

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 2026

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

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. There are a number of useful organisations which support schools.

The government's White Paper on SEN and school reform was finally published on 23 February. For the full document and various commentaries, please see below. Reforms to the SEND system will be far-reaching and phased in over time, with most expected to take effect from 2029. In the meantime, the existing statutory framework of EHCPs will continue so that pupils do not lose provision. A layered system of support will come in, with national standards for inclusion and schools expected to adopt an inclusion strategy. Whilst additional funding for mainstream inclusion is welcome, given the huge increase in costs in recent years, there will need to be sufficient funding both to build capacity now and to ensure that the transition to the new system is effective.

I just wanted to update you on staffing in the diocesan education team. Interviews were held for the Diocesan Director of Education role on Monday 2 March but no appointment was made. The post is now being re-advertised with a closing date of Monday 6 April and interviews will be held on Monday 27 April. You can see the advert and pack on the diocesan [website](#). Please do have a look, give me a ring if you'd like to discuss informally or share with someone you think might be interested.

In the meantime, very sadly, Sue Todd, Deputy Diocesan Director of Education has been ill and remains off sick at present. Sue has decided to resign, following several bouts of illness in the last year. I am immensely grateful to Sue for her service over the past five years and know that you will join me in wishing Sue well. We will circulate a card for Sue to Headteachers. In the meantime, please direct any queries you would have sent to Sue to me.

 RE AND CW NEWS
FROM YOUR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' ADVISERS

For the latest RE and CW newsletter, please click [here](#). This includes links to new resources and spiritual development practices in Lent.

The next RE and CW network meeting takes place on **Wednesday 25 March**, 4pm via Zoom. To book, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).

Forums in the summer term

For Headteachers

Thu 30 Apr, 1.30pm

For Small Schools

Thu 21 May, 4pm

For Chairs of Governors

Tue 23 Jun, 4pm

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

I am very aware that this represents quite a change in staffing within our team. It does, however, give us an opportunity to look at roles within the team. We have therefore decided to advertise for a full-time Deputy Diocesan Director of Education and to welcome part-time applicants. Both Sue and Phil worked for three days a week and we will welcome both full- and part-time applicants. We will hold interviews once we have appointed a DDE.



We are very much looking forward to our Big Sing at the Cathedral on Monday 23 March, in partnership with Christian Aid. I am grateful to the writing group which has updated the KS1 units of the Emmanuel project. The new units will be trialled and made available to all subscribing schools in July. Heather Hann will be leading governor training on monitoring - please read on for more information.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help. In the meantime, it is good to see signs of spring all around, new growth in the garden and sunshine to cheer us. Let us make the most of this season of Lent, as we look towards Easter. I hope that the Easter holidays provide some opportunity to celebrate the hope and joy of the Easter season.

With all good wishes from all the team

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

Phil Knowles

Phil, who retired at Christmas, wishes to thank all his colleagues who gave so generously towards a retirement gift. Phil writes: "I am gradually becoming used to a different routine and slower way of life. I am starting to spend more time on my hobbies and interests such as music and spending time out in the open air. I have spent some of the substantial amount of money collected on a really nice Marshall guitar amplifier. Thank you for your kind words and good wishes which I found so very moving and meant so very much to me."

Cathedral: Vacancy

The Cathedral are looking for a Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member. Non-executive members of Chapter ensure that the focus of the Cathedral is the promotion of the Christian faith, maintaining an effective balance between that and its important financial and commercial obligations and ventures. This Chapter Trustee will also sit on the Safeguarding Committee, which meets four times a year. For a full description, please click [here](#). For the volunteer application form, please click [here](#)

Training programme

Courses for the summer term include:

Governance

- * Being a governor
- * Monitoring for governors (see below)
- * RE in church schools

RE/CW

- * Annual RE Subject Leader update
- * CW in our church schools
- * New to teaching RE
- * REfreshers
- * RE Moderation
- * Spiritual development
- * SIAMS training

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

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



Monitoring for Governors training

As well as the general monitoring training which provides an overview of monitoring ideas, we will also be running sessions for governors in the summer term specifically on monitoring and evaluating::

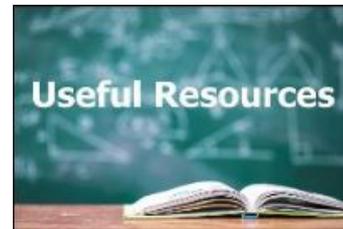
- * [RE](#)
- * [Curriculum](#)
- * [Inclusion](#).

