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

May 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.

I just wanted to update you on staffing in the diocesan education team. Interviews were held for the Diocesan Director of Education role on 27 April and Drew Quayle was appointed. Drew will start on 1 September 2026. Please see our website for the full story.

We have also appointed a Deputy Diocesan Director of Education who will start work full-time in January 2027, details to follow after half-term. For the autumn term, Heather Hann will continue to offer support and Karen Harman will also be available, both of whom, together with Drew, will be happy to offer governors support on Headteacher performance management reviews.

We are very much looking forward to our annual cathedral service on 15 June. iSingPOP are again leading workshops in schools, teaching pupils songs which they will sing on the day. It promises to be a joy-filled occasion.

Our annual wellbeing session for Headteachers and senior leaders will be held on Friday 9 October and our annual conference for church school leaders and governors on Thursday 19 November. We are in the process of planning our training programme for next year.

Our updated Key Stage 1 Emmanuel Project resources will be available in July. Huge thanks to Tor Bush and the writing group.

We have a vacancy on the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) for a Headteacher. The DBE meets four times a year and the term of office runs until December 2027. If you would like to discuss informally, please contact me at jane.sheat@cofesuffolk.org.

RE AND CW NEWS FROM YOUR DIOCESAN SCHOOLS' ADVISERS

For the latest RE and CW newsletter, please click here. This includes links to CW resources and spiritual development ideas for the summer term.

The next RE and CW network meeting takes place on **Tuesday 30 June**, 4pm via Zoom. To book, please contact Jacqui Studd.

Upcoming Forum

For Chairs of Governors
Tue 23 Jun, 4pm

The Forum is free, via Zoom. To book email: Jacqui Studd



Conference

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

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.

Loving God,
We thank you for creating the world in all its beauty.
We thank you for memory, which enables us to build on the experiences of the past;
For imagination, which admits us to a wider world than we could otherwise know;
And for foresight, by which we plan for the future.
Amen.

With all good wishes from all the team.

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

Big Sing - Cathedral



Over 400 pupils and adults from 10 church primary schools filled the Cathedral on Monday 23 March 2026. The children sang songs specially commissioned by Christian Aid to raise awareness of issues of global justice. Pupils from two of the schools spoke about how they are taking action to tackle injustice and two schools sang songs they had written.

Richard Baker 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.

Further information about the Big Sing is available from: Big Spring Sing - Christian Aid.



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.

For queries about our events, please contact Jacqui Studd



Collective Worship

Please see our updated collective worship resources, by clicking here.

Grove Book: Decarbonizing Schools

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 booket is available to download from the link below:

Decarbonizing Schools

This booklet offers wise, expert advice to enable systematic planning and progressive, comprehensive actions which are affordable and effective as schools and academies seek to move towards the goal of net zero carbon. Please click on the title above to download (PDF).

2026 marks the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament into English. Throughout the year, Bible Society is undertaking a number of Tyndale-themed projects, including the launch of new school resources (*Teach about Tyndale*).

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Barnham CEVCP School** which celebrated the birthday of Sir David Attenborough by planting a beautiful mix of trees in the school grounds The school writes: "Our pupils planted Lime, Norway Maple, Silver Birch and Tulip trees, helping to increase the biodiversity of our site and create natural shade for generations to come.

We've pledged to care for and water our new trees as they grow, nurturing a greener future together. To give them the very best start, each tree was planted with raw sheep's wool, which helps retain water and naturally releases nitrogen to support healthy growth."

Congratulations to **Barrow CEVCP School** for launching a whole school biodiversity project this term which will help children understand the importance of protecting plants, insects, birds and wildlife in their local environment. The school joined the 'Our Schools, Our World' programme in partnership with Suffolk County Council in November. The school has since set up a dedicated sustainability working party, developed a sustainability action plan, completed staff and governor training, and created a new two-year rolling programme of sustainability themes linked to the school's curriculum and its 'Big Ideas' curriculum drivers. For more, please click here.

