

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



May 2025

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

As we approach half term, this newsletter brings you news and information from across the diocese. After the success of the Big Sing at the cathedral in April (see below), we are very much looking forward to welcoming children, staff, governors and parents to our annual cathedral service on Monday 23 June at 1.30pm. The theme this year is community: living well together. This is one of the four aspects of the Church of England's [vision for education](#). iSingPOP will be working with schools to teach them songs and we will all come together for a glorious celebration.

It was a joy to celebrate 150 years of education at Dennington CofE Primary School earlier this month (see below). Many schools took part in VE day celebrations.

We hope that SATs went smoothly last week and that GCSEs are going well for our secondary pupils.

I am delighted to let you know that following interviews for our new part-time post of Diocesan Schools Adviser, we have successfully appointed Victoria (Tor) Bush. Tor currently teaches at Barrow CEVCP School and will take up the post in September. Tor has been doing some work for us this year with a small group of church schools on spirituality. We look forward to welcoming Tor to the team.

I recently read Jonathan Haidt's book, The Anxious Generation, which makes a compelling case for a smartphone-free childhood. He describes how parents increasingly over-protect in the real world and massively under-protect in the virtual world by giving children a smartphone. He highlights a survey of young people which revealed how they wished that their parents had not given them a smartphone until they were older, and that they had limited screentime. A growing body of evidence is pointing to the risks to children's mental health and the need for strong school policies (see below for Children's Commissioners report).

Summer Forums

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](#)



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](#).

May I draw your attention to several charities listed below which I believe may be of interest? iSingPOP provides lively worship songs, Little Troopers lots of resources for the children of services families, KICK a range of PE and sports activities and Greener Growth biodiversity projects, gardens and outdoor areas.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

I hope you are able to enjoy a break over May half-term.

With all good wishes from all the team

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education



Big Sing - Cathedral

Over 500 pupils and adults from 15 church primary schools filled the Cathedral on 1 April for a Big Sing. This special service, with a theme of 'Easter hope', was organised by the Diocesan Education team in partnership with Christian Aid. The children sang songs specially commissioned by

Christian Aid to raise awareness of issues of global justice. Pupils from six of the schools spoke about how they are taking action to tackle injustice, some leading prayers and some singing a special rap! Alex Cassidy from Christian Aid spoke about the charity's vital work in creating a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Founded 80 years ago in the aftermath of the Second World War, Christian Aid continues to provide long term development support as well as emergency relief across the world.

Christian Aid has recognised the Diocesan Board of Education's outstanding commitment to Global Citizenship Education and Alex presented a certificate celebrating our status as a Global Neighbours partner diocese.



It is a pleasure to work with Christian Aid. We commend their [Global Neighbours scheme](#) to all our schools. It supports children to learn about how they can help to make the world a better place.



Conference

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



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](#).

Webinar: Emmanuel Project 2025 EYFS units

Thursday 10 July, 4pm

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the Emmanuel Project resources will be available online via a subscription model from July 2025. This webinar will provide an introduction to the EYFS units which have been rewritten. Further details will be sent out after half-term.

Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School** in **Framlingham** which is the first school in Suffolk to win a Bronze award. The Big Sing is a joyful celebration of children's voices. We are already looking forward to next year!

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Clare Lamb, Headteacher at **All Saints' CEVCP, Lawshall** who attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace recently.



Congratulations to **Dennington CofE Primary** on the 150th anniversary of its opening which it celebrated in style! The school writes: "We held a service of thanksgiving at the Church and heard from past and present students about their time at the school. We then had a celebration at school with a Victorian fairground on the field with a carousel and steam train, an exhibition of school memorabilia and maypole dancing. A big thank you to all who came to celebrate with us, those who helped organise the day and everyone who donated money towards a new library and sensory room. It was lovely to see everybody!"



Congratulations to **Barrow CEVCP** which celebrated Easter on the first day of term, as Holy Week fell so late in April. Tor Bush, Teacher writes: "It was a wonderful day, full of imagination and creativity!"

Children learnt more about the Bible story, responded with writing, drawing, sculpture and even a paper patchwork along the theme of 'Hope' - light in the darkness. Thank you to Rev Nicola and Annie Throssell for hosting a wonderful service and making the families and pupils so welcome in All Saints Church."



Summer courses

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

Leadership/Governance

- * Leading a church school
- * Monitoring for Governors

RE/CW

- * Annual RE Subject Leader update
- * Inspirational CW

SIAMS

- * SIAMS: are you ready?

