

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



October 2020

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

The return to school this September has been like no other. I am full of admiration for Headteachers and staff who have worked so hard to ensure a safe and welcoming return. Pupils are pleased to be back in school and the importance of education has never been greater. I am very aware of the ongoing pressures on schools and we continue to offer support and provide opportunities for Headteachers and governors to come together.

It was good to read in the TES of the Archbishop of Canterbury's concerns for school funding and for disadvantaged pupils - please click [here](#). Please know that you are part of a much bigger family of Church of England schools across the country.

Within the diocese, the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) has recently approved a number of new resources which we hope will be helpful to you. Gemma Kingston's excellent resources on collective worship have been proving very useful, I know. These went out directly to Headteachers, RE subject leaders and to clergy in September and can be found [here](#). Gemma has also written a really helpful guide to developing a Christian vision for your school, which can be found [here](#). I am indebted to the Diocese of Coventry which has written a very helpful guide on responding to racism in schools which it has kindly allowed us to use in our diocese and can be found [here](#). We have been thinking for some time about how best to support schools in discussing this issue and I am delighted to commend this resource to you.

Our training programme is on our website (further details opposite) and I would encourage you to have a look and book on any courses which interest you. May I especially commend our conference on 18 November, to which you are warmly invited? Bishop Mike will be speaking and Jon Neal, CEO of Suffolk Mind will speak about wellbeing. We are running courses by Zoom this term, which does have the benefit of saving time and travel, although we miss seeing you face to face. We are very happy to visit you in schools if you would like us to, but will at all times respect your wishes and are equally happy to meet via Zoom as you prefer.

Collective Worship planning

Gemma Kingston has put together guidance for class/ bubble based worship for this term. The guidance is available on the Diocesan website - please click [here](#).



Virtual Training - Autumn term

Leadership

* the first of three twilight sessions on leading a church school

Governors

* Headteacher Recruitment and Performance Management

RE/Collective Worship

* Diving Deeper in RE
* RE Subject Leaders update
* HLTA Forum

Wellbeing

* A morning session for Headteachers with Jon Neal, Suffolk Mind

I am grateful to those who helped in the recruitment of a new Deputy Diocesan Director of Education to replace Karen Harman. Karen has very kindly stayed on a term after her planned retirement and will now leave at Christmas. I am delighted to announce the appointment of Sue Todd, who will start work in January, working three days a week. A number of you will know Sue, who was Headteacher at St Matthew's CEVAP School in Ipswich until July 2019. I look forward to Sue joining the team and meeting many of you.

As I write, this is harvest season, when we give thanks to God for his goodness. We would normally have gathered at the cathedral for our annual service of thanksgiving for church schools but decided to postpone our service, which was due to take place on 11 October, until Sunday 18 April 2021. This year schools and churches have had to be innovative in how to celebrate harvest thanksgiving, and we are seeing some creative ways of helping others in our wider communities. When all around is so uncertain, I am struck more than ever this year by God's faithfulness and steadfast love.

Please be assured of our ongoing support for you.

With all good wishes from all the team,



Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

Admissions 2022-2023 - for VA schools and academies

It is that time of year when we have to look ahead to Admissions policies for 2022-23. If you plan to make any changes to your Admissions policy that would **advantage or disadvantage any children** then governors need to decide that now so a formal consultation can be held. The consultation window is **1 October 2020 to 31 January 2021** and Karen will run this with you.

Dates, definitions and general rewording does **not** require consultation, the key thing is that consultation takes place if children's chances of gaining a place are affected.

Please ensure that governors determine the policy at a **FGB/LGB meeting and that this is clearly minuted.**

Please contact [Karen](#) for support or if you have any queries.

Tel: 01473 298541 | Mob: 07917 390362

For more information about our courses, please visit the [Diocesan website](#); or contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 18 November 2020

This year's church school leaders' conference will be a half day online conference. Bishop Mike and Jon Neal, CEO Suffolk Mind, are the speakers.

Sunday 18 April 2021

We are hoping to hold our annual church schools education service at the Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds.



Harvest Festival

Bankuet is the UK's first food bank donation platform and they are asking schools for support with their local food bank for Harvest Festival so that no one goes hungry in your community. For more, please see the Bankuet Harvest School Infosheet [here](#) or visit their [website](#).

