

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



December 2020

## News from the Diocese

Dear all,

As we near the end of term, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all our church school Headteachers and their staff for all their hard work in what has surely felt the longest of terms. Since opening their doors again to all pupils in September, schools have patiently dealt with a raft of issues, introducing new routines, coping with changing DfE guidance, encouraging parents to maintain social distancing, managing staff absence and self-isolation. Above all, you have sought, as always, to put the needs of children first and a huge amount of work has gone into the recovery curriculum, assessment and pupils' wellbeing.

At our recent Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) meeting, members acknowledged the hard work of church schools this term and expressed their appreciation. It was good to hear that Gemma's resources on collective worship are being well used and are appreciated. We welcomed Suffolk Mind to lead a session on wellbeing for Headteachers in November and to our annual conference for church school leaders, at which Bishop Mike was our keynote speaker. We continue to deliver training via Zoom.

I am very sorry to say goodbye to Karen Harman, Deputy DDE whose last day at work will be 16th December. It has been a pleasure to work with Karen and we wish her a very happy retirement. Sue Todd will start as Deputy on 4th January. Her normal working days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Restrictions this year have affected Advent and Christmas in school. Whatever you are able to do over Christmas, my prayer is that you will know the [comfort and joy of Christmas](#) this year. We do not know what the new year will bring, but we believe in a God of hope and love who is with us always.

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of his love at Christmas and always.

On behalf of all the team, may I wish you a very happy Christmas.

## Faith Engagement Review - Call for Evidence

The government launched an independent faith engagement review in November. Recommendations from this review will shape the future of how the government engages with faith groups. If you have not already taken part, the **deadline is today, 11 December at 11.45pm**. Please click here for [more](#).

## DARE bulletin

The autumn 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.

**Collective Worship planning** for the Spring term will be circulated next week and will also be available on the Diocesan [website](#).

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education

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### The Christmas Pine

Once upon a time I stood  
With brothers and sisters in a wood.  
The old trees told me I had grown  
From a tiny seed inside a cone.  
The whispering wind was a friend of mine.  
She said that I would grow and shine.

I grew up tall. I grew up high.  
I grew until I saw the sky.  
Then came the day they cut me down  
And carried me off to a distant town.  
I travelled far across the sea,  
And now I am a Christmas tree.

Here I stand, in a city square.  
I stand and shine in the winter air.  
The lions keep me company  
And Nelson keeps an eye on me,  
And people pass and stop awhile.  
I love to see them gaze and smile.

But more, yes, more than anything  
I love to hear the children sing.  
Songs of reindeer, songs of snow,  
Reminding me of long ago,  
Songs of kings who travelled far,  
And songs of light from a distant star.

I cannot stay forever here.  
Another tree will come next year,  
But think of me when I am gone;  
Remember how I grew and shone,  
And may the children grow and shine,  
Grow and shine like the Christmas pine.

by Julia Donaldson, 2020



We offer our thanks and best wishes to all those staff who are leaving their current school at the end of this term.



### Virtual Training - Spring term

We have the following courses taking place next term:

- \* our termly Basics of RE and Collective Worship;
- \* Diving Deeper in RE;
- \* New to Teaching RE;
- \* Annual RE Subject Leader update;
- \* Assessment in RE.

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



### Date for your diary:

#### Sunday 18 April 2021

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

#### Wednesday 3 November 2021

The annual church school leader's conference will be held, hopefully at the St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich.



### News from the MAT

We welcome Sue Howe who joins the MAT in January 2021 as the new Chief Financial Officer.

## News from Schools

### Congratulations!



**Congratulations** to **Barrow CEVCP School** which has had a new UKS2 building blessed by the Revd Lynda Sebbage. For more on this including a video of the blessing please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to pupils at **Bramfield, Brampton, Ringsfield CofE Primaries** and **Worlingham CEVCP Schools** who have taken part in five virtual challenges set up by the North Suffolk Sport and Health Partnership. For more on this story, please see the [East Anglian Daily Times](#)

**Congratulations** to pupils at **Elveden CofE Primary Academy** who raised £2,670 with a dance routine event. The money was shared between Children in Need and their twinned school in Chitipi, Malawi.

**Congratulations** to pupils and teachers at **Rattlesden, Great Barton, Thurston** and **Elveden CofE primary academies** who celebrated World Mental Health Day on 9 October. All went to school donned in yellow and donated money as part of the Young Minds #HelloYellow campaign. For more please see [Suffolk News](#).



**Congratulation** to pupils at St Edmundsbury CEVAP School on their beautiful poppies for Remembrance Day. Shaun Valentine, Headteacher: "Each pupil throughout the school made a poppy which became a part of an outdoor art display on the gates and hedges at the front of our school. This provided a symbol that although we could not take part in our usual way on this day, that as a community we were remembering and linking this with significance of striving for continued peace in our world. Our focus value this half term is 'Peace', so a real and genuine link."



