January 2023

**News from the Diocese**

Dear Colleagues

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. We aim to provide news and information and to signpost you to training and resources which you will find helpful.

Members of the largest teaching union, the National Education Union (NEU) have voted for strike action in England over pay. This will take place over four days this term in our region: 1 February, 1 March and 15 and 16 March. The impact on schools will vary, from minimal impact to partial closure to full closure. Schools are working within DfE guidance (see below), seeking to recognise the right to strike and to minimise disruption to pupils’ learning.

Whilst it remains this Government’s ambition that all schools should be part of a strong MAT, the proposed timescale to bring this about by 2030 no longer exists as the Schools Bill will not now proceed. We await the Labour party manifesto but it seems likely that it will support the continuation of the current hybrid system of maintained schools and academies. I thought you might like to see a map of church schools in the diocese in our four church school MATs, please click [here](#).

As ever, putting the best interests of children at the heart of our decision-making is key. As the cost of living crisis continues, may I commend all efforts by schools and churches to support families? Asking parents is a first step in engaging with them. Food banks and pop up shops run by local churches and uniform and book sales and swap shops run by schools can all help. Do let us know of creative ways in which you are making a difference.

Our training programme is designed to support you. With a new Agreed Syllabus for RE in Suffolk from September 2023, please see especially Gemma Taylor’s training courses.

The Church of England website provides many prayers, which I commend to you - available [here](#). Here is just one, an example of a simple and yet profound prayer -

**The Spring 2023 DARE (Diocesan Adviser’s RE) bulletin** provides the latest in RE news and important updates including training available on the new RE syllabus, a vote on the new KS1 Emmanuel Project unit, and a look at the new SIAMS framework 2023. The bulletin is available on our [website](#) together with past issues.

**Useful Resources**

**Lent and Easter**

Gemma has collated resources for Lent and Easter - available on our website by clicking [here](#).
Creator God, 
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 
Amen.

As a team, we are so grateful for all that you do to deliver a 
high quality education, deeply rooted in a Christian vision. 
Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any help.

With all good wishes from all the team,

Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education

Diocesan Board of Education  
We are looking for two serving Headteachers to join the 
Diocesan Board of Education. The board meets in 
Ipswich four times a year in the afternoon. 
Headteachers play an important role in informing the 
work of the DBE in relation to church schools. 
For more information, please contact Jane or Paul Ryle,  
Headteacher at Mellis CofE Primary who is an existing 
member

Admissions 2024-25  
All voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies must 
determine their admission arrangements for the 2024/2025 
school year by 28 February 2023 and publish on the school 
website by 15 March 2023 (even if they have not been 
changed from the previous year and a consultation was not 
required).

For any queries, please contact Sue Todd.

School Visits  
If you wish to request a visit from a bishop, please do 
contact the Bishop's Office: email or telephone: 01473 252829. 
You will need to plan well in advance because of busy 
diaries!

Where do I stand?  
Introducing the new 
Suffolk RE Syllabus 2023  
Thursday 23 February 2023, 
9.30am - 12.00pm via Zoom  
This course aims to 
introduce the new Suffolk RE 
Agreed Syllabus 2023 and 
identify necessary changes 
to your current RE 
provision.

For more about the new RE 
Syllabus, please click here.

To book on the training or 
for any queries, please 
contact Jacqui Studd.

Upcoming Diocesan 
courses this term  
Leadership/Governance  
* Assessment for governors  
* Headteacher recruitment  
* Monitoring for governors  
RE/CW  
* CW and RE for governors  
* Inspirational CW  
* the new RE Syllabus  
* Spiritual Development 
in Primary Schools

Further details of our 
training is available by 
clicking here. To book, or 
for any queries, please 
contact Jacqui Studd
Congratulations! 

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**Xmas Upcycled Tyre Trail 2022**

**Congratulations** to Acton CEVCP and Tudor CofE Primary Schools which came first and second respectively in the Sudbury Upcycled Tyre Trail competition run by the community wardens. For more on this story, featured in Suffolk news, please click here.

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**Congratulations** to pupils at Elveden CofE Primary Academy who buried a time capsule underneath a new classroom. The time capsule includes information on the history of the school and Elveden Estate, as well as pictures of the school buildings, teachers and members of the staff and information about royal visits. For more on this story, please click here.

In other news from Elveden, following being awarded the prestigious Artsmark Gold Award last year, Lorna Rourke, Headteacher, has written about how the school used the arts to strengthen areas of improvement. For the article, please click here.