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



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

Congratulations to KS2 pupils at **Charsfield CofE Primary**, who have been learning all about courageous advocacy. The All Saints Schools Trust writes: "In preparation for the Big Spring Sing at Bury St Edmund's Cathedral on 1 April, we entertained people from the local community at a coffee morning held at the village hall. The pupils sang songs about working together to change our planet and read poems they had written about the environment. We were delighted that over £300 was raised towards Christian Aid."



Congratulations to **Chelmondiston CofE Primary** on a new outdoor area. Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher writes: "This year we have been developing our Early Years Garden."

We wanted to make the most of our wonderful space and create areas to support the provision of our rich curriculum and focus on outdoor learning. It has been a community effort



with parent working parties being involved to help with planting, painting and repairing our stage area. Children have enjoyed planting seeds, filling up our 'Buggingham Palace', watering with harvested water from our new water butt and reading in our new learning shelter."



Congratulations to **Elmsett CofE Primary** on a new outdoor area. Leigh Hilton, Headteacher writes: "After being under water from severe flooding, the EYFS outdoor play area at Elmsett has been renovated using natural materials, helping the play area blend into the beautiful natural environment of Elmsett village."

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 this term. For more information and sign up for a session, please visit www.abyyt.com/events.



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](#).



Little Troopers is a registered charity supporting all children with one or both parents serving in the British Armed Forces (regular or reserve). They offer support, activity sheets and resources tailored for use in schools/. For more, please click [here](#).



The materials were sourced through donations from local businesses and staff gave their free time to build and renovate the area.

We feel it is now an area the pupils enjoy playing in and we plan further renovations this summer to enhance our pupils' Early Years experience."



KICK are a Christian organisation which transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support. They offer values-driven physical education, dance, mentoring, chaplaincy in schools and community KICK Academies to impact a sense of hopelessness. For more, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Elveden CofE Primary** who have been learning all about Lent. Mrs Maguire, Head of School writes: "All pupils created their own Lenten promises. In EYFS & KS1, the children made a prayer bucket and promise tree, where they all wrote little prayers/messages to God about the promises they intended to make.



Greener Growth transforms neglected spaces into vibrant, food-producing, and biodiversity-rich areas. In school environments, they help children develop their understanding of the natural world. For more, please click [here](#).

In KS2, the older children designed Lent crosses with hidden messages inside to God. They wrote about the importance of fasting, prayer and reflection during Lent and what it means to Christians to be able to do this.

Some pupils even made Lenten bracelets with their promises to God on. Finally, each child received a Lent/ Easter booklet and got to complete this lovely booklet in their daily reflection/ peacetime.



During our Easter collective worship, we all got to share our Lent artwork whilst some of us read out our Lent promises too."

It was a pleasure to visit Vauxhall Farm recently. Set in six acres of beautiful countryside between Ipswich and Hadleigh, CYM offers residential and is also able to host PD days and events for staff and pupils. It also provides chaplaincy in schools. For more or to arrange a visit, please contact Simon Scott, CEO at simon@c-y-m.org.uk

CYM's Basecamp is an adventure based residential activity programme nestled in the heart of rural Suffolk for KS2 students. It is designed to strengthen



Congratulations to pupils and staff at **Great Barton CofE Primary** who raised £280.00 for Christian Aid through the efforts of Mrs Mayhew and her choir organising and running a "Hot Cross Bungo" event. Many families took part, dobbing off their numbers and dancing!

Congratulations to **Moulton CEVCP** which set up the reflection table (opposite) before Easter. Debs Shipp, Headteacher writes: "The children have engaged with it so well, adding to their Holy Week box (photos below) gradually – we are really proud of them."



Congratulations to **St Edmundsbury CofE Primary** on its brand new outdoor area. Victoria Cooper, Deputy Head writes: "St Edmundsbury has been working with Breheny Civil Engineering, who have made a large donation of materials for our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) scheme. The children loved taking delivery of the materials and have spent lots of time sifting through top soil for treasures and adding extra mud to their 'mud kitchen' area!"

confidence, teamwork and build a wider understanding of the world whilst meeting key national curriculum learning objectives. For more information, please click [here](#) for the CYM website.