Further information is available by clicking the links above. Governor training is free.



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, please click [here](#). To contact the Learning Hub please [email](#).



Collective Worship

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

News from Schools



The new school curriculum at **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School, Framlingham** is based around the 'Literacy Tree', an award-winning, book-based platform designed for primary schools to deliver the English curriculum. The school writes: "Literacy Tree provides a step-by-step framework with creative activities that develop strong writing skills and inspire imagination. Using the 'Literacy Tree' and a variety of wonderful texts at the centre, we aim to inspire a passion for reading and writing. Our topics are closely linked to our texts, giving purpose to our learning. Literacy Tree also links literacy with other subjects, helping students apply their skills across the curriculum." For more about Literacy Tree, please click [here](#).



Cathedral service

Our annual service to celebrate the work of church schools will take place on **Monday 15 June 2026** at the Cathedral at 1.30pm. Our theme will be Educating for Dignity and Respect.

Congratulations!



Conference

Our annual church school leaders' conference 2026 will take place at Ip-City in Ipswich on **Thursday 19 November 2026**.

For queries about our events, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

Congratulations

to pupils at **Barningham CEVCP School** who held their first ever art exhibition looking at climate justice. Rachel Allen, teacher said: "Seeing the exhibition come together was wonderful — we're so proud of the children. They put a huge amount of thought and effort into the exhibition and showed real maturity in how they approached the subject. With so much misinformation out there, it's important that pupils learn how to think critically and understand where information is coming from. Climate justice helps them see the bigger picture — not just the science, but the social impact and who is most affected. It encourages them to question, to care, and to form their own informed opinions rather than just accepting what they see online. The whole process has been a very positive experience for the school, and the pupils have enjoyed having the freedom to explore their own ideas and share their opinions through creative work."



Dates of interest

[Easter Sunday](#)

5 April 2026

[Earth Day](#)

22 April 2026

[Stephen Lawrence Day](#)

22 April 2026

[St George's Day](#)

23 April 2026

[World Book Night](#)

23 April 2026



Congratulations to **St Margaret's CEVAP, Ipswich** which has a new collection of books focused on mental health, donated by Barratt and David Wilson Homes.

This initiative aims to support pupils' wellbeing through resources dedicated to understanding and managing emotions. For the story featured in the EADT, click [here](#).

Congratulations also to St Margaret's pupils for taking part in the NSPCC Buddy's Maths Challenge and raising an impressive £766 for the NSPCC.



Congratulations to pupils at **Cavendish CofE Primary**. The school writes: "What a wonderful afternoon with Chris from iSingPOP! The children learned new songs and dances and explored their faith through music as part of our Lent workshop. Their favourite song was 'I Lift My Hands Up' which thanked and praised God for all He has done for us. There were smiles, singing, and joy all around — a truly uplifting experience for everyone involved!"



Congratulations to **Eyke CofE Primary School** on being awarded Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Silver Award. The school writes: "The accreditation programme celebrates schools which are helping pupils learn about global poverty and giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world. This award reflects the enormous amount of work that all the staff and children do across the curriculum and the dedication of Mrs Headley for amassing the evidence needed for the submission. The children articulated their understanding of global and local issues beautifully and showed real care and compassion for the world." For the Global Neighbours school assessment report, please click [here](#). For more about the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme, please click [here](#).

May Bank Holiday
4 May 2026

Christian Aid Week
10 May - 16 May 2026

National Children's Day
10 May 2026

Foster Care Fortnight
11 May - 24 May 2026

Walk to School Week
18 May - 22 May 2026

National Children's Gardening Week
23 May – 31 May 2026

Ascension Day
14 May 2026

Pentecost
24 May 2026



Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA)

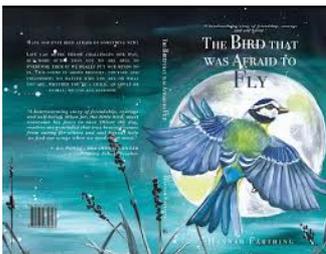
The AYLA is a fully resourced leadership and character education programme designed to be delivered by teaching staff within the classroom. Available at KS1 through to Post 16. The AYLA has strong links to SMSC, British Values, PSHE, Character Education, Citizenship, RE, and SIAMS. For further information, please click [here](#).

