

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



March 2023

News from the Diocese

Dear Colleagues

These are always busy weeks in schools. So far this academic year we have seen 19 Ofsted inspections already. The DfE has recently published its SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan (see below). At our next Heads' Forum, we will welcome colleagues from Suffolk to talk about Inclusion Services overall and the range of services and support available, and to take questions (see below).

Meanwhile Lent offers us a season of reflection and looking towards Easter. May I commend our various resources for Lent and Easter available on our [website](#).

Many of Jesus' parables relate to farming and to gardening. In our county, rich in agriculture, we rejoice in nature. In our diocese, we are all about growth. In many of our church schools, the school's vision is all about nurture and growth, with references to the parable of the mustard seed in some small schools, to Jesus as the vine, and to being rooted and grounded in love (Ephesians 3:17). The following prayer for Lent builds on this theme:

Plant in us, Lord, seeds of solidarity,
so that, rejoicing in your gifts,
we may cherish your presence
in each other and all creation.

Root us, Lord, in compassion and justice.
Pour your Spirit down like gentle rain,
softening our hearts,
washing away division and selfishness.

Cultivate in us, Lord, attentiveness to your call.
Give us hope to dream of a better world
and strength to play our part
to make it a reality.

Grow in us, Lord, your ways of peace and courage,
so that, in this time of Lent,
we may bear witness to your love,
revealed to us in Jesus.
Amen.

(Source: CAFOD)



The second Spring 2023 DARE (Diocesan Adviser's RE) bulletin provides the latest in RE news and important updates including slides shared at the recent RE Network, training available on the new RE syllabus, a vote on future RE Networks, and an update on two new Emmanuel Project units. The bulletin is available on our [website](#) together with past issues.

Upcoming summer Forums via Zoom

Headteachers

Tue 25 April, 1.30pm
with SCC's Inclusion team

Small Schools

Mon 15 May, 4pm

Chairs of Governors

Tues 16 May, 4pm

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

May you celebrate the joy of Easter and enjoy a well-earned break when the school holidays arrive.

With good wishes from all of us,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

News from Schools

East Bergholt CEVCP School had a visit from Bishop Mike in February, Gill Mitchell, Headteacher writes: "Bishop Mike led an act of worship where he shared with the children what it meant to be a Bishop and showed his mitre and cloak to the children. The children were mesmerised, it was a fantastic assembly. After that the Church Council members (5 year 6 pupils) shared some refreshments with the Bishop and also Rev Steph our incumbent, many questions were asked and the children were hugely impressive with their quite deep theological questions which were ably answered by Bishop Mike! The Bishop then had a tour of the school before saying goodbye. The Church Council really enjoyed the visit and we have sent a letter of thanks to the Bishop's Office in Park Road."

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Bedfield CofE Primary School** for these lovely displays. The school's vision which underpins the school ethos is encapsulated by the Parable of The Mustard Seed, representing children's individual growth educationally, as well as socially, spiritually and emotionally.

Congratulations to **Barnham CEVCP School** on the lovely new EY and KS1 outdoor learning area (photos below). It includes a dry river bed, investigation tables for weighing and measuring, carabiners and a pulley system to help with the



**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.

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!



Good luck to Vicki and Sarah, teachers from **Bedfield CofE Primary School** who are raising money, through sponsored walks, for the school and Addenbrooke's Hospital Haemophilia Centre. Vicki and Sarah will be walking along the Thames Path in April and then doing the Lake District Ultra Challenge in June. For more on this, or if you would like to sponsor, please click [here](#).

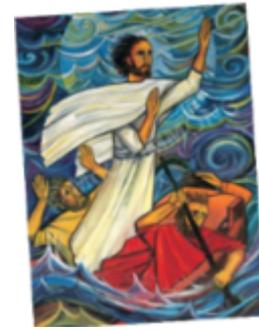
school's design and technology lesson as well as different features to encourage upper body strength.



Barnham Outdoor area - before!



Barnham Outdoor area - after!



Upcoming Diocesan courses for next term

Leadership/Governance

- * Assessment for governors
- * Being a Governor in church schools
- * Headteacher recruitment
- * Leading a Church School: Part Two
- * Monitoring for governors
- * Resilience event for Headteachers

RE/CW

- * Annual RE Update
- * Annual CW Update
- * CW and RE for governors
- * Diving Deeper in RE
- * Inspirational CW
- * New to Teaching RE
- * the new RE Syllabus
- * Spiritual Development in Primary Schools

SIAMS

- * SIAMS: Are you ready?

