

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
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



July 2020

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

THANK YOU

As the end of term rapidly approaches, I wanted to send our very best wishes as a team to all our schools. This has been a challenging term and I am so grateful for all the hard work that has gone into risk assessments, conversations with staff, planning for the return of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 6 pupils from 1 June, Year 10 pupils from 15 June and the full return of all pupils from September. As so many of you have commented, it was lovely to welcome back more pupils after half-term and this has been an overwhelmingly positive experience. All the work that has gone into this term will stand schools in good stead for September. On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education, which met earlier this term, please accept our grateful thanks and appreciation for all that you have done and continue to do.

We were delighted to welcome back Phil Knowles and Gemma Kingston from furlough on 22 June. They have been busy supporting schools since their return. I am also delighted that Karen Harman has offered to delay her retirement and stay on for the autumn term. We will now be seeking to appoint a Deputy DDE from January 2021.

Karen and I have held four Zoom calls with groups of Headteachers, in May and June, and two with chairs of governors in July. Gemma has run two training courses on Ofsted deep dives in RE for RE subject leaders. On the basis of feedback received, we are planning our training programme for 2020/21 on the basis that in the first instance at least, training will be delivered via Zoom.

In terms of visiting schools, we will be guided by schools, and will of course follow all the protocols in place in schools. We look forward to being able to visit in person- we have really missed seeing you in person!

As already notified to Headteachers, we now have confirmation that there will be no SIAMS inspections in the autumn term 2020. Please see the [letter](#) from Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for the Church of England.

DARE bulletin

The summer 2020 DARE (Diocesan Adviser's RE) bulletin is now available, providing RE advice and information on resources, please visit our [website](#) for the bulletin and past issues.

Virtual Training - autumn term

- * twilight sessions on leading a church school
- * our termly Basics of RE and Basics of CW
- * Diving Deeper in RE
- * New to Teaching RE
- * Governor training

To find out more, please visit the [Diocesan website](#); or contact [Jacqui Studd](#), tel 01473 298570.



For more information on this free to attend event on 25 February 2021, please click [here](#).

Whilst it is not yet possible to hold acts of collective worship in halls all together, it is of course important still to worship together in bubbles and, from September, in classes. As singing should not take place in larger groups such as school choirs and ensembles, or school assemblies, I thought you might find the attached [guidance on singing](#) useful. I am grateful to clergy who have provided recordings for use in school and Headteachers and teachers who have live streamed collective worship in school. Gemma will be developing innovative ideas on collective worship ready for the new school year. We would also recommend using the Church of England's excellent Faith at Home resources- <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/i-am-school-leader>

May I offer this prayer for the end of the school year:

God of our journey,
we offer to you the year that has passed,
the times of joy
and the times of sorrow;
for the ways in which we have experienced your love for all creation;
and your care for each of your children.
As we look back, help us also to be filled with expectancy at the new things you are doing, both in and through us,
and to trust that, whatever lies ahead,
you will travel with us.
Amen

My prayer for each of you is that you are all able to enjoy a break over the summer holidays.

With all good wishes from all of us,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

Covid Poem

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

Guidance on Singing - the reference is available here: [Music Unlocked: Guidance for School Leaders on Musical Learning and COVID-19](#)



Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 18 November 2020

This is the date scheduled for our annual church school leaders' conference. We plan to hold a half day online conference which will be followed by a full day conference in the spring.

Our **annual church schools education service** will be moved to the spring term. More to follow on both these events.

Useful resources



Bereavement

While we understand you are receiving a great deal of guidance currently we wholeheartedly recommend the [Oxford University guidance](#) for talking to children about death and illness. It is well supported by the [Lancet](#).

The leaflet from the [British Psychological Society](#) is an excellent guide to the way children approach and understand the issues around Covid-19 and well worth sharing with staff and carers too.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way--better
for each other
because of the worst.

- Laura Kelley Fanucci

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to pupils at **Bentley CEVCP School** who entered a competition to design an altar cloth with the bible verse from the school's Christian Vision, which was judged by members of the Open the Book team. The winner was Myles, with the beautiful design above, who used the footprints in the sand poem with Jesus walking alongside him on the right. The rainbow reflects God's promise from the Noah's Ark story too.

The altar cloth was made by parents, children, staff, a member from St. Mary's church at Bentley, and a community sewing group. The school are hoping to have this dedicated in church in due course.

