Lots of delicious cakes were eaten and many pre-loved gifts bought. The children and staff also looked brilliant in their wild outfits! The funds raised reach nearly £400 and will go a long way towards helping the Year 5's in



Dates of interest

Easter Sunday
20 April 2025

Stephen Lawrence Day
22 April 2025

Earth Day
22 April 2025

St George's Day
23 April 2025

World Book Night
23 April 2025

May Bank Holiday
5 May 2025

National Children's Day
18 May 2025

Christian Aid Week
11 May - 17 May 2025

Foster Care Fortnight
12 May - 25 May 2025

Walk to School Week
19 May - 23 May 2025

National Children's Gardening Week
24 May - 1 June 2025

Ascension Day
29 May 2025

Pentecost
8 June 2025



Suffolk Agricultural Association runs a number of events for schools, including the School Farm and Country Fair at Trinity

re-wilding the front of our school with new hedges already purchased and lots of other plans in the pipeline! Sycamore class would like this area to attract new wildlife and to be a space that the whole school community will enjoy."



Congratulations to **Trinity CEVAP School** for this lovely display to mark Candlemas. The school also held a Eucharist service where each class presented an offering during the service, such as paintings, sculptures and bread. The school writes: "Members of our school, local community and the Diocese attended. Rev. Sarah blessed every class and the candles which are used in school during collective worship. We hold a special significance to candles. They are a reminder of something important- the light of Jesus."

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.

Barningham CEVCP	G/G/G/G/G
Hopton CEVCP	RI/RI/G/G/RI

Ungraded inspections

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:

Trinity CEVAP
Bramfield CofE Primary
Tattingstone CEVCP

Evidence gathered during the inspection at the school below suggests that the school's work may have improved significantly across all areas since the previous inspection:

Sproughton CofE Primary

SIAMS inspections

Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary
Tudor CofE Primary, Sudbury

Outcomes

J1
J1

Park, Ipswich on Thursday 24 April. Please click [here](#) for more. The Education Manager is [Hannah Woods](#) at 01473 707118.



A free careers inspiration tool, for helping 12-25 year olds in Norfolk and Suffolk. For more, click [here](#).



Springs Dance Company

Upcoming workshops include:

Creation Project

introduces the Genesis narrative of creation in a fun, inclusive and engaging way through dance;

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](#).



Training for mission & ministry with children, young people & families
Ripon College, Cuddesdon is inviting applications to a new training pathway for mission

Capel St Mary CEVCP J1

St Mary's CofE Primary, Hadleigh J1

Headship Resignations and Retirements

We offer our thanks and best wishes to:

Lauren Moore, Headteacher at Honington CEVCP who leaves at Easter 2025

Steven Palmer, Executive Headteacher at Bramford CEVCP and Somersham CP who leaves at Easter 2025

Lyndsay Allsopp, Headteacher at Ixworth CofE Primary who leaves in the summer

Jo Ling, Headteacher at Crawfords CofE Primary, Haughley who leaves in the summer

Roisin Wiseman, Headteacher at Wilby CofE Primary, who leaves in the summer

Headship Appointments

Congratulations to:

Mrs Sam Goulding who has been appointed Headteacher at Cavendish CEVCP from April 2025

Andrew Frolish, Headteacher at St Mary, Hadleigh who is moving to Capel St Mary CEVCP as Headteacher from Easter 2025

Mrs Jo Whiting who has been appointed Head of School at Hopton CEVCP from Easter 2025

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.

News from the Church of England

National Society for Education

Church of England Education Office is now known as the National Society for Education with a new [website](#).

SIAMS 2025-26

The National Society for Education has published its list of church likely to be inspected during the school year 2025/26. Please click [here](#).

and ministry with children, young people and families, starting in September 2025. The course will integrate students with those on ordination and lay training pathways and lead to qualification validated under Common Awards. Training will include modules in Biblical studies and theology as well as specific programmes related to children and young people. Please click [here](#) for more details of the ethos of the programme. The training is suitable for volunteers and paid workers, of any age, from any denomination and church tradition.

News from DfE

Link between attendance and attainment

14 March 2025

Report showing that school attendance is associated with higher average academic performance in an assessment year across all pupils from all backgrounds. For the report, please click [here](#).

SEN and disability duties: guidance for school governing boards

30 January 2025

Guidance for school governing boards on the board's role and responsibilities supporting pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

For the guidance, please click [here](#).

See also:

Equality Act 2010 and disabled pupils: A guide for governors and trustees

from the Council for Disabled Children, January 2025

For the guidance please click [here](#).



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost (29 May - 8 June) for more people to come to know Jesus. For more, please click [here](#).

Cheeky Pandas and Thy Kingdom Come are partnering together to bring free resources that seek to get children excited about Jesus, the Bible and prayer, and ultimately, help each child build a beautiful life-long relationship with Him... with some panda fun along the way! For more, click [here](#).

News from Ofsted








Testing our proposals to improve education inspections

Alongside the launch of a public consultation on Ofsted's new approach to inspections, they are testing the new approach. For more please click [here](#).

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.

From the Diocesan Education Team

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