

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



February 2021

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues

I can honestly say that I have never known a start of term like this one. I think the first week of term was the hardest I can recall. I am so grateful to Headteachers for moving so quickly and effectively to remote learning for most pupils and opening for vulnerable children and critical workers' children, and in such numbers. Whilst, on average, 20% of primary pupils in Suffolk are in school, in some schools this is, of course, much higher.

Whilst challenging, of course, we have hope. Testing kits and laptops have been arriving in schools and we now know that schools will not be required to open in February half-term. With vaccinations on their way, and a promise of two weeks' notice of full re-opening, although not before 8 March, let us hope that better days lie ahead.

It has been good to see a number of heads at our heads' forums, where you can share information about how things are going and know that you are not alone. Please see some of the resources which heads have kindly shared:

- [Remote Learning via PlayStation 4 or Xbox One](#)
- [connectED for Teachers by Teachers - Spring term 2021](#)
- [How to Add Audio \(Narration\) for Selected PowerPoint Slides](#)

It was good to see so many Chairs of governors on 27 January, too, to share ideas. It is very good to have Sue Todd join us this term as Deputy DDE. We are here to support you and at the end of a phone and can raise issues with Suffolk County Council and the DfE. I hope you are finding Gemma's resources on [collective worship](#) useful. This half-term's theme is endurance, which seems appropriate! May I commend the Church of England's [Faith at Home](#) resources including collective worship resources. Gemma has also highlighted resources for [Lent and Easter](#) and developed a new [Facebook page](#) for those who have purchased the Emmanuel Project.

DARE bulletin

The spring 2021 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 - Spring term

Places are still available on:

- * Diving Deeper in RE on 24 February;
- * Annual update for RE Subject Leaders on 2 March;
- * the second of three twilight sessions on Leading a Church School on 4 March;
- * Assessment in RE on 10 March.

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

A key priority remains supporting Headteachers' wellbeing. The Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership produces fortnightly podcasts which we are sending to schools and we would encourage everyone to [sign up](#) to receive these direct. A [recent podcast](#) featured an interview with Dr Kate Middleton, of the Mind and Soul Foundation, exploring how we can manage our own mental wellbeing as well as that of our staff and students.

Please do pass on our thanks and good wishes to all staff for all their hard work. It is very much appreciated.

With all good wishes from all the team,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

News from Schools



Pupils from Sproughton CofE Primary had the surprise of a lifetime when BBC Radio 1 DJ Greg James and superstar musician, Rag 'n' Bone Man dropped in on their virtual music workshop. For more on this story, please click [here](#).

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Barnham CEVCP** and **Honington CEVCP Schools** which are fundraising for laptops for pupils using Gofundme. Thanks to the generosity of parents, grandparents and the local communities, the schools are nearing the targets set. It is the schools' desire for each and every child to have the same opportunity when learning remotely. For more on this story, please see [Suffolk News](#).



Wednesday 3 November

This is the date scheduled for our annual church school leaders' conference this year.

Small Schools Forum

Our next Forum takes place via Zoom on Monday 15 March at 4pm.

The Forum is free. For any queries or to book, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)



Other dates of interest....

St David's Day
1 March

World Book Day
4 March

Commonwealth Day
8 March

Mothering Sunday
14 March

St Patrick's Day
17 March

Red Nose Day
19 March

World Poetry Day
21 March

World Water Day
22 March

International Children's Book Day
2 April



St Gregory CEVC Primary School, Christmas 2020

Congratulations to pupils and staff at **St Gregory CEVC School, Sudbury** whose wonderful Lockdown Nativity at the end of last term has received almost 2,000 hits on Youtube. The nativity had been featured on ITV News (as mentioned in our last newsletter) and also in the Daily Telegraph. The nativity was made available online, as a Christmas gift, in the hope that it would be shared with as many people as possible, particularly those who would not see a Nativity as they normally would at their church. The Revd Kate Bottley tweeted: If you're missing going to a Nativity this year, these beautiful humans welcome you to theirs. To see the video, please click [here](#). If you missed the ITV News feature, please click [here](#) and then click on the video.

Congratulations to pupils at **Barrow CEVC School** who contributed prayers and readings to the All Saints Church Candlemass Service as part of Growing Younger Sunday.

Congratulations to all pupils at **Kelsale CEVC School** and Mr Moss who put together a Christmas song for The Pink Orange charity and raised well over the target of £200. The song entitled "I'll find a way to make you smile this Christmas" was featured in the EADT and on Radio Suffolk. Please click [here](#) for more on this wonderful story.

Pupils from **Kelsale CEVC School** also contributed to the Growing Younger Sunday service at St John's Saxmundham by sending a video talking about why being a church school is important to them and how everyone at the school lives out the school vision and values.



RE resources

Now available on the Diocesan website:

RE Subject Leader Handbook

Looks at the role of the RE subject leader and covers the law, teaching RE, SIAMS, scrapbooking, EYFS and RE, visits and visitors, grants and links to useful resources.

RE resources for subject leaders

Gemma has put together a padlet full of useful resources.

Knowledge Organisers

For all KS1, LKS2 and UKS2 units of the Emmanuel Project

Please click [here](#) for more.



The **WIRE** award (Widening Inclusion in RE) has been adapted for virtual visits and visitors to the RE classroom. Teachers are invited to apply for this free annual award which rewards schools who can show they are working to improve their RE provision. Please click here for further [information](#).



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](#).



Congratulations to pupils from **Stonham Aspal CEVAP School** who decorated the Christmas Tree at their local church beautifully. The school also has videos of collective worship services in lockdown available on the school website.

Including the School Christmas Service 2020 and Christmas songs signed by the children. For more, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **Tudor CofE Primary School, Sudbury** who created a stunning selection of Christmas decorations to celebrate Christmas. Despite their annual Christmas wreath trip being cancelled due to the pandemic, the Country Trust's Farm in a Box initiative meant the trip could still go ahead but in a different way. For the EADT article, please click [here](#).

Headteacher resignation

We offer our thanks and best wishes to Katie Jenkins, Headteacher at St Mary's CEVCP School, Benhall who will be leaving at the end of this term.

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.

CW resources

Now available on the [Diocesan website](#):

CW Resources for schools - lots of links to useful resources including for Lent and Easter

Two videos on endurance by Bishop Mike (aimed at staff) and Jane Sheat (for children)

Please note that CW Planning for the second half of the spring term will be available this week.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) policy

If you have not already adopted a policy, we have developed a model policy for church schools on the teaching, planning and resourcing of RSE. For more please click [here](#).

News from the Church of England

SIAMS Update

The Chief Education Officer, the Revd Nigel Genders recently wrote to schools concerning a new system for managing SIAMS inspections. The letter is available from this [link](#).

News from the Department of Education

Review your remote education provision

A framework to help schools in England identify strengths and areas for improvement in their remote education provision. Available [here](#).



Captain Sir Tom Moore

In response to the very sad news of the passing of Captain Sir Tom Moore last week, a number of collective worship resources have been produced looking at his life and achievements. These resources can be used to support independent home learning, a virtual assembly or discussion.

From the Diocese of Guildford:

Captain Sir Tom – 'Tomorrow will be a good day' - [Script](#)
Captain Sir Tom – 'Tomorrow will be a good day' - [Powerpoint](#)
Our school: together and apart - [Reflections for 'school' at home: 'Tomorrow will be a good day'](#)

From Picture News

Story: Lockdown hero Captain Sir Tom Moore sadly passed away yesterday.

Question: What can we learn from Captain Sir Tom Moore?

Challenge: To set and complete your own 100 challenge, raising awareness of something that is important to you. Please click [here](#) for the main resource and [here](#) for the assembly resource.



A new free resource for Lent from The Archbishop of York Youth Trust (ABYYT). With 6 weeks of content, Pilgrim Pathways will take pupils on a pilgrimage journey through Lent, looking at 6 different items that are important on a walking pilgrimage. For more, please click [here](#).

ABYYT are also running free webinars in March on their Young Leaders Award as well as their Introduction to Character Education Sessions. To find out more please click [here](#).

A Prayer for School Leaders

Loving God,
We are so thankful we can come to you.
Right now, we need your help,
To see us through these difficult times.

In our challenges, we need your security.
In our striving, we need your wisdom.
In our questioning, we need your guidance.
In our searching, we need your truth.

In our uncertainty, we need your answers.
In our anxiety, we need your peace.
In our frustration, we need your understanding.
In our fear, we need your love.

In our anger, we need your mercy.
In our weariness, we need your strength.
In our grief, we need your comfort.
In our darkness, we need your light.

We pray for moments of connection,
Relief, grace and even joy to come,
Trusting in your faithfulness,
Holding on to hope.

Walk with us, each day, we pray,
Today and evermore.
Amen

What's working well in remote education

Daniel Muijs, Ofsted's Deputy Director, Research and Evaluation, shares some remote learning tips, based on research and visits to schools and colleges. Available [here](#).

COVID-19 series: briefing on schools, November 2020

Ofsted publishes the third and final set of reports looking at the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people. Available [here](#).



New EEF study of Children's University

The Children's University are looking for 150 schools to take part in a new study. This is a two year programme for Years 5 through to Year 6. Deadline for applications is the end of March. For more please see the Children's University [website](#).



Let's Share the Easter Story like never before

The Real Easter Egg is the only Easter Egg which has an Easter story book, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

For schools, inside each of the Easter story books there is a chance to win £200 worth of book tokens. For more on this, 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.

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