Further details of our training is available by clicking [here](#). To book, or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)



Congratulations also to **Barnham CEVCP** on receiving a Heritage Schools Award. One of the aims of Heritage Schools is that pupils should understand the links between local, national and international history. Barnham received a Heritage Schools grant to work with an artist, Nicola Marray-Woods and create the amazing timeline (photos above and below) which shows how people and events in local, national and international history were connected. For more on how the Timeline was created, please click [here](#). For more photos of the Timeline, please click [here](#). For more on the Heritage Schools programme, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to **Cavendish CEVCP School** which is celebrating its 160th anniversary this year. Cheryl Wass, Headteacher writes: "The children have been researching the history of our school for some display work including looking at the original press release, architect drawings, archive photographs and other records" (photo below).

The School held a Celebration Church Service in February: "It was wonderful to see so many faces in St. Mary's Church to help us celebrate 160 years of our school. Such an achievement to still be here and still a thriving part of our



Ascension and Pentecost

Gemma has collated resources for Ascension and Pentecost - available on our website by clicking [here](#).

community, not many can say they reached 160 years! Here's to many more years to come..." Other events are planned including a Celebration Dance Festival & Fete in May.



Congratulations to pupils at **Honington CEVCP School** who thought about what they would like to thank God for and created this lovely display.



Congratulations to pupils at **Elmsett CofE Primary School** who have been learning about recycling and what happens to the waste that cannot be recycled.

KS2 pupils visited the Energy from Waste (EFW) site at Great Blakenham to find out what happens to black bin rubbish which cannot be recycled. For more on this story, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to **Isaac** at **Orford CEVAP** who represented the school at the Lent church service in February, planting the tree with Bishop Martin in the church grounds.

Gemma Cannon, Acting Headteacher writes: "The school was also kindly given their own tree by the Bishop."

Class 2 planted it in our prayer garden, which doubled up as a task for our silver RSPB wild challenge!"



Where do I stand?
Introducing the new Suffolk RE Syllabus 2023

Tuesday 13 June 2023,
9.30am - 12.00pm via Zoom
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](#).



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 two have taken place and for the slides from these meetings, please click [here](#) and [here](#). For further information about the accreditation scheme, please click [here](#).

The date for the next termly meeting is Tuesday 20 June at 3.45pm via Zoom.

To book or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).



Congratulations to **St Christopher's CofE Primary School, Red Lodge** which has received a beautiful, anonymous piece of art work. The artist contacted the school, telling secretary Elaine Simpson about their passion for books and made a surprising offer. For more on this story provided by Mrs Simpson, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to parents and carers who have sent in money to **Bawdsey CEVCP School** to purchase exercise books, erasers and pencils for Nkoni Primary School in Masaka, Uganda. Every pupil at the school then wrote a message which they stuck in the front of each book to another child in Uganda. The school hope this will help set up new relationships between the two schools and they are looking forward to getting some photos and messages back soon.

Congratulations to pupils at **Cockfield CEVCP School** who this term have focussed on spirituality in Collective Worship: the Wows, the Ows and the Nows. Trudie Harkin, Headteacher writes: "The children enjoyed a day when they could explore what the word spirituality meant to them. We agreed that it was not something we could see, but what we felt inside. The children were curious and open minded to exploring life's big questions. They used their imagination and creativity, appreciating the beauty in the world." For more on the Spirituality Day, please visit our website by clicking [here](#).

Congratulations to **Gislingham CofE Primary School** which has a new one mile running track for use by the children and also the local community. The track was officially opened by paralympian Hetty Bartlett last month. The school's PTA organised a sponsored run at the event, which raised nearly £2,000 for sports equipment at the school and for the SportsAid charity, which will help fund the training for Hetty as she prepares for the Paris games. For more on this story, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to Mr Woodrow, Headteacher at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** who featured on the Luke Deal Show, Radio Suffolk on 17 March, talking about the school's joke competition for [#ComicRelief](#) and how [#RedNoseDay](#) is a brilliant way for the children to showcase their natural kindness and sense of fun and make a difference to those in need both here and around the world. To hear the feature, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **Tudor CofE Primary School, Sudbury** who decided to hold a whole school sponsored teddy bear picnic in aid of the Red Cross to help the emergency appeal for Turkey. The picnic raised more than £600. For more on this story, featured in Suffolk News, please click [here](#).

Dates of interest....

Palm Sunday
2 April 2023

Easter Sunday
9 April 2023

[Stephen Lawrence Day](#)
22 April 2023

St George's Day
23 April 2023

[World Book Night](#)
23 April 2023

[Children's Book Week 2023](#)
1 May - 7 May 2023

May Bank Holiday
1 May 2023

Coronation of King Charles III
6 May 2023

Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles III
8 May 2023

[National Children's Day](#)
14 May 2023

[Christian Aid Week](#)
14 May - 20 May 2023

[Foster Care Fortnight](#)
15 May - 28 May 2023

[Walk to School Week](#)
16 May - 20 May 2023

Ascension Day
18 May 2023

[National Children's Gardening Week](#)
27 May - 4 June 2023



Congratulations to pupils at **Stonham Aspal CEVAP School** who created these lovely 3D collages. The school writes: "We had a visit from the 'Art Solutions' team, who spent four days in school. They worked together with all the children from years 1-6 to create 3D collages showing our Christian Values. The children were taught basic skills, using newspapers and tissue paper. Once the children had learnt the skills needed to create the display, they began to build their part of the picture." For more on this story, and for more photos, please visit our website by clicking [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Debenham High, Eyke CofE Primary, Orford CEVAP** and **Thurston CofE Primary Schools** who took part in the Celebration event at Snape Maltings at the beginning of March.