Congratulations to **Eyke CofE Primary School** on being awarded Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Silver Award. Archdeacon Rich (Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education) and Jane Sheat visited the school to present the award. Archdeacon Rich writes: "It was a pleasure to attend Eyke CofE Primary School alongside Jane Sheat (Director of Education) and Revd Greg Gooch (Curate in the Wilford Team). We joined pupils, staff, and parents for a wonderful celebration assembly, where I presented the school with a Christian Aid Silver Global Neighbours Award — the first silver award achieved across our schools. A fantastic achievement for the whole school community!" For more about the Global Neighbours Scheme, please click here.



Training programme
Courses in the summer term include:

Governance
* Monitoring for governors (see below)

RE/CW
* Annual RE Subject Leader update
* CW in our church schools
* Spiritual development

Ofsted/SIAMS
* Ofsted training
* 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 have also run sessions for governors specifically on monitoring RE and monitoring the curriculum. There is one final session on monitoring inclusion on Thursday 4 June, 4pm via Zoom. For more, please click here.
Governor training is free.



Congratulations to pupils at **Hopton CofE Primary Academy** who recently enjoyed a Forest Schools session. Jo Whiting, Headteacher writes: "In forest schools, Hopton C of E Primary Academy have welcomed sixth form students for a project. The children built bird boxes and created spaces for creatures in the area to help with sustainability. The children spoke about global warming and the importance of growing trees. All children in Oak and Willow took a tree home to grow themselves as well. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and forest school remains a favourite part of the week!"

Congratulations to pupils at **King Edward VI School**, Bury St Edmunds on winning a 'Dragon's Den'-style event at Suffolk County Council. The pupils pitched ideas to promote active travel and during their presentation proposed a 'golden bike lock' prize alongside daily rewards for pupils who walk or cycle to school and suggested collaborating with nearby schools on a joint active travel campaign. The judges liked pupils' clear messages, range of ideas and its plan to use the funding to update and improve the school's cycle stands. A total of £400 was made available to each participating school, and King Edward VI School was awarded a £50 bonus for the best presentation. The money can be used for anything from competition prizes to promotional materials.



Congratulations to **Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP, Framlingham** on a new Nurture Room. The school writes: "Mrs Whitfield has painted a beautiful mural, which has transformed this space into a calm, welcoming and nurturing environment for our children. The room is designed to support children with emotional regulation, provide a quiet space when needed and offer pastoral support throughout the school day. We are incredibly grateful for the wonderful support we've received so far. It is very much with the support of our parents/carers/families/friends that Friends can continue funding and supporting projects like this. It's amazing to see the room come together and we're really looking forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our children."



Dates of interest

Pentecost
24 May 2026
- click here for our Pentecost padlet

Child Safety Week
1 - 7 June 2026

World Environment Day
5 June 2026

World Oceans Day
8 June 2026

Healthy Eating Week
10 - 14 June 2026

Refugee Week
15 - 21 June 2026
includes World Refugee Day on 20 June

National Thank a Teacher Day
17 June 2026

Fathers Day
21 June 2026

Suffolk Day
21 June 2026

National School Sports Week
6 - 12 July 2026



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.

Congratulations to pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP, Sudbury** who have been promised a trip to the cinema by Hollywood actor, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Pupils recorded a message for the star in January after Headteacher Daniel Woodrow had told pupils that if the former WWE star saw the clip, he would take them to see the new live-action Moana film for their end-of-year trip. After the video went viral, Mr Johnson sent the school a video message, promising to hire out a cinema for them and supply the treats! For the video, please click here. For more on this story, please click here.



Congratulations to pupils at **Stonham Aspal CEVAP** on the above artwork. The school writes: "Children in Ash Class created these beautiful pictures inspired by the Bible story of Pentecost. They listened carefully to the story, looked at different examples of Pentecost artwork, and then created their own using oil pastels."

Stonham Aspal CEVAP also has a new Playpod. The school writes: "The play pod is a new exciting shed full of 'scrap' ready to fuel the children's imaginations during lunchtimes.