Five Tips for Families

SCC has co-produced with Suffolk Parent Carer Network (SPCN), a series of leaflets for families on sleep, going back to school, Autism, anxiety, self-harm, challenging behaviour and self-talk rainbows. Please click [here](#) for more.

News from the Diocesan MAT

Congratulations to Michelle Roots, who is moving on to another local MAT. Michelle joined us in 2015 and has played a key role in the MAT over the past five years. We will miss Michelle and wish her every success in the future.

We are currently advertising for a Chief Financial Officer- <http://cofesuffolkmat.org/vacancies>. If you know anyone who might be interested, please forward this link. Closing date 12 October.

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Barrow CEVCP School** which has a fabulous new teaching block. Helen Ashe, Headteacher: "We are now all really looking forward to Barrow children being taught in our wonderful

new classroom block for the next academic year. Our grateful thanks go to everyone involved



in the project during this difficult time; the professionalism and resilience from all concerned has been second to none."

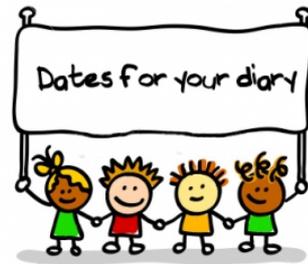


Congratulations to pupils at **Capel St Mary CEVCP School** who created a stunning quilt made up of 240 hearts to recognise the impact of the coronavirus as part of a Hearts and Hope art project.

Pupils knitted their own heart with a message for what they were grateful for, or had been thinking about, during the pandemic. For more on this story, please see the [EADT](#).



Congratulation to teachers at **Risby CEVCP School** who filmed a special performance of the award-winning children's story *The Day the Crayons Came Home* by Drew Daywalt at the end of last term. For more please see [Suffolk News](#).



All Saints Day
1 November 2020

UK Parliament Week
1-7 November 2020

Interfaith Week
8-15 November 2020

Remembrance Day
11 November 2020

Children in Need 2020
13 November 2020

Wear Blue Day
13 November 2020

World Kindness Day
13 November 2020

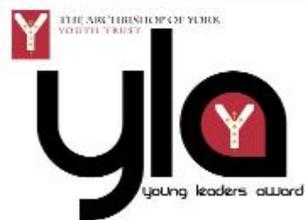
Anti-Bullying Week
16-20 November 2020

Nursery Rhyme Week
16-20 November 2020

World Children's Day
20 November 2020

Advent
29 November 2020

Christmas Jumper Day
11 December 2020



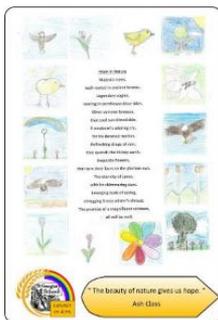
The Young Leaders Award: Free twilight webinars

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust (ABYYT) is running a number of free webinars this autumn for schools who have not run the Young Leaders Award before. For more details, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to the following schools which are taking part in the Suffolk Says Thank you Campaign:

Bedfield CEVCP
Great Barton CofE Primary
Hartest CofE Primary
Ixworth CofE Primary
Kersey CEVCP
Long Melford CofE Primary
Norton CEVCP
St Peter and St Paul CofE Primary, Eye
Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary

For more about the Suffolk Says Thank you Campaign, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to staff and pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP School** who have looked at Harvest a little differently this year. As they were unable to hold a Harvest Service at St Gregory's Church, bring donations of food to distribute to local charities, and share God's gift of food, they decided to share something else that He gave us instead - hope.

Daniel Woodrow, Headteacher: "Each class has discussed what makes them hopeful and the children have produced prayers, pictures, poems and posters around those ideas for our 'Harvest of Hope'. We are going to use them to make cards to send out to friends, family and the local community and we have also used them to make this video." To see the Harvest of Hope video please click [here](#).

Further congratulations to **St Gregory** for being awarded the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk Award for the school's work during lockdown. Also for being featured in the TES for their idea for T6 leavers last term. The school created iron-on transfers of children's signatures to decorate school shirts. For more, please see the [TES](#). The school also created a virtual video celebration for students to say goodbye to their teachers and school friends at the end of last term. For more please see the [EADT](#)

Congratulations to **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School** which has a new ICT suite and has made extensive improvements in other areas including a 'Hideout Hub' and a spiritual garden. For more, please see the [EADT](#).