Also **Congratulations** to pupils from **Acton CEVCP, Chelmondiston CofE Primary** and **Tattingstone CEVCP Schools** who performed in the Young Voices Concert at the O2 arena in January 2023.

Ofsted inspections

Ofsted inspections	Outcomes
Risby CEVCP	Good
Barnham CEVCP	Good
Cavendish CEVCP	Good
Moulton CEVCP	Outstanding
St Gregory CEVCP	Good
Dennington CofE Primary	Good
Crawford's CofE Primary, Haughley	Good
Bures CEVCP	Good
Charsfield CofE Primary	Good

SIAMS inspections

SIAMS inspections	Outcomes
St Botolph's CEVCP, Botesdale	Good
Great Waldingfield CEVCP	Good



Earth Day is fast approaching on 22 April, 2023 - and with that in mind, Bin Twinning has just created a brand new kit to help schools learn about how we can protect the planet from the urgent issue of plastic pollution. For more information, including an Earth Day kit, please click [here](#).

School Governance Conference

3 May 2023, 1-5.30pm
Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre, Ipswich, IP5 1JF
Keynote speaker is Emma Knights, CEO of the National Governance Association. To register your place, please click [here](#)



Welcome to Charlotte Green who joined the MAT finance team at the beginning of March.



News from the DfE

Headteacher resignations

We offer our thanks and best wishes to the following Headteachers who are leaving their current school at Easter 2023:

- Lynne Stabler, St Mary's CofE Primary Academy, Mildenhall
- Mayleen Atima, St Mary's CEVCP School, Benhall

Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment:

- Sarah Baker, Great Waldingfield CEVCP from September 2023
- Paul Parslow-Williams, St Mary's CEVCP, Benhall for summer term 2023

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.



Bereavement guidelines

The Diocesan guidelines aim to offer clear suggestions for coping in the event of a death in your school community and have been written for church and community schools. Available on our [website](#), together with further resources to help with bereavement.

News from the Church of England

The Coronation of King Charles III

A range of resources for schools, young people and families to celebrate the King's Coronation will be available shortly from the [Church of England](#) nationally and will be sent to schools.

Called Connected Committed: Educating for Community and Living Well Together- Growing Hope

The latest CofE Podcast features Dr Naomi Graham, a licensed therapist with over 15 years of experience supporting children and young people, who founded Growing Hope, a charity that provides free therapy to children and young people who may

SEND and Alternative Provision (AP)

Improvement Plan: Right Support, Right Place, Right Time

Sets out plans to change the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision system in England. For more, please click [here](#).

News from Ofsted

Area SEND: framework and handbook updated

This framework and handbook document sets out Ofsted's inspection principles, guidance and the main judgements that inspectors make when inspecting area SEND. For more, please click [here](#).

Mothers' UNION

Away From It All (AFIA)

is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by MU members, to give the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life. They have recently introduced a Grant scheme that schools may apply for help, so students can attend school outings or school holidays, if they are financially out of reach for parents. For more information, please click [here](#).



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost (18 - 28 May) for more people to come to know Jesus. For more, please click [here](#).

not otherwise have access to these crucial services. To listen to the podcast, please click [here](#).

Called Connected Committed: Sustaining Vision and Building Resilience- Celebrating Flourishing Systems

February's CofE Podcast featured the team from Zellar, a sustainability platform that empowers UK businesses to go green, save money and share their sustainability journey with those that matter most to them. Zellar has just completed a ground breaking Sustainable Schools pilot with 40 schools in the East Midlands and they've unlocked free access for Church of England Schools to help accelerate climate action in our schools and communities. To listen to the podcast, click [here](#).



Springs Dance Company Projects include the **Good Samaritan** which focuses on the importance of helping others and standing up for them, even if they are not like you. More [here](#).

The **Creation** workshop introduces the Genesis narrative of creation in a fun, inclusive and engaging way through dance. Please click [here](#).

[Cheeky Pandas](#) and Thy Kingdom Come are partnering together to bring you a variety of free resources that seek to get children excited about Jesus, the Bible and prayer, and ultimately, help each child build a beautiful life-long relationship with Him... with some panda fun along the way! For more, click [here](#).

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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