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 SUFFOLK

July 2026

News from the Diocese



Dear colleagues,

I am writing this, my last newsletter as Diocesan Director of Education. It is 40 years since I moved to Suffolk after graduation and 16 since I joined the diocese. I have so many happy memories of working with church schools throughout Suffolk.



It was a pleasure to see so many Headteachers and Chairs of governors at the Bishop's afternoon tea last week. I am so grateful for the kind words and generous gifts.

The role has been about service and support and it has been a huge privilege.

There have been many changes, not least in the academy landscape, with 64% of our church schools now academies. There have also been 11 Secretaries of State in that time and education remains as political now as it has been at any time. Please know that you are part of the family of Church of England schools which together educate 1 million children across England. As a team we are part of a network of support for schools which lobbies the DfE, works with our local authority and seeks to develop resources and training which will help all our church schools to flourish.

On that note, I am pleased to share our training programme for next year. Our updated Key Stage 1 Emmanuel Project resources are now available. Huge thanks to Tor Bush and the writing group. Please see below.

Forums 2026-27

For Headteachers
Tue 29 Sept, 1.30pm
Wed 20 Jan, 1.30pm
Mon 26 April, 1.30pm

For Small Schools
Tue 13 Oct, 4pm
Tue 2 Feb, 4pm
Tue 18 May, 4pm

For Chairs of Governors
Thur 26 Nov, 4pm
Tue 16 Mar, 4pm
Thur 24 June, 4pm

The Forums are free, via Zoom. To book email: Jacqui Studd

RE and CW Networks 2026-27

For RE and CW leaders/teachers
Mon 16 Nov, 4pm
Thur 11 March, 4pm
Tue 6 July, 4pm

The Networks are free. Autumn and spring term networks will be via Zoom and the summer term in person. To book email: Jacqui Studd

Drew Quayle's email is now set up and you can email him at drew.quayle@cofesuffolk.org. Drew starts as DDE on Tuesday 1 September. I am delighted to confirm that our new Deputy Diocesan Director of Education is Emma Lea, currently Headteacher at Boxford CEVCP School. Emma will start work full-time in January 2027.

It was a joy to see the cathedral full of children at our annual service for church schools on 15 June. iSingPOP again led workshops in schools, teaching pupils songs which they sang on the day.

Prayer

Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
He has a purpose in your being there.
Christ, who indwells you, has something He wants to do through you where you are.
Believe this and go in His grace and love and power.
Amen

With all good wishes for a restful summer and for the future,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

News from the Diocese

Together We Are Listening is an invitation to everyone in the diocese to engage in a rhythm of prayer throughout the process of listening and discernment that will shape our future strategy. For further information and to take part, please click here.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!
Launch of the new KS1 Emmanuel Project Units

The new year 1 and 2 Emmanuel Project units are now live! The 12 refreshed units and supporting materials are available now via The Emmanuel Project website. If your school is not yet subscribed to the new website, information on how to do so can be found via the same link.

The units now have:

- The plan (NEW format)
- Knowledge Organiser
- Assessment Grid



Annual 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

Statement of Entitlement for RE
The National Society for Education has published a new **Statement of Entitlement for RE in Church schools (2026)** which details the expectations for RE in Church of England schools.

More information is available on the NSE website. If you've got any questions, please do let us know.



For the latest RE and CW newsletter, please click here This includes information on the right to withdraw and a spiritual development activity.



The Diocesan RE and Collective Worship model policies have been updated following new guidance on the right to withdraw. Please click on the links below for more.
Diocesan RE Model policy

Diocesan CW model policy

Grove Book:

- Quick Quizzes
- Hexagon Solo Taxonomy Assessment
- NEW in KS1 units: Emmanuel Road School Children
- NEW in KS1 units: Slide Decks
- NEW in KS1 units: Substantive knowledge check quizzes

Please note that the KS1 PENTECOST unit has now been retired. Please refer to the website and update your own documents accordingly. The Education Team is happy to support if there are any questions. Please contact Victoria Bush Victoria.Bush@cofesuffolk.org.