The PlayPod introduces loose parts into schools to transform playtimes. The Playpod provides a huge range of scrap materials to extend the possibilities of play for all children. Scrap, or loose parts, are not prescriptive, they come with no set purpose. Children's inventiveness and creativity results in them using the items in endlessly different and imaginative ways. Playing with loose parts on a large scale, enables children of all ages, genders, and abilities to play together." For more about Playpods, please click here.

Finally, **congratulations** to Rachel Cutts, Diocesan Schools' Adviser on running and completing the London Marathon on Sunday 26 April in aid of Mind.

Recent Ofsted outcomes

School Name	Brampton CofE Primary
Achievement	Expected
Attendance and behaviour	Strong
Curriculum and teaching	Expected

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

News from the Church of England

SIAMS 2026-27

For the list of schools likely to be inspected in 2026-27, please click here (page 11)

Flourishing for All

Provides guidance to schools on preventing and tackling different kinds of bullying. Now with added resources to help school leaders unpack the detail. Please click here.

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News from DfE

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act: what parents need to know

For more, please click here.

Schools White Paper: What parents need to know about changes to the SEND system

For more, please click here.

Supporting a smooth transition into reception

New government guidance and practical advice to help families get children ready for school, backed by language support.
For more, please click here.

Early years	Expected
Inclusion	Strong
Leadership and governance	Expected
Personal development and wellbeing	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.

Benhall: St Mary's CofE Primary
Great Whelnetham CofE Primary
Nacton CofE Primary

Headship resignations

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

- Nicola Johnson, Headteacher at Kelsale CEVCP who leaves at 31 August 2026
- Jess Damant, Co-Headteacher at Kersey CofE Primary who leaves at 31 August 2026.

Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to:

- Louise Scott who has been appointed Headteacher at Barningham CEVCP from 1 September 2026
- Leanne Knights who has been appointed Headteacher at Palgrave CofE Primary from 1 September 2026
- Lucie Fairweather who has been appointed Headteacher at Morland CofE Primary in Ipswich from 1 September 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.

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

NPQ Launch Cohort 10

The launch of Cohort 10 takes place on the 23 June, when the DFE registration service will open at 10am. For now, the Early Bird form is open and has already had over 150 places reserved. Funded courses have a limited number of places and so if there are likely to be applicants from our schools then it would be best to secure a funded place through the Early Bird offer https://www.nse.org.uk/npq

Funding

Funded courses for all schools this year will be:

NPQH	NPQSENCO	NPQSL	EHCO



Life exhibition

The Life Exhibition is an interactive exhibition that is run by a charity called Counties. The exhibition enables primary school children (Years 5 and 6) to use multimedia pods to find out about what Christians believe about the life, person and works of Jesus. It is a fantastic resource which has taken place for about 10 years This year the exhibition will be at St Andrew's Church, Britannia Road, Ipswich.
For teachers, church members and anyone interested in finding out more, please visit on Saturday 13 June 10am-12pm, where you can find out about how the Life Exhibition works and how you could be involved next time. For more, please click here.

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.

The following courses will also be funded for those in PP50 eligible schools:

NPQEL	NPQLT	NPQLBC	NPQLTD	NPQLPM

The new Early Years course is online only with central delivery and very limited places, but the Early Bird link also has an option to register interest.

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA)

AYLA continues to grow across schools and dioceses nationwide, equipping children and young people to become courageous, compassionate leaders who are empowered to make a difference within their communities and beyond.

Rooted in the CofE Vision for Education, the programme develops leadership, character, pupil voice, and meaningful social action through engaging and accessible resources for pupils from KS1 through to Post-16.

Webinars provide an opportunity to explore the resources, hear about the impact in schools, and ask any questions about implementation.

Primary Webinars:	**Secondary Webinars:**
17 June 2026 - 3:45pm	24 June 2026 - 3:45pm
1 July 2026 - 3:45pm	2 July 2026 - 3:45pm
13 August - 1:15pm	12 August - 1:15pm

For further information about AYLA, please contact Victoria Jones. Further details and booking information and online booking can be found 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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