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**Congratulations** to pupils at Ixworth CofE Primary School who created little angels as their Christmas tree decorations.

Also to pupils who sent their Christmas bunting to the Starlight Charity to decorate the children’s wards in hospitals across Suffolk.

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Every year in Lent, Bishop Martin and Bishop Mike encourage us to reflect as well as to give. This year’s Lent appeal will be raising money for our link Diocese of Kagera in Tanzania. If you would like to fund-raise, e.g. by having a non school uniform day, further information is available here. Gemma Taylor is putting together daily reflections on praying for Kagera which will be available shortly and will be sent to schools for use during collective worship or at class reflection time.

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**Monday 19 June 2023, 1.30pm**

We will be holding our annual service of celebration for church schools at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds.

**Wednesday 1 November 2023**

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

The Red House and Snape Maltings develop projects and opportunities throughout the year for schools and have just launched this year’s schools pack which details some of...
Congratulations to pupils at Mellis CE Primary School who celebrated Christmas with a Follow the Star walk across Mellis common to the church, for a Christingle and Inspiring Angels themed service.

Congratulations to Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP School, Framlingham which received a card from King Charles III in response to the school's condolence messages which had been sent to Buckingham Palace.

Congratulations to pupils at St Botolph's CEVCP School who voiced their concern about the state of the planet and inspired the SLT and Governing Body to start work on reducing the school's carbon footprint. Work began in August 2022 and is due to finish by early March. For further information on the school's decarbonisation project 2022-23, please click here.

Congratulations to staff at St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury for the very festive Christmas card above. As pupils had been so amazing during the autumn term, staff surprised them with a staff panto of Cinderella at the end of term. For the moment when the Ugly Sisters, Gertrude and Griselda, made their first appearance, please click here!

Congratulations to KS2 pupils at Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School, who had expert advice from a freelance photographer on taking pictures of nature. The project was organised and funded by the Area of Outstanding Natural

Upcoming Spring Forums via Zoom

Small Schools
Mon 27 February, 4pm

Chairs of Governors
Wed 15 March, 4pm

The Forums are free. For any queries or to book, please contact Jacqui Studd

Global Neighbours Accreditation Scheme

The Global Neighbours Team at Christian Aid is supporting our church schools with courageous advocacy through the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme. This involves termly meetings with our schools, the first of which was held on Wednesday 23 November with 19 schools attending. For the slides from this meeting, please click here. For further information about the accreditation scheme, please click here.

Dates for future termly meetings:
* Tuesday 31 January
* Tuesday 20 June

Both sessions at 3.45 via Zoom To book or for any queries, please contact Jacqui Studd.
Beauty which felt it was an exciting way to encourage children to look at the beautiful area that they live in. Kelly McGrath, Headteacher writes: "The children were enthusiastic and engaged and were fascinated by the different lenses and effects that they could create. We are looking forward to seeing their work." The story was featured in the East Anglian Daily Times and is available here.

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.

Do contact Sue or Phil if you would like them to be your external adviser for Headteacher performance management reviews.

News from the Church of England

Becoming a Net Zero Carbon school
Thursday 9 February 2023, 4pm
This webinar is part of a regular series for schools, aiming to become net zero carbon. This update covers:

* NEW resources to help schools
* what key milestones to include in your own action plan
* the Energy Toolkit, now open for entry for 2022 data
* two inspiring case study videos from Blackburn and Gloucester dioceses.

For more information, and to book, please click here.

Called Connected Committed: Educating for Hope and Aspiration- Embracing and Nurturing Diversity in Leadership
The latest CofE Podcast features John Lynch, the first Black Headteacher in Brighton and Croydon, who discusses his journey as a Headteacher. He shares his experiences and insights as a trailblazer in the education system and how he overcame barriers to become a successful leader. To listen to the podcast, please click here.

Would you like to train as a SIAMS inspector?
The next SIAMS Inspector training commences in September 2023 with the deadline for applications by 31 March 2023. Further information about the training is available here.

News from the DfE

Handling strike action in schools
Guidance for school leaders, governing bodies and employers. Please click here for more.

News from Ofsted

Annual Report 2021-22
To see the report, please click here.

Dates of interest....

St David's Day
1 March 2023

World Book Day
2 March 2023

Commonwealth Day
14 March 2023

Cultivation Street Week
6-12 March 2023

British Science Week
10-19 March 2023

St Patrick’s Day
17 March 2023

Red Nose Day
17 March 2023

World Poetry Day
21 March 2023

World Water Day
22 March 2023

National Day of Reflection
23 March 2023

Mothering Sunday
19 March 2023
If you would be interested in becoming an inspector, and would like to discuss this, please contact Phil Knowles.

