

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



May 2022

## News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

I hope that this half-term is going well so far, with SATs having taken place last week and GCSEs starting this week.

It was good to discuss SEND in Suffolk with Ros Somerville and church school Headteachers on 5 May. Thanks, too, to those who met on 17 May to consider the implications of the DfE's [White Paper](#) in relation to full academisation by 2030. The DBE at its recent meeting affirmed its long-standing policy of church schools needing to belong to a church-school MAT, as opposed to another MAT. They also endorsed a measured approach, and I would encourage schools to think carefully about their options. Existing church MATs are: the Diocesan MAT, All Saints Schools Trust, Tilian and Thedwastre. I plan to arrange further information sessions for heads and governors next term and am always happy to discuss with schools.

Knowing the pressures on school leaders, may I commend our Zoom wellbeing session for Headteachers on Friday 1 July? We are currently planning our training programme for next year so please do let us know if there is anything you think we can offer. We are planning to hold our annual church school leaders' conference in person this year, this time in the lecture room at the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 9 November 2022. Please keep the date free.

In the meantime, I hope pupils enjoy all the activities related to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please do let us have your photos to share in our next newsletter.

With all good wishes from all the team,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education



## Upcoming training

### Leadership/Governance

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

### RE/CW

- \* Assessment in RE;
- \* Diving Deeper in RE;
- \* RE Subject Leader Update;
- \* HLTA Forum;
- \* Spiritual Development in Primary Schools;
- \* Courageous Advocacy.

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

## Upcoming Forums

### Chairs' Forum

Tuesday 24 May, 4pm

### Small Schools

Monday 13 June 4pm

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

## News from Schools

**Congratulations!**



### Congratulations to Bramfield CofE Primary School

which will be celebrating 150 years in June. A week of celebratory events are planned which will be featured in our next newsletter.



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Barnham CEVCP School** who designed and created Easter gardens (some lovely examples featured above). They were displayed and much admired in St Gregory's, the local church.



**Congratulations** to pupils at **Barrow CEVCP School** for creating their own version of Da Vinci's Last Supper fresco to approximately half scale as part of their 'Eucharist' Beliefs & Values unit. Amazing!

**Congratulations** to **Elveden CofE Primary Academy** which is now an Artsmark Gold Award school. For more about Artsmark, please click [here](#).

**Elveden** were also highly commended in the recent Platinum Jubilee Time Capsule Competition.

**Congratulations** to Daniel Jones, Diocesan/MAT Buildings Officer on the birth of his daughter Clementine Elizabeth Gwenllian Jones on Thursday 12 May 2022.



For regularly updated information on admission matters, please see the admissions webpage on the Diocesan website by clicking [here](#).

We have added information about Ukrainian refugees and school admissions, as well as links to some of the wider support and advice available.

If you have any admissions queries, please contact [Sue Todd](#)



Picture News is running a four-week free trial this half-term for schools. Schools are still able to register to take part, please click [here](#). For more on how other schools use Picture News, please click [here](#).



**Wednesday 9 November**  
This is the date scheduled for our annual church school leaders' conference this year.



**Congratulations** to **St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall** which came together for a 'Journey through Easter' Day to explore the Easter Story. It was the first opportunity since COVID that children had been able to explore other areas of school, other than their bubble area; for some it was their first time seeing the whole school!

Vicki Boxall, Teacher writes: "In each year group the children got to experience a different station that represented a different part of the Easter Story. Each station gave the children the opportunity to revisit that part of the story, time to reflect and complete an activity. The children absolutely loved it and it provided them with a fantastic interactive experience to deepen their understanding of this important Christian festival. We then finished the day with a whole school Collective Worship with a special Easter Thanksgiving Service. It was so special to all come together to celebrate!" The photos above show three of the stations, for more, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to pupils at **St Gregory CEVC School, Sudbury** who wrote about their hopes and dreams in Collective Worship and displayed them in class (pictures opposite and below).

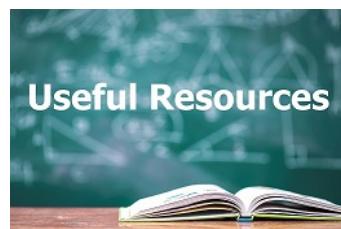


Pupils also wrote to Stephen Fry with questions about Humanism after they had watched a video that he had narrated and he replied with a video answering all of their questions! Headteacher Daniel Woodrow talked with Lesley Dolphin on Radio Suffolk about this. For more, click [here](#). The story is also featured [here](#).



## Archbishop of York Youth Trust Update

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](#).



### Collective worship resources

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

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

### RE resources

For links to resources on world faiths, please click [here](#)

### CYM'S Big Weekend

8 - 10 July, Great Wenham  
This is a packed, activity filled weekend at the end of the school year, for Years 4-6, which focuses on exploring the Christian faith through fun sessions and team activities. For more, please click [here](#).

## News from the Diocesan MAT

**Congratulations** to pupils who entered the Diocesan MAT's Spoon Book Character competition, the winning spoons are featured below:



### Overall Winners KS2

Megan – Sproughton  
Arthur – Ringsfield  
Elianna – St Mary's Woodbridge

### EYFS/KS1

Oliver – Long Melford  
Freddie – Mellis  
Isla – Hartest  
Ella – All Saints'

### Highly Commended in EYFS/KS1 or KS2

Albert – Eyke / Ben & Esmae – Long Melford  
Rupert – Mellis / Immy – St Mary's Woodbridge  
Josie – Wetheringsett / Honor – Bramfield



And finally.... we wanted to congratulate Jonathan Gray, Head at **Acton CEVCP School** for his wonderful play on words in the latest school newsletter. Jonathan writes:

"The respectful quiet from the rest of the school during the assessments has only been broken by the sound of chirping. Today the last of our 7 chicks have hatched, much to the eggcitement of the children (and staff), who have found lots of egg-cellent eggs-cuses to walk via the incubator on their way to the library/toilet/office etc! I know we are all waiting egg-citedly for the rest of the eggs to hatch!"



### Dates of interest....

**Ascension**  
26 May 2022

**National Thank a Teacher Day**  
26 May 2022

**Pentecost**  
5 June 2022

**World Environment Day**  
5 June 2022

**Child Safety Week**  
6 - 12 June 2022

**World Oceans Day**  
8 June 2022

**Healthy Eating Week**  
13 - 17 June 2022

**Fathers Day**  
19 June 2022

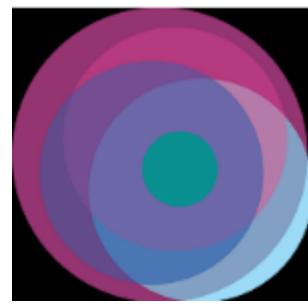
**Refugee Week**  
20 - 26 June 2022

**National School Sports Week**  
20 - 26 June 2022

**Suffolk Day**  
21 June 2022



School governors, trustees and local governing body members are encouraged to share their experience of volunteering, views on topical education policy and governing board's practice in the annual governance survey. The survey is open until **Monday 30 May at 9am** and is available [here](#).



## CofEPQH Presentations - Monday 20 June

To complete their Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship, Rachel Bacon, Deputy Head at All Saints' CofE Primary School, Newmarket and Jonathan Gray, Head at Acton CEVCP School must both give a 15 minute presentation to their peers and diocesan colleagues. In the presentation, Rachel and Jonathan will share their journey and how their learning throughout the CofEPQH - in particular their understanding and application of the CofE vision for education - has helped them to lead their school communities.

You are warmly invited to attend their presentations on Monday 20 June at 4.00