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 click [here](#)



Congratulations to **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary School** on its new Zen Den. The school writes: "We are proud to have opened our new 'Zen Den' wellbeing room for both our school and the wider community. This calm and welcoming space offers children the opportunity to spend time individually, in pairs or small groups, providing vital support for pupils experiencing anxiety, emotional or mental health needs, or simply those who need a quiet moment away from the busy school day. The Zen Den has been made possible thanks to the generous support of our local community, including our PTFA and the Tesco Sure Start scheme. This term, the space will also be used by the local community to host the Hamish and Milo Families Together programme, bringing families together each week to share experiences, support one another and strengthen wellbeing across our community."



Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP, Debenham** which welcomed local author and illustrator Hannah Farthing and her dog Oliver into school in February.

The school writes: "the children were fully engaged as she read parts of her book and listened attentively throughout the session. She explained how she gets her ideas for writing and how she illustrates her books, giving the children a real insight into the creative process. The visit proved to be a great source of inspiration. Following the session, the children produced some fantastic work, including imaginative stories and detailed character descriptions. It was wonderful to see their creativity and enthusiasm for writing shine through." For the story, featured in the EADT, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to **St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall** on its very first school book, Little Bird, illustrated by the children and Mrs Torbitt, and launched earlier this month. Roxanne Rutter, Headteacher writes: "Every child has



Springs Dance Company - Primary School RE & PSHE Workshops

Springs Dance Company offers active and inclusive dance workshops that help pupils explore RE and PSHE topics in a creative and engaging way. Sessions link directly to curriculum themes and are designed to fit easily within a normal school day.

Workshop themes available:

- **You Are Special** – Inspired by Max Lucado's book, exploring self-esteem, self-worth and how we treat others.
- **Creation** – A creative exploration of the Genesis creation story and questions about the world, God as creator, and our relationship with creation as stewards.
- **The Good Samaritan** – Exploring Jesus' parable through movement, focusing on kindness, compassion, and living well in a diverse and multi-faith society.

Now booking for Spring–Summer 2026 and beyond. For more, please click [here](#).

News from the Church of England

Flourishing for All
New guidance to support schools with preventing and tackling bullying towards those with special educational needs and disabilities has been published. For more, please click [here](#).

contributed to our school book and it beautifully reflects our shared values of love, joy, wisdom and hope. The book launch was a huge success and we made a good amount of money - with an offer of a grant from local councillors. But more importantly - people were proud of the school!"

Congratulations also to Y5 pupils who recently spent the morning at a local care home. The school writes: "the children shared some of their favourite stories by reading to the residents. It was lovely to see everyone with smiles on their faces as they shared books."



Congratulations to **Trinity CEVAP School** which has achieved the myHappyMind Bronze Accreditation. This status recognizes the school's commitment to embedding a science-backed, NHS-supported wellbeing culture for its entire community. For more about myHappyMind, please click [here](#).

Good luck to Mike Chauffour, Y6 teacher at Trinity who is tackling the 250km Marathon des Sables in aid of East Anglia's Children's Hospices in April. For more on this story, featured in the EADT, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Worlingworth CofE Primary** who raised nearly £1,000 for a new water tank in Tanzania. Originally aiming for a target of £400, pupils raised money through a host of fundraising activities - including cake sales, a walking challenge and a Christmas jumper day - after the school council chose to support the campaign. A cheque was presented to Bishop Darlington Bendankeha of Kagera who visited the school, along with Bishop Godfrey Mbelwe of Lweru and Bishop Vithalis Yusuph of Biharamulo. Sophie Savage, Head of School, said: "It was a really exciting opportunity for the children to meet the bishops and to be able to make a direct link with the people of Kagera, who they had worked hard to fundraise for. It was a proud moment for them when they handed over the cheque for nearly £1,000. They cannot wait to see the finished water tank installed and

News from DfE

Every child achieving and thriving

Reforms to the schools and SEND systems in England to ensure that every child can achieve and thrive.

Please click on the titles below to read more

[White paper](#)

To respond to the SEN consultation, please see [Consultation](#) - responses by 18 May 2026

[NGA summary](#)

[LGA briefing](#)

[Schools week article](#)

News from Ofsted

Renewed education inspection framework

All inspector training videos about the renewed education inspection framework are now published for transparency. Please click [here](#).

Ofsted blog

For the latest from Ofsted, including **How we consider complaints about schools** please click [here](#).

From other organisations



Place2Be's Parenting Smart offers free, expert-led practical advice for parents and carers of 4-11 year olds, including articles and videos on managing behavior, mental health, and emotional wellbeing. The site features evidence-based tips on topics like anxiety,

to know that they have demonstrated all our Rainbow Values to help others in another country."