**Free Webinars**
Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop courageous advocacy, leadership and character through social action? Come and find out more about the **Archbishops’ Young Leaders Award** Programme through free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

**Building connections between school and church**
The latest blog, ‘How the Young Leaders Award can connect schools and local churches’, gives lots of examples of how schools have used the Young Leaders Award to facilitate and improve relationships with their local church. You can read the blog here: [abyyt.com/news](http://abyyt.com/news).

A Lent resource is expected soon and further information will follow.

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**News from the Diocesan MAT**
Welcome to Pete Bloomfield who started as MAT CEO in January.

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**NPQs reminder for February 2023 – sign up for programmes by Thursday 16 February**
From February 2023 the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust and Diocese of Norwich are offering the following Church of England NPQs – Leading Teaching (NPQLT), Senior Leader (NPQLS), Headship (NPQH), Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD), Leading Behaviour and Culture (NPQLBC) as well as Early Headship Coaching Offer (EHCO).

Why do an NPQ this February?

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To celebrate 20 years, School Edit has an extra special saving until the **31 January 2023**. School’s that take out a subscription will get 20 months free as part of the buy 20 months get another 20 month free. This helps with budgeting as it means nothing else to pay on your selected package until May 2026.

School Edit is a website builder that makes it very simple to create an attractive website that you can update yourself and has lots of features to help schools including calendar, podcasts as well as unlimited web pages.

School Edit includes telephone support so you can contact their UK based support team with any queries on your website. To find out more and get a username to try for your school, visit [www.schooledit.co.uk](http://www.schooledit.co.uk).

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To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Fischy Music has lots of exciting events and new songs to share throughout 2023.

Children of all ages (at home or at school) are invited to join **Fischy Online Concerts** with exclusive new song previews and lots of opportunities to build confidence singing together again. For more information, please click [here](#). For more on Fischy
1. It’s true what they say, the best things in life are FREE! and we have the best NPQ Offer yet. Our NPQs:

- Are fully funded
- Fit flexibly around your teaching
- Are underpinned by expert coaching, all of whom are serving or retired Headteachers
- Are highly recommended - what do the current cohort (NPQLT cohort 2) say about us?
  - 100% Overall participant satisfaction
  - 100% Coaches and facilitators are knowledgeable and engaging
  - 100% feel better equipped to lead others effectively
  - 100% say that they have been motivated to engage with research and evidence

2. Did you know that the DfE funds all Church of England NPQs for Teachers and leaders employed in state funded schools?

3. Our aim is to ensure ‘that where a child lives has no bearing on the quality of teaching they receive’. We are therefore especially encouraging small, rural schools, to consider taking up our NPQ offer. For every teacher that takes up a free NPQ, the school will receive a £200 payment to support.

For further information or to apply, please visit: www.cefel.org.uk/npq/

If you have any queries then please contact Heather Hann heather.hann@cofesuffolk.org

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Praise-along is a new collective worship project, uniting UK primary schools through Christian songs. The songs, written by leading children’s song writer Kelly Fort, will be available from January 2023. For more information, please visit the following website Praise-Along Music. For an example of Kelly’s work, please click here. There is no subscription fee and the songs will always be free for UK primary schools to use.

**Exploring Big Science and Faith Questions in the Classroom**

The Faraday Institute is running courses for primary teachers on integrating Science and RE in the primary classroom in March 2023:

- 6 March - How can RE help with teaching science?
- 7 March - How combining perspectives from both science and faith can help tackle big issues

Both courses are online, 4 - 5pm, at a cost of £50 pp.

For further information please click here.

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News from YOUR School

If you have any stories you would like highlighted, please do send us details and we will include in our next newsletter. Please send photos, short articles, web-page references, etc. electronically to Jacqui and we’ll be pleased to include them.

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The Eco-Schools programme provides a simple, seven-step framework that answers the question, Where do I begin? to protect our planet, whilst empowering young people to make a difference in their school, local community and beyond. For more information, please click here.

Schools that completed the Eco-Schools programme last year saved a combined £336,131.86 on their energy bills! And more incredible achievements are available in a new impact report.

If you would like some quick and easy ways to get started, there is a handy list of 20 free events, activities and resources to give you a head start. Please click here.

For Eco-Schools latest newsletter, please click here.
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