

This newsletter, from the Diocesan Education Team, is sent to Church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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February 2022

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

As we approach February half-term, I am very aware of how challenging this term has been, with high levels of Covid-related and other absence among staff and pupils. On behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education, which met last week, may I express our thanks and appreciation for all that you are doing in church schools across the diocese? I hope that next week offers some respite.

We await the publication of the DfE's White Paper and its implications for schools. In the meantime, I am pleased that SIAMS inspections have been paused for January and February in the light of Covid absence, whilst Ofsted encourages schools to request a deferral if cases are high. Cases are beginning to fall, after a peak, and let us hope that they continue to do so.

It was good to welcome Colin Tapscott to our Headteacher forum last month. Please read on for Colin's four key elements to leaders' wellbeing (four Cs) and other resources from Everyday Leader. It was also good to meet with Chairs of governors at our recent Chairs' forum. Thank you to all our governors for their vital work in supporting church schools.

We plan to hold our annual cathedral service for church schools in the summer term this year, on a weekday afternoon in term time rather than on a Sunday afternoon in October. If you have any comments, please let [Jacqui](#) know- there is no perfect time!

I was delighted to be able to join my fellow Diocesan Directors of Education (DDEs) recently in person for the first time since the pandemic. Whilst we have been meeting regularly on Zoom, it is no substitute for catching up in person. We are about more than the roles we fulfil- we share a commitment and our professional network sustains us. There are 39 DDEs in England and each of us has a responsibility for education in our own diocese. We serve in different places and contexts but all share the same faith and the same [vision for education](#). In the same way, our church schools in Suffolk each serve different local communities but share the same



Virtual Training - Spring term

Leadership/Governance

- * Leading a church school;
- * Monitoring for governors.

RE/CW

- * Assessment in RE;
- * Diving Deeper in RE;
- * Spiritual Development in Primary Schools.

SIAMS

- * Are you ready for SIAMS? an introduction to the new SIAMS Schedule

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



Wednesday 9 November

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

purpose. I was encouraged by these words and hope you are, too:

"God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission; I never may know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I have a part in a great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling."

John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

If we can help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With all good wishes from all the team,

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to pupils at **Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP School, Debenham** who were welcomed to an 'Experience Advent' by their local church. Nearly 60 children were split into small groups and invited to listen and respond to the stories of Mary, Joseph, the angels and the shepherds. The children were also able to see the sheep they had been making at school decorating the church.

Congratulations to all our church schools for putting on nativities in December. A number were featured in the local press including: Bardwell CofE Primary; Elmsett CofE Primary; Eyke CofE Primary; Ixworth CofE Primary, Old Newton CofE Primary and Trinity CEVAP, Stowmarket. For more, including some great pictures, please see [Suffolk News](#), [EADT](#) and [Ipswich Star](#).

Small Schools Forum

Our next Forum takes place on **Monday 7 March** at 4pm via Zoom.

The Forum is free.

For any queries or to book, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

News from the Diocesan MAT

We welcome Ryan Lamb who joins the MAT on 22 February 2022 as the new Chief Finance Officer.



Admissions 2023-24

All voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies must determine their admission arrangements for the 2023/2024 school year by **28 February 2022** and publish on the school website by **15 March 2022** (even if they have not been changed from the previous year and a consultation was not required). Please click [here](#) for the local authority letter.



Archbishop of York Youth Trust Update

Key Stage 1 Young Leaders Award

This award helps young citizens explore the idea that small steps can lead to big changes. Find out more about the KS1 Young

Bardwell CofE Primary was also featured on Anglia News in December. The reporter, Tanya Mercer, sent the following message:

"Thank you so much to all the staff, parents and pupils for your time yesterday. It was utterly joyous and all your hard work paid off brilliantly! The school is such a lovely place and made us feel very welcome."

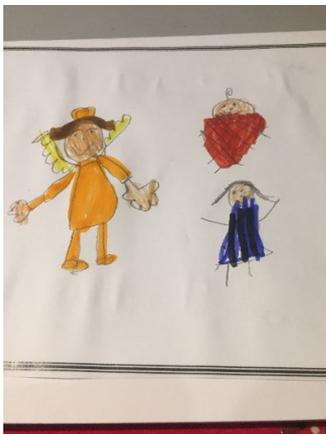
To see the clip on Anglia News, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to the Faith Council and pupils at **Hopton CEVCP School** who have raised £170.00 with a Shine a Light project to help those in need. The Faith Council had become aware of the emerging tragedy confronting children in Afghanistan and wanted to help.



With the School's current value being compassion, they were keen to promote a charity event, and so 'Shine a Light' was born. For more on this amazing story, please click [here](#).

For the School's Just Giving page and to see the comments and further information, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to **Bentley CEVCP School** which used the book 'An angel just like me' as a prayer and reflection activity before Christmas. Tyler struggled to find an angel for his tree which looked like him as they all have white skin and blond curls. The children explored diversity and designed their own Christmas cards for Tyler to represent diverse communities.