Congratulations to pupils and staff at the following schools who have been putting together uplifting and positive videos:

Key worker pupils from **Bardwell CofE Primary School** welcomed back returning pupils with an uplifting version of Here Comes the Sun. For the Bury Free Press (BFP) article, please click [here](#)

Staff at **Barrow CEVCP School** recorded a heart warming video message set to David Bowie's Heroes applauding the hard work of pupils. For the BFP article please click [here](#)

Pupils at **St Christopher's CofE Primary School**, Red Lodge sent positive messages for teachers during Teacher appreciation week in May. For more, please see the [BFP](#)

['Never the Same' School Leadership Resources for Grief, Bereavement and Loss](#) - based on the Church of England Vision for Education.

More resources

Lucy Hood, SENDCo at **St Matthew's CofE Primary School**, Ipswich has produced a graduated approach to SEND outlining the provision for SEND pupils at each wave. Lucy has kindly shared the [document](#).

St Margaret's CEVAP School, Ipswich has put together a recovery curriculum which it has kindly shared. Please click [here](#).

[Supporting post-lockdown education using the 6 principles of Nurture](#) by Dr Chris Moore, article looks at the principles of good nurture groups in supporting children back into school

[Return to school resources](#)

Place2Be has put together a series of resources focused on community recovery, to help Headteachers and school staff beginning to bring their schools back together.

[Coronavirus Covid-19 information and support](#)

The Children's Society is providing a range of materials for young people, parents and schools in their mental and emotional health resource 'vault'.

[Free teaching toolkit to support children's health and wellbeing](#)

Coram Life Education has launched a free online toolkit for primary school teachers, supporting pupils' mental health as they adjust to a new school environment post-lockdown.

[Preparing your child for returning to school](#) -

Staff at **Stonham Aspal CEVAP School** recorded their heart warming message of support to the theme of Three Little Birds by Bob Marley. For the EADT article, please click [here](#)

Thorndon CEVCP and Worlingworth CEVCP Schools put together a lovely Covid video of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow'. Please click [here](#).



Congratulations to the following schools who recorded versions of Looking to the Rainbow, written by Becky Drake for National Thank a Teacher Day on 20 May:

Fressingfield CofE Primary School
Kersey CEVCP School
Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP School, Debenham
St John's CEVAP School, Ipswich
St Mary's CEVAP School, Benhall
Wetheringsett CofE Primary School

To see some of the recorded versions, please click [here](#).

VE Day Celebrations



Congratulations to families at **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary School** for their response to a VE Day Bunting Project.

Nicky Tyler, teacher was inspired by a feature on Look East - people were encouraged to make bunting and display it in their windows. Thank you for putting together and sharing the beautiful montage above.

advice from the Royal College of Occupational Therapists.

These resources, together with others are also available on the Diocesan website under [Coronavirus support resources](#).

More News from Schools

Headteacher at **Mellis CofE Primary School**, Paul Ryle has thanked parents for their support after 92% of eligible children returned to school. For the Diss Express article, please click [here](#).

The school was also in the news when one of the pupils received a letter back from a giant, for more on this fun story from the Diss Express article, please click [here](#)

Pupils at **Barnham CEVCP School** held a Silent Disco, please click [here](#) to have a look at the fun!



In the last newsletter we featured how keyworker children at **Thorndon CEVCP and Worlingworth CEVCP Schools** had brightened up their communities by decorating colourful rocks and leaving them for neighbours to find. Thank you to Emily Simpson, Head of School at Thorndon for sending a link to the school's twitter feed which has more photos of the beautiful rocks. Please click [here](#) for more.



Congratulations to pupils at **Barnham CEVCP School** who celebrated VE Day with a sumptuous afternoon tea. Looks amazing!



Pupils at **Bramfield CofE Primary** and **East Bergholt CEVCP Schools** have been able to enjoy lessons in the open air.

A parent at Bramfield kindly donated a tent (photo above) while a local events company kindly donated two tipis to East Bergholt. For the EADT article on East Bergholt, please click [here](#)

Headteacher resignations/retirements

We offer our thanks and best wishes to the following Headteachers who are leaving at the end of this summer term:

- Julia Upton at Debenham High who moves to Kesgrave High from 1 September;
- Vanessa Wells who leaves Orford CEVAP; and
- Angela Hunter who leaves Walsham-le-Willows CEVCP.

Headteacher appointment

Congratulations to Katie Butler, Head at Bawdsey CEVCP who will become Executive Head of Orford CEVAP from September.

For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane, Karen or Phil will attend any virtual 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.