Please take a few minutes to look through these and become familiar with the changes ready for September 2026.

Thank you to all the teachers who took part in the writing, trialling and feedback phases which has shaped the units and St. Philip's Centre in Leicester for providing their expertise and advice.

We are looking for teachers with an interest in developing their R.E. knowledge and ideally have experience teaching years 3 and 4 to join our next phases of writing the LKS2 units in January 2027. Please contact Victoria Bush Victoria.Bush@cofesuffolk.org to register your interest.

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

Congratulations to the Diocesan MAT on its recent NPQ inspection.

NPQ Cohort 10 applications opened on 23 June, for the Church of England NPQs. As a Delivery Partner, the Diocesan MAT will be running NPQSL and NPQSENCO.

There are a number of funded places available for all schools for NPQH, NPQSENCO and NPQSL.

The following courses will also be funded for those in PP50 eligible schools: NPQEL, NPQLT, NPQLBC, NPQLTD and NPQLPM.

For more information and to apply, please visit: https://www.nse.org.uk/npq

Any queries then please contact Heather Hann, heather.hann@cofesuffolk.org

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News from Schools

Congratulations!





Theologically-rooted Leading, Teaching and Learning

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:

Theologically-rooted Leading, Teaching and Learning

This helpful book explores how and why a much more profound and attractive Christian education can be delivered in an age of widespread unbelief.



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.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

The Big Future

The Children's Commissioner has launched the Big Future survey to gather the views, hopes, and concerns of children and young people across England. It is designed to take just 5–10 minutes to complete. For more, click here.



Congratulations to **Worlingworth CofE Primary School** which recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. Pupils took part in a special afternoon on 3 July with a performance all about the school's history and then a garden party with cream teas and some music. Pupils had learnt lots of songs from the decades and danced energetically! The whole community came together to celebrate a joyful event. Congratulations to all the staff and pupils.



Congratulations to **Barnham CEVCP** which held a David Attenborough Day to celebrate Sir David's 100th birthday. We featured the planting of trees in the school ground in the last newsletter but there were further events. Pupils created beautiful artwork celebrating the wonders of the natural world for a Nature Art Exhibition which can be seen here.

The Animal Experience visited and pupils were able to touch and hold a meerkat, tenrec, blue-tongued skink, royal python, chinchilla and a tortoise! Pupils were also delighted to meet Heidi the pony.

The celebrations also featured a wide range of hands-on environmental activities designed to inspire curiosity and care for nature. Pupils also planted wildflowers, built bug hotels and took part in wildlife spotting during a trailer ride across fields.



An international highlight of the day saw children connect via Teams with Bruce from Peace Parks Foundation in Mozambique, giving pupils an insight into wildlife conservation work taking place across Africa's national parks. The school was also delighted to welcome author and conservationist Kate Stephenson, who shared her experiences and passion for protecting the environment.



Congratulations to **Cavendish CofE Primary School** which has a new Peace Garden. The school writes: "On 21 May, our school community gathered with Reverend Mark to bless our newly created Peace Garden. This special occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on how fortunate we are to

Training programme 2026-27 NEW
Our training programme for the next academic year is now available on the Diocesan website.

Courses in the autumn term include:

Leadership/Governance
* Being a Governor
* Leading a church school

RE/CW
* CW in our church schools
* New to RE leadership
* New to teaching RE
* Science and RE
* Spiritual development

Ofsted/SIAMS
* Ofsted training
* SIAMS training
* SIAMS and RE

Wellbeing
* for Headteachers

To book, or for any queries, please contact Jacqui Studd

st elizabeth hospice

Dying to Talk
St Elizabeth Hospice offer a free specialised one day training course designed to equip schools with the knowledge and skills to provide compassionate and effective support to children and young people who are bereaved. For more, please click here.