Leaders Award by watching this [YouTube video](#) or visit the [website](#). Schools who sign up 10 or more pupils at **KS1** are offered a **10% discount**, available until **18 February** with the code **NEW-KS1-10**.

Free online sessions on the **Young Leaders Award** Programme are being run this term for both Primary and Secondary schools. There are also **Introduction to Character Education** sessions with input from Dr Tom Harrison at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues. Find out more and sign up [here](#).



Called, Connected, Committed

Relevant, thought provoking podcasts are available, each lasting just 15-20 minutes, on subjects like Courageous Advocacy, Climate Justice, Sustaining Vision, and Celebrating Diversity, from 'Called, Connected, Committed', a resource designed to help leaders bring the Church of England Vision for Education alive. For more information, please click [here](#).

Collective worship resources

For ideas for CW planning based on Christian values and seasonal, please click [here](#)

For CW resources on religious festivals and our working on worship papers, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to Mellis CofE Primary School

which celebrated Epiphany on the return from the Christmas break. The School's special service sees the School process around the grounds following a star, which is a tradition in many parts of the world. This year the School continued its practice of marking its doorways in the Christian tradition of 'chalking the doors'.

The markings of 20+C+M+B+22 were written by the children above the doors of the school and have two meanings: the first and last numbers represent the year while the C+M+B represent the initials of the three Kings (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar), and also the Latin blessing 'Christus Mansionem Benedicat'-Christ bless this house'. Paul Ryle, Head said "This is a lovely start to the year as the School dedicates itself to God by asking for his blessing on the School and those within it - with a focus on helping them to work and learn together.



Congratulations to pupils in year 5 and 6 at Ixworth CofE Primary School

who helped Green Ixworth, the local environmental organisation, to plant 170 trees in the community in January. The trees will help reduce the noise and pollution for local residents.

This is the second time that pupils from the primary school have been involved in looking after their local environment. For more on this story, please click [here](#).



Finally, **Good luck** to pupils at the following church schools taking part in Celebration 2022 at Snape Maltings from 7 - 12 March 2022:

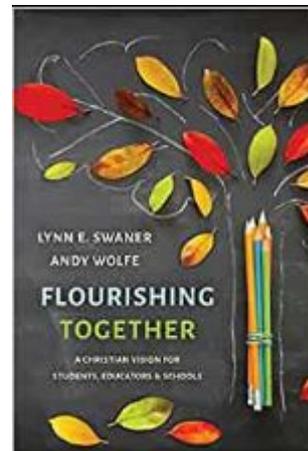
Bawdsey CEVCP, Charsfield CofE Primary, Kersey CofE Primary, Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP, Framlingham, St Gregory CEVCP, Sudbury, St Mary's CEVCP, Benhall, St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall, Wilby CEVCP and Worlingham CEVCP.

This annual music festival celebrates the diverse music-making by young people in schools and community groups across Suffolk. For further information, please click [here](#). Let us know how it goes!



Way Maker: Lent 2022

Way Maker takes pupils on a journey through Lent, reflecting on Jesus' ministry and his example of being a 'Way Maker' and serving others. The 6 sessions help pupils to explore what it means to be: servant-hearted, compassionate, accepting, bold, forgiving and a light in the darkness. Further information is available on the Archbishop of York Youth Trust [website](#).



Flourishing Together by Lynn Swaner and Andy Wolfe, offers practical ideas and explores what flourishing schools can look like.

"The Flourishing Schools model is essential for all schools, not just those of faith, to reflect on and commit to their purpose within education. It provides an essential basis from which an authentic culture develops. This book should be a handbook not only for school leaders but for all educators who wish to commit and connect in a deeper manner to their purpose."

-- Allana Gay, co-founder of BAMEed Network

Available from [Waterstones](#) and [Amazon](#)

Ofsted Inspections

Hartest CofE Primary
Ringsfield CofE Primary
Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary

Outcomes

Inadequate
Good
Inadequate

Headteacher resignations/retirements

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

- Glenn Parfitt who is retiring from Stutton CofE Primary School
- Paul Seeman who is leaving Worlingham CEVCP School
- Martine Sills who is retiring from Bedfield CofE Primary School

and to

- Elaine Burdiss who is leaving Elmsett CofE Primary School on 31 August 2022.

Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment:

- Jonathan Gray who has been appointed as the substantive Headteacher at Acton CEVCP School with effect January 2022
- Ben Hemmings who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Stonham Aspal CEVAP with effect from the start of the summer term
- Deri O'Regan who has been appointed as the Headteacher at King Edward VI School with effect from the start of the summer term.

Headteacher Recruitment

Executive Headteacher, Bedfield and Wetheringsett CofE Primary Schools - [advert](#)

Executive Headteacher, Elmsett and Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary Schools - [advert](#)

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.



Dates of interest....