**Epiphany**  
6 January 2021

**The Big Schools Birdwatch**  
6 January – 21 February 2021

**Chinese New Year**  
12 February 2021

**Holocaust Memorial Day**  
27 January 2021

**National Storytelling Week**  
30 January - 6 February 2021

**Growing Younger Sunday**  
31 January 2021

**Candlemas**  
2 February 2021

**Children's Mental Health Week**  
1 - 7 February 2021

**NSPCC Number Day**  
5 February 2021

**Valentine's Day**  
14 February 2021

**Shrove Tuesday**  
16 February 2021

**Random Acts of Kindness Week**  
17 February 2021

**Fairtrade Fortnight**  
22 February - 7 March 2021

**World Book Day**  
4 March 2021

**Comic Relief Day**  
19 March 2021

**Congratulations** to pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** who were featured on ITV News on 30 November speaking about the impact of COVID on school nativities. Daniel Woodrow, Headteacher said: "The children were amazing - we're so proud of them." To see the ITV News clip, please click [here](#).

### Headteacher retirements

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

- Lynne Golding at Whatfield CEVCP and Bildeston Community Primary
- Kathy Lambert at Thurston CofE Primary
- Frances Parr at Barningham CEVCP

### Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment:

- Stephany Hunter who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Barningham CEVCP with effect January 2021
- Julia Shaw who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Whatfield CEVCP with effect January 2021

### For the Attention of Headteachers

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

## News from the Department of Education

**School governance update** (December 2020) - news and communications relating to governance in maintained schools and academy trusts in England. Please click [here](#) for more.

## News from Ofsted

### Inspections

Ofsted's return to inspection in 2021 will happen in phases, with no graded inspections for education planned before the summer term. Please see the press release [here](#).

### COVID-19 series: briefing on schools

Ofsted has published evidence from pilot visits to schools. Please see the September report [here](#) and the

## Useful resources for Christmas



A list of Christmas at Home resources. Please click here for [more](#).

### Flame - Creative Children's Ministry

A Zoom Nativity Script for primary schools is available [here](#).

### Christmas Story for Early Years

These Christmas learning resources can be used to help children understand more about Christian beliefs. It includes the theme of trust. Click here for [more](#).



**Fischy Music** has produced a new Christmas song 'Even in the strangest times!' Written in light of Covid-19, it recognises that although Christmas will be different this year, there is still an opportunity to find joy in this season. For more, please click [here](#).



### Spring Dance

**Company's** Easter Project 2021 leads pupils through a series of dance workshops that help them engage with the Easter story. For more please click [here](#).



October report [here](#).

## News from the Church of England

### SIAMS inspections

Following the announcement that Ofsted graded inspections will remain suspended until the summer term the Church of England has confirmed that SIAMS Inspections will not resume until summer term of 2021 at the earliest.



### The Children's Society

has a selection of new resources this year for celebrating Christingle. Bearing in mind that Christingle may take place virtually, in a socially distanced way, or a combination of both, they have provided a virtual Christingle guide. For the full selection of resources or to order online click [here](#).

### Church of England Prayer for the nation: Schools, children and young people

We pray for all involved in the shaping of young lives - giving thanks for teachers and all in education, that all are nurtured and cared for and that no-one is overlooked.

### From your Diocesan Education Team:



From left to right:

Jacqui Studd	Tel: 01473 298570	<a href="mailto:jacqui.studd@cofesuffolk.org">jacqui.studd@cofesuffolk.org</a>
Phil Knowles	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07551 122311	<a href="mailto:philip.knowles@cofesuffolk.org">philip.knowles@cofesuffolk.org</a>
Gemma Kingston	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07394 568404	<a href="mailto:gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org">gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org</a>
Jane Sheat	Tel: 01473 298560 Mob: 07884 232231	<a href="mailto:jane.sheat@cofesuffolk.org">jane.sheat@cofesuffolk.org</a>
Karen Harman	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07917 390362	<a href="mailto:karen.harman@cofesuffolk.org">karen.harman@cofesuffolk.org</a>
Daniel Jones	Tel: 01473 298532 Mob: 07920 050407	<a href="mailto:daniel.jones@cofesuffolk.org">daniel.jones@cofesuffolk.org</a>
Sue Todd (with effect 4 January 2021)	Tel: 01473 298570 Mob: 07917 390362	<a href="mailto:sue.todd@cofesuffolk.org">sue.todd@cofesuffolk.org</a>



**Classroom Worship** is a fun-filled and engaging resource designed to unite the whole school in inspiring Collective Worship. For more, please click [here](#).

**iSingPOP** are also hosting a webinar next Thursday 19 November at 11am and 3.30pm to talk about their new free resource Christmas the Gift watch party. Please click here for [more](#).

### 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.

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