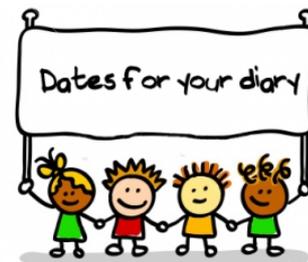
Congratulations to Charlie Biggin, who attends **King Edward VI School in Bury St Edmunds** who has received widespread acclaim for a heartfelt photo he took of his mum's nurse uniform. For more on this story, please see the [Bury Free Press](#)

Child Wellbeing

Karen Harman writes: If you have wellbeing concerns over children being cared for at home, do contact the support agencies.

Izzy Connell is clear that the County Inclusion Support Service (CISS) etc want to help wherever they can and you can still make referrals.

For further details, please click [here](#)



National Read A Book Day

6 September 2020

Education Sunday 2020

13 September 2020

Roald Dahl Day

13 September 2020

National TAs Day

16 September 2020

International Day of Peace

21 September 2020

Bike to School Week 2020

21 September 2020

National Poetry Day

1 October 2020



We offer our thanks and best wishes to all those staff who are leaving their current school this summer.

News from the Church of England



The Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship (including NPQH) provides rigorous preparation for senior leaders preparing for their first headship, heads leading both primary and secondary schools for the first time, and heads who have not yet completed the NPQH.

Completing your NPQH with the Church of England will enable you to:

- Gain the NPQH qualification whilst also reigniting your own vision and vocation, taking inspiration from the Church of England Vision for Education
- Increase your chances of promotion and taking the next step in your career
- Learn as part of a community where trust, authenticity, challenge, and support are valued
- Learn with our exceptional facilitators who skilfully share their expertise (85% of participants strongly agree with this, 98% agree)
- Build your network with leaders of Church of England and community schools both in your region and across England.

Recruitment for the Cohort 4 will commence in December 2020.

Join an online session with the Programme Lead and some past participants to find out more about the difference the CofEPQH could make to your leadership development.

Register to attend a CofEPQH Find our More session now:

[World Animal Day](#)

4 October 2020

[World Space Week](#)

4-10 October 2020

World Teachers' Day

5 October 2020

[Dyslexia Week 2020](#)

5-11 October 2020

[National Pyjamas Week 2020](#)

5-11 October 2020

Thank a vicar week

18-25 October 2020



Springs Dance Company is offering to schools its latest [Parables of The Good Samaritan & The Lost Coin](#), and [The Christmas Story: Refugee](#) workshops; both of which are available for booking. Springs workshops are a great way to bring children back together when the schools re open, through fun, energetic and creative sessions.

News from the Department for Education

Guidance on the full opening of schools in September is available [here](#)

Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education: FAQs

Further information is available [here](#)

News from Suffolk County Council

Local outbreak planning

Advice on the subject of test and trace within school settings. Please click [here](#) for more.

[13 July, 4pm](#)
[13 July, 8pm](#)
[24 September, 4pm](#)
[24 September, 8pm](#)

"The CofEPQH is the highest quality CPD I've ever had. I can honestly say that everyday I use something I learnt on the training. It's invaluable and has helped shape me as a leader." Kate Penfold, Deputy Head, Redhill.

Further information and application forms can be found at www.cefel.org.uk/cofepqh. Deadline is 5 November 2020.

A Prayer for 'Corona-tide'

May the Christ who spoke boldly and calmed the seas,
 Grant us unending peace as we pray on our knees.
 May the Father who welcomes the prodigal home,
 Embrace us and be present so we don't feel alone.
 May the Spirit that grants us great courage and power,
 Cast out fear and anxiety in this darkest hour.
 May the unity of God, the great three in one,
 Lead our communities in love even when this is done.
 May the stillness of knowing the great I am,
 Give us security and hope that He has a plan.
 May the resurrected Christ, whom death could not hold,
 Grant us knowledge and hope that death doesn't control.
 May the creator God, who formed all that's around,
 Reveal glory and goodness so we don't feel drowned.
 May God's grace that was revealed through Christ on the cross,
 Lead us on the narrow way so we don't get lost.

From the Diocese

To join in prayer and watch broadcasted services taking place in the Diocese, please visit the [Diocesan website](#).

If you would like to keep up to date with Diocesan news, please click [here](#)

News from YOUR School

What we are asking for is photos, short articles, web-page references, etc that we can highlight in the next and subsequent editions of this newsletter so that your school's achievements can be broadcast to a wider audience. Please send items electronically to [Jacqui](#) and we'll be pleased to include them.

From your Diocesan Education Team:



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