



Important Diocesan Education Team Update #26, Thurs 16 July 2020

Dear colleagues,

You have just about made it through what have probably been the most unexpected and extraordinary few months in your career. With only a few days' notice, you completely reconfigured the life and learning of your school community and put in place the kind of safety measures that none of us would ever have imagined would be needed in playgrounds and classrooms. You denied yourself time off in order to enable the safety and well-being of your staff and pupils, and you have continued to work with creativity and imagination whilst adhering to an eye-watering amount of guidance.

You deserve to be exhausted. You deserve a break. But before you do manage to have some time off though, I would just like to bring a couple of things to your attention.

- **VA School Asset Management Plans** that have not yet been sent in, need to be emailed to [me](#) as soon as possible to enable us to prioritise the dissemination of funds for capital works. Thank you to those who have already returned their plans and supporting documents.
- Please make sure that you have emailed [Laura](#) to sign up for the 2020-2021 **Training and Support SLA**. All of our usual services will recommence in September, although training and support will take place via Zoom for the Autumn term.
- **School Effectiveness Support SLA** services will also be ongoing and unused hours remain valid into the next academic year. If you have not yet made use of the school effectiveness packages that we offer, please find [details here](#), or email [Laura](#) or [Tim](#).
- **iSingPop** have been in touch to let us know that they have now started taking pre-orders for the Autumn Term for their Classroom Worship. They are offering a 15% discount for any pre-orders received by the **20th July** so it's only £76.50 per school for 15 sessions based around Resilience, Compassion, Reconciliation and Christmas. More information, a free episode and a sign-up form can be found on their website at www.isingpop.org/classroom-worship.
- **The Education Team** will be working for most of the school summer holiday so please do get in touch at any time. If one of us is on holiday, you will be directed to another member of the team.
- **And finally...** I have begun to become acquainted with some of the poetry of John O'Donohue and the following words from *Echoes of Memory* are beautifully apt for the comfort and peace that so many of us need at the moment.

*When the canvas frays in the currach of thought
And a stain of ocean blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home.
May the nourishment of the earth be yours.
May the clarity of light be yours.
May the fluency of the ocean be yours.
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.
And so may a slow wind work these words of love around you,
An invisible cloak to mind your life.*

May you know this nourishment, clarity and protection in the coming weeks as you allow yourself the time to recover and to be restored.

With our love and prayers, as always.

Margaret James

Margaret James, Diocesan Director of Education (DDE)