Dates of interest

Child Safety Week

2 - 8 June 2025

World Environment Day

5 June 2025

World Oceans Day

6 June 2025

Pentecost

8 June 2025

- click [here](#) for our Pentecost padlet

Healthy Eating Week

10 - 14 June 2025

Fathers Day

15 June 2025

Refugee Week

16 - 22 June 2025

see also World Refugee Day
20 June

National School Sports Week

16 - 22 June 2025

National Thank a Teacher Day

18 June 2025

World Refugee Day

20 June 2025

Suffolk Day

21 June 2025



We are incredibly grateful for the support of Breheny, who will also be supporting our 'Community Clear-Up Day' on Saturday 10 May, to make further improvements to the play spaces in our school grounds."



Congratulations to **St Gregory CEVC School, Sudbury** which has been recognised with the Class Act Nosey Award for its decade-long efforts in raising money for Comic Relief. For more, please see the EADT article [here](#)

Congratulations also to the school for its VE Day celebrations which included a picnic, singing World War 2 songs and a victory speech from Sir Winston Churchill, who surprised the children by announcing free ice cream for everyone and summoning an ice cream van onto the playground! The celebrations were also featured on ITV Anglia Tonight. For more, please click [here](#).

Final **congratulations** to Y1 teacher, Mrs Harries who ran the London Marathon to raise money for the school. For more, please click [here](#). Also to pupils who took part in the mini London marathon.



Congratulations to **St Margaret's CEVCAP, Ipswich** which has been chosen to be a Lead School for the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub.

This is a great honour and the school will be working closely with the hub and supporting a 'music for all' culture with more schools in the future. For more, please click [here](#).

Congratulations also to the Upper School Choir, who received a glowing report from the adjudicator at the recent Music for Youth Regional Festival at Snape Maltings Concert Hall.

Final **congratulations** to the school for receiving the Computing Quality Mark which is awarded by the National Centre for Computing Education and recognises excellence of computing education offered by a school as part of their curriculum development through the Computing Quality Framework. For further information about the award, please click [here](#).

Springs Dance Company

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](#).



Rise Theatre's Treasure

Within is a new theatre production & interactive day for primary schools which follows a school child who is set a unique homework assignment - to find 7 treasures (Catholic Social Teaching principles), in 7 different locations, and apply them to their own lives. With a modern treasure map (a tablet), the child invites the school to join them as they search for these treasures in some unlikely places such as in a junk shop, library, science museum and even a journey with some familiar Saints! For more, please click [here](#).



School phone policies in England

Findings from the Children's Commissioner's School and College Survey, published 10 April 2025. For further details, please click [here](#).

News from DfE



Congratulations to Y5 at **St Peter & St Paul's CofE Primary, Eye** who visited The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham as part of their RE Pilgrim topic. The All Saints Schools Trust writes: "Pupils spent time looking at the Lonely Arch and lighting candles in the Holy House as they said silent prayers."

It was a spiritual experience for us all and Father Guy and Ley Elder joined us. In Nursery, our youngest pupils learnt how some people in India celebrate the beginning of Spring. They talked about the Hindu festival of 'Holi', also called 'the festival of colour', where powdered paint is used in the celebrations! The children used powdered paint and broomsticks outside to create a beautiful explosion of colour! They dressed up in traditional Indian dress and danced to Indian music. The children chose from a selection of Indian 'kurti' and used coloured scarves to express themselves."



Congratulations to seven schools which were given the opportunity to visit a pop up planetarium at **Stoke By Nayland CofE Primary School**. Kelly McGrath, Head writes: "The event was funded by the Ogden Trust. Year 5 pupils from **Long Melford, Hartest, Beaumont, Hadleigh St Marys, Bildeston, Whatfield** and **Stoke By Nayland Primary Schools** all had an opportunity to visit and explore the planetarium and listen to a fascinating talk about the planets. The children said "I loved it when the planets moved over the top it felt like we were flying", "Best day ever!", "Wow, there is so much about space that we don't know".

Congratulations to Years 4/5/6 at **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary** who took part in a performance of The Firebird at Snape Maltings last term. Kelly McGrath, Head writes: "Upon arrival pupils were booked in by the Youth Concert team and were sent into the concert hall to watch the rehearsals of the

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024: policy summary

Contains information on the measures within the bill and sets out: what the government aims to achieve through each measure; why we need the legislation; effects of the legislation; and how the legislation will work in practice. Please click [here](#) for the [summary](#).

