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
“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 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 CoE Primary; Elmsett CoE Primary; Eyke CoE Primary; Ixworth CoE Primary, Old Newton CoE Primary and Trinity CEVAP, Stowmarket. For more, including some great pictures, please see Suffolk News, EADT and Ipswich Star.
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.

**Useful Resources**

**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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hartest CofE Primary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringsfield CofE Primary</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary</td>
<td>Inadequate</td>
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**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**

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.
**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](#).

**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](#).

**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.

**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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