Bereavement books and guidelines
The Diocesan guidelines aim to offer clear suggestions for

have a dedicated space where our children can learn, love, and belong.

The Peace Garden beautifully reflects our Christian vision, *"Create a pure heart in me" (Psalm 51:10)*, providing a peaceful environment where children and adults alike can pause, reflect, pray, and nurture their spiritual wellbeing. As a school, we seek to live out this vision through our values of learning, loving, and belonging, and the garden offers a tangible space in which these values can flourish.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed their time, support, and generosity to help bring this project to life. Through the strength of our school and wider community, we have created a lasting legacy that will inspire reflection, connection, hope, and growth for many years to come."



Congratulations to **Great Barton CofE Primary Academy** for its recent work on sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Through the active school Eco-Team, participation in the regional Our Schools, Our World program, whole school engagement with a focus each term, pupil voice and leadership and working with partners, the school is striving to reduce its carbon footprint, champion bio-diversity, and empower pupils to be changemakers for a kinder, greener planet.





This has included: coming second nationally in the DigiTally food waste challenge (first place primary school!) and reducing portion sizes and food waste; pupils making their own beeswax wraps and encouraging others to use these;

holding Christian values competitions linked to each of the school's sustainability themes; sharing sustainability work at the Big Sing service; families making Green Christmas pledges; parents and others volunteering to talk to children at the school's Greener Careers Week about how their jobs care for the environment. The school writes: "Our journey is ongoing, but our message is clear: sustainability is not an add-on, it's part of who we are as a school community."

For further details of the school's journey, please click here.

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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.



Dates of interest

Summer Reading Quest
18 July - 31 August 2026

National Read a Book Day
6 September 2026

Roald Dahl Day
13 September 2026

Education Sunday
13 September 2026

International Day of Peace
21 September 2026

Fairtrade Fortnight
21 September - 4 October 2026

Recycle Week
22 - 28 September 2026

National TAs Day
26 September 2026

Black History Month
1 - 31 October

National Poetry Day
1 October 2026

World Animal Day
4 October 2026

World Space Week
4 - 10 October 2026

World Teachers' Day
5 October 2026

Cycle to School Week
5 - 9 October 2026

Dyslexia Week
6 - 12 October 2026

World Food Day
16 October 2026



Congratulations to **King Edward VI School**, Bury St Edmunds which has been recognised for its outstanding commitment to international education, global citizenship and long-term partnership working.

The school has been awarded the prestigious Gold Global School Award by Global School Alliance. Building on its previous Silver Award achievement, the school has continued to embed global learning across the curriculum, expand international partnerships and create life-changing opportunities for students and staff. A major contributor to the school's Gold Global School Award was the success of the China 2026 Leadership & Cultural Exchange programme. For more about the Global School Award, please click here.



Congratulations to pupils at **Moulton CEVCP School** who were inspired by a visit from Playground Proms. Debs Shipp, Headteacher said: "Playground Proms is part of the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub offer and is one of the best things the school has ever done. This two day event in May saw an incredible performance from Graffiti Classics, a string quartet who combined fantastic playing, singing and movement in a truly engaging performance." For more, see Playground Proms on YouTube for free here. Or visit the website here.





Congratulations to **Ringsfield CofE Primary** on the school's new Ethos area. The school writes: "We are delighted with our new Ethos area, creating a welcoming space for our pupils to reflect, and engage with our school vision and values. This was made possible thanks to the fundraising efforts of our PFA, whose ongoing support continues to enrich the experience of every child in our school.'



Congratulations to Y5 pupils at **Rougham CofE Primary** who won gold in the Suffolk Show Garden Competition. The



RE & Dance Workshops for Primary Schools

Springs Dance provide creative and inclusive RE through dance workshops which help boost engagement with RE and bring biblical stories to life.

Now booking for Autumn Term 2026:

- **Creation**
- **A Christmas Story: Refugee**
- **The Nativity Project**

For a limited time, also available in Autumn 2026 is **PARABLE** – an interactive performance answering the question: Who is Jesus and what did he teach in his parables?