News from the Church of England

SIAMS 2025-26

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

SIAMS Survey for schools and trusts

The CofE National SIAMS team are inviting church schools and Trusts to complete a short SIAMS survey. The survey is available from the link below and will take no longer than 10 minutes to complete: [SIAMS 2025 Survey for Schools and Trusts](#)
Deadline is 5pm on Friday 13 June.

Flourishing for All: Anti-bullying Guidance for Church of England Schools (updated April 2025)

In March 2025, new guidance on preventing and tackling race-based bullying was added as part of the CofE ongoing commitment to addressing all forms of bullying in Church schools. Further sections will continue to be developed to support schools in fostering environments where all pupils and staff can belong, achieve, and flourish. The guidance was updated in April 2025, following the publication of a judgment from the Supreme Court. For the updated guidance, please click [here](#).

Norfolk Symphony Youth Orchestra. Goodness me they were sooo loud but it was utterly amazing. Once more schools had arrived it was time for us to rehearse. We were invited up on stage to join approximately 200 other children alongside the Norfolk Symphony Youth Orchestra. We rehearsed our section with our amazing teacher Mrs Chadwick supporting us on stage alongside the official conductor. It was just so exciting. The piece we have been learning finally came alive and meant so much more with the whole orchestra playing it.

Rehearsals ended and we had time for lunch and a run out in the sunshine. Then we went back inside ready to perform to a live paying audience!

We settled on stage and waited. Finally we were playing and it was utterly amazing. The adjudicator said "it was the most original and unusual version of Firebird I've ever heard but it worked, gave me goosebumps and I'll remember it forever" Truly all of the children from all of the schools were utterly amazing and what a fantastic opportunity to play at Snape Maltings." Stoke by Nayland have now got through to perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall on 11 July.

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.

Stutton CofE Primary

G/G/G/G/G

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:

Nacton CofE Primary

Palgrave CofE Primary

Eyke CofE Primary

SIAMS inspections

Outcomes

Stowmarket: Trinity CEVAP

J1

Headship Resignations and Retirements

We offer our thanks and best wishes to:

Rebecca Leek, Interim Headteacher at Kelsale CEVCP who leaves in the summer.

Headship Appointments

Congratulations to:

Diane Fawcett, appointed Headteacher at Bramford CEVCP and Somersham Primary from 1 September 2025

Christianity as a Global World Faith

The National Society for Education (formerly the Church of England Education Office) has developed resources on Christianity as a Global World Faith. Watch this space for training as part of our training programme next school year.

Net Zero

We're delighted to launch a new animation which is aimed at encouraging schools to take the first steps to lower their carbon emissions. We are seeking to inspire and to encourage CofE schools to sign up to a vision of Net Zero Carbon schools for the benefit of the whole school community, to conserve the environment and to enable the planet to flourish for future generations.

Schools have an important role to play in all aspects of sustainability including reducing our environmental footprint and tackling climate change shows communities we hear young people and their concerns.

The animation is accompanied by a new digital guide which sets out a pathway for schools, offering simple tips and steps to take as they begin their journey to net zero carbon. The animation can be viewed [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

Michelle Boyd, Headteacher at Bardwell CofE Primary, who is moving to Honington CEVCP as Headteacher from September 2025

Marie Bird, Assistant Head at Barnham CEVCP, who is moving to Ixworth CofE Primary as Headteacher from 1 September 2025

Nicola Johnson who has been appointed Headteacher at Kelsale CEVCP from September 2025

Simon Hipwell who has been appointed Headteacher at Wilby CofE Primary from September 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.

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 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.

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 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

Jane Sheat Diocesan Director of Education	Mob: 07884 232231	jane.sheat@cofesuffolk.org	
Sue Todd Deputy Diocesan Director of Education	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07917 390362	sue.todd@cofesuffolk.org	
Rachel Cutts Schools' Adviser	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07955 279988	rachel.cutts@cofesuffolk.org	
Tor Bush Schools' Adviser		v.bush@barrowcevcpprimaryschool.co.uk	
Daniel Jones Buildings Officer	Tel: 01473 298532 Mob: 07920 050407	daniel.jones@cofesuffolk.org	

Phil Knowles School Effectiveness Officer	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07551 122311	philip.knowles@cofesuffolk.org	
Jacqui Studd Administrator	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07485 348883	jacqui.studd@cofesuffolk.org	

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Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
4 Cutler Street
Ipswich, Sfk IP1 1UQ
United Kingdom

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