Congratulations to **Thorndon CEVCP School** for adopting a rainbow values' system, with each colour representing one of seven different principals that are used to help oversee school life. The values include responsibility, perseverance, co-operation, kindness, friendliness, honesty and respect. The values are now featured on school uniforms and the school logo. For more on this story, please see the [Diss Express](#).

The ABYYT has also produced **Be Rooted**, a series of five free resources aimed at supporting pupils returning to school post-lockdown and helping them stay strong and 'be rooted' throughout the inevitable challenges of this autumn term (and beyond.)

For more please see the [flyer](#) or visit the [ABYYT website](#).



Springs Dance Company are offering the following workshops:

[Refugee: A Christmas Workshop](#)

Pupils will be guided on a journey of dance, drama and discussion and will uncover a relevant and meaningful telling of the first Christmas.

[Back to School Wellbeing Workshops](#)

A boost for children's mental health through physical, feel good dance workshops.

News from the Church of England

Faith at Home

The national campaign from the Church of England, to support the faith development and pastoral care of children and young people, is back this term.

This new series looks at how we flourish together - each session will centre around an encounter Jesus has with someone in the Bible. There will be resources for Years Reception-Year 4, Years 5-8 and Years 9-13. For more, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to staff and pupils at **Thurston CofE Primary Academy** who took part in a ceremony in September to celebrate the start of construction on a new site for the school. This new site will allow the school to accommodate 420 pupils. For more on this story, please see the [EADT](#)



For those who have recently joined church schools

We send good wishes on behalf of everyone at the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. A new post of any sort provides both opportunities and challenges. In all that you do, please be assured of many thoughts and prayers upholding you.

For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane, Karen 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.

Prayers for School Leaders

Father of mercy and everlasting love,
Create in us the confidence
To approach you in our time of need.
Lift up our heads when we feel bowed down,
And help us to fix our eyes solely on you.
So that we may lift up heads,
And instil confidence
In our children, in our staff, in our parents,
And in our wider community.
In your loving mercy, please hear our prayer.

Father of compassion and all wisdom,
Send to us the reassurance
To know that you always hear us.
Grant us security when we feel uncertain,
And help us lean firmly on your everlasting arms.
So that we may relieve weariness,
And encourage hope
In our children, in our staff, in our parents,
And in our wider community.
In your loving mercy, please hear our prayer.

For the sake of our saviour, Jesus Christ,
Who has made a way for us to enter
Your rest, your grace, your comfort and your peace.
To him be glory forever
Amen

Called, Connected, Committed

Weekly mailouts from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership exploring leadership practices for educational leaders. To see previous mailouts or to subscribe please click [here](#).

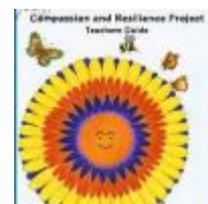


Public Health Suffolk would like to encourage all local schools to take part in the Suffolk Says Thanks campaign by utilising the resources on its [website](#) and by linking with a local care and residential home. Guidance for schools is available [here](#). Please do send us your stories if you are taking part.



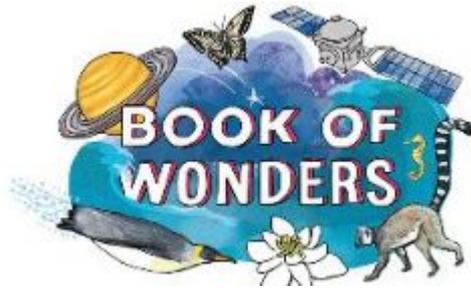
The 2020 Real Advent Calendar is now available.

The Fairtrade calendar includes a Christmas story activity book with a page for each day in Advent. For more on this, plus free resources for schools and an advent competition, please click [here](#).



The Flower Power Book Compassion and Resilience Project Teacher's Guide

is a curriculum enrichment, PSHE, mental health and wellbeing resource for primary school children aged 4 to 11 years. For more information, or to buy (£17.99), please click [here](#).



The Book of Wonders is a captivating, beautifully illustrated book that helps children to explore science and faith. Children will learn about themselves, the world, the universe and more importantly, the God behind it all. For more, please click [here](#).

News from YOUR School

Please do send us 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.

From your Diocesan Education Team:



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