For more information, please visit the Springs website here or tel: 07775 628 442

Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to:

Mark Taylor who has been appointed Headteacher at Kelsale CEVCP from 1 September 2026.

For the Attention of Headteachers

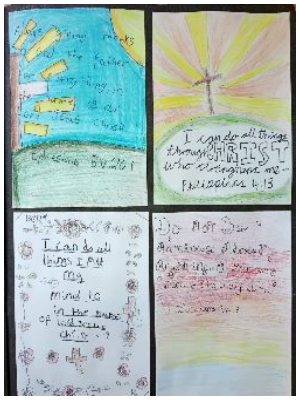
If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. We will attend meetings with your Governors to advise on the headship appointment, alongside the Local Authority. We can be in contact with your Chair of Governors and make sure that we are available for dates for shortlisting

theme for 2026 was "A Garden Showcasing a Flower Themed Song"



Congratulations to Y5 pupils at **Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP, Debenham** who won silver in the Suffolk Show Garden Competition.





Congratulations to pupils at **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP, Framlingham** who have been discovering the meaning of the Eucharist. Pupils explored the Christian understanding of the Eucharist in a Christian living lesson and learned how Christians remember Jesus' Last Supper and why bread and wine are important symbols of His love and sacrifice. To show their learning, they designed their own postcards with messages and drawings about the Eucharist.





Congratulations to **St Edmundsbury CofE Primary Academy** which has been awarded OPAL's Gold Level Accreditation. Victoria Cooper, Deputy Head writes: "The school has been working hard on our OPAL provision over the last two years and, at the final audit last week, we were awarded the Gold Level Accreditation. We are incredibly proud of our Play Team, especially Miss Skinner, who has led the team brilliantly to achieve the gold award. Our school community has also played a huge part in gaining our accreditation and it has been achieved with very little monetary cost.
We did this through volunteer 'community days' where families joined staff in refurbishing our play zones. People have volunteered their time and donated toys and materials to make the award possible. A special thank you to Breheny, who got us started on this journey with huge donations of materials for our sand pit and also tools, such as wheelbarrows and shovels."

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.

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award | National Society for Education

The Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (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 and details of webinars about the AYLA, please click here.

News from the Church of England

The Leaders Like Us programme
An 18-month leadership initiative launched by the Church of England Education Office and the National Society. It is designed to empower and develop aspiring senior leaders from UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) and Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds, with the ultimate goal of progressing into headship and executive leadership roles. For more information, please click here.

Church of England welcomes Government consultation on



Congratulations to pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP, Sudbury** who had not only been promised a trip to the cinema by Hollywood actor, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson but actually met the actor on a trip to London at the end of June. Pupils didn't even know they would be going to London, let alone meeting the movie star and other stars of the Disney movie at a Moana Experience near Tower Bridge. For the BBC news feature, please click here. For more on this story, please click here.

Recent Ofsted outcomes

There have been no published Ofsted inspection reports for our schools since the last newsletter.

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.

Debenham High
St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall
Bramford CEVCP

News from Ofsted

What you need to know about the September 2026 updates to education inspections

Ofsted has published annual updates to the education inspection materials under the renewed education inspection framework (EIF) These updates apply to inspections from September 2026. 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.

Religious Education in the National Curriculum

For more, please click here.

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News from DfE

Teachers to benefit from multi-year pay deal

School teachers and leaders will see their pay increase by 6.5% over the next 2 years, after the Education Secretary accepted the School Teachers Review Body's pay recommendations on 1 July 2026. For more, please click here.

Change to the timetable for the release of KS2 test results this year

Schools were due to receive their results on **7 July 2026**. However, results will now be available on **16 July 2026**. For more, please click here.

NSPCC Learning

The NSPCC is offering online and face-to-face safeguarding courses to help shortlist, interview, vet and recruit the right staff and volunteers. For more, please click here.

From the Diocesan Education Team

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