Recent Ofsted outcomes

School Name	Chelmondiston CofE Primary	Thorndon CofE Primary
Achievement	Strong	Expected
Attendance and behaviour	Strong	Strong
Curriculum and teaching	Strong	Strong
Early years	Strong	Strong
Inclusion	Strong	Strong
Leadership and governance	Strong	Strong
Personal development and wellbeing	Strong	Strong

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.

Bures CEVCP
Old Newton CofE Primary

Headship resignations

We offer our thanks and best wishes to the following Headteachers:

- Julia Walters, Headteacher at Palgrave CofE Primary who leaves at 31 August 2026; and
- John Crane, Headteacher at Morland CofE Primary, Ipswich who leaves at 31 August 2026.

For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane 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

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

screen time, and routines to help strengthen parent-child relationships. For more, please click [here](#).

DDMIX (Diverse Dance Mix) is a series of lesson plans, videos, audios and resources for teachers to use support positive mental health through movement and creativity. For more, please click [here](#).



The RHS Campaign for School Gardening

A comprehensive digital hub designed to help schools integrate plants and growing into their daily learning. There are free downloadable lesson plans and activity sheets that link gardening to core subjects like Science, Maths and Art. For more, please click [here](#).



Anna Freud Mentally Healthy Schools

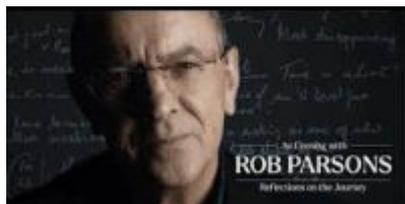
offers free, evidence-based resources to support mental health in schools, aiming to help staff identify and address pupil needs early. For more, please click [here](#).



The **WISDOM Research Network** (Working In Schools to Deliver on Mental health) is a collaborative initiative based at the University of Oxford, designed to bridge the gap between academic research and school practice. For more, please click [here](#).

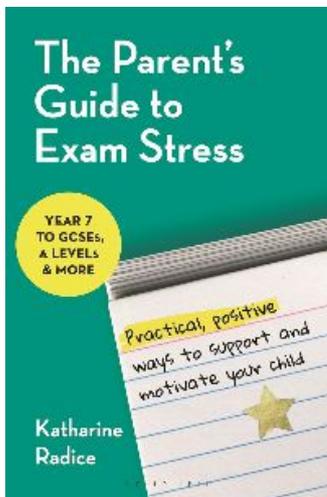


Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost (14 - 24 May) for more people to come to know Jesus. This year's Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit. For more, click [here](#). Cheeky Pandas and 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](#).



Reflections on the journey: An evening with Rob Parsons

organised by Care for the Family
Step into the untold stories from Rob's lifetime of overcoming obstacles, letting go of childhood labels and discovering that the past doesn't have to define us. Rob will be speaking at The Space in Norwich on Tues 28 April and Beacon Church, Bury St Edmunds, Wed 29 April. For more and to book, please click [here](#)



The Parent's Guide to Exam Stress: Practical, Positive Ways to Support and Motivate Your Child is a comprehensive toolkit released in March 2026 for parents navigating the pressures of modern schooling. Aimed at parents of children from Year 7 (KS3) through to A-levels (Year 13). For more, please click [here](#).

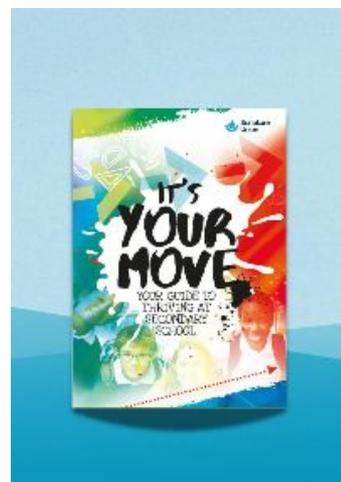
News from YOUR School

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.



YPO (Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation)

is a major UK-based public sector buying organisation which offers procurement expertise. For more, please click [here](#).



Scripture Union - it's your move - A fun and friendly guide to moving to secondary school. This 80 page book includes features on getting to school, doing homework and finding your way around and also covers some of the more difficult aspects of life at secondary school including making friends and bullying. This book makes an ideal gift for Year 6 pupils. Currently on special offer £27.50 for 10 copies. There are a variety of supplementary resources for working with pupils as they look to move to secondary school. For more, please click [here](#)

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