St David's Day

1 March 2022

World Book Day

3 March 2022

Commonwealth Day

14 March 2022

Cultivation Street Week

7-13 March 2022

British Science Week

11-19 March 2022

St Patrick's Day

17 March 2022

Red Nose Day

18 March 2022

World Poetry Day

21 March 2022

World Water Day

22 March 2022

National Day of Reflection

23 March 2022

Mothering Sunday

27 March 2022



The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box. 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](#).



4 key elements (4C's) to wellbeing for leaders (also applies to humans too!)

- 1) **CLEAR** on our Purpose & Values and operating in them.
- 2) **CONFIDENT** in what we are doing. Equipped and empowered to lead from our strengths and partner on our weaknesses.
- 3) **in CONTROL** – we know what we can't control and focus on what we can control.
- 4) **CONCENTRATE** on where we need to bring balance. Life is constantly moving and sometimes things like sleep, diet, exercise, relationships, self-improvement get imbalance and we lose the energy we gain from them. Good wellbeing comes when we realise and invest time and energy back into the gap to replenish ourselves again.

Free cluster training - Leading in shifting sands

Colin Tapscott, Everyday Leader is offering a free one hour group session for Headteachers, either remote or in person. The session will look at what are the shifting sands, the three key elements to leading in uncertainty for our mindsets and the five keys for leading in disruption in our actions as leaders. If you are interested, please let [Jacqui](#) know.

Further resources, including videos, are available on the Everyday Leader [website](#).

News from the Church of England

Church of England School Template Employment Documents - VA Schools only

The CofE Education Office provides template model employment documents to support VA schools to fulfil their responsibilities as an employer. Updated documents are now available for use – subject to local consultation requirements. Please click [here](#) for more information.

SIAMS update

The National Director for SIAMS, Dr Margaret James has provided further clarification and explanation about self-evaluation. For this and the updated self-evaluation guidance and two new SEF templates, please see the Diocesan [website](#).

SIAMS Inspections are due to resume from 28 February.

News from Ofsted

Securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence, February 2022

A new report by Ofsted looks at different aspects of pupil attendance and how schools tackle the current challenges they face. Please click [here](#).



Learnings from net zero carbon action

**plans: Webinar
9 May 2022, 4.00 - 5:50pm**

Aimed at school business managers, school leaders, school governors and directors of MATs and anyone interested in how schools can work towards Net Zero.

This session includes:

- * findings from over 200 school energy audits about the change needed, the savings and the costs
- * six real world examples of schools with detailed Net Zero Carbon Action Plans
- * a demonstration of the energy footprint tool for schools
- * the part schools play in the national "Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030".

To register please click [here](#). For information from the CofE to inspire and encourage church schools to sign up to a vision of sustainable schools, please click [here](#).



Springs Dance Company

Projects include the Easter Project 2022 which leads pupils through a series of dance workshops that help them engage with the Easter story. More [here](#).

The PARABLE Interactive Performance Workshop provides primary schools with visually exciting and imaginative ways to boost

Ofsted inspections

Inspections continue to play an important role in providing independent assurance as settings respond to the pandemic. It is right though that these arrangements are kept under review, and adjustments made where appropriate. If you are due an Ofsted this term, please look at the information about an inspection being deferred and monitor the situation in school. Link to [advice](#)

News from the Department for Education

Tackling Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools

Join the Department for Education and subject experts for a series of three 90-minute webinars on **Wednesday 2, 9 and 16 March**, all starting at 4pm, to support high quality delivery of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). The webinars will focus on three important topics: domestic abuse, pornography and sexual exploitation. For further information and to book, please click [here](#).

School Forum rep vacancy

There is a diocesan vacancy on the Schools Forum. This is an important decision-making statutory body, made up of representative Headteachers and governors who together make decisions about school funding in Suffolk.

These include making changes to the schools funding formula, the balance of spend between delegated budgets and de-delegated / centrally retained expenditure and expenditure on a small number of defined categories, such as capital financing.

The Schools Forum also acts as the principal focus for consultation with schools on matters affecting schools budgets, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and general financial issues affecting the local authority and children's services.

For more information, please see the Suffolk Learning website by clicking [here](#).

**FESTIVAL
OF
SUFFOLK
2022**



Save the idea! We're exploring ideas for our Church Schools to use, as part of the Festival of Suffolk, during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, including: creating an original prayer space (as part of the aim to create 1000 new prayer spaces across Suffolk), writing a Jubilee prayer or designing a card for Her Majesty.

children's engagement with RE. Please click [here](#).



RISE Theatre is a Christian theatre company who develop original, entertaining faith based drama for schools, churches and events around the country. Their new interactive primary school day is on **God's Planet**, a journey of discovery around the earth and into space, learning about the beauty of God's creation, His incredible love for every person, and how each of us can care for our planet and the environment, from the depths of the jungle to the snow capped peaks of the north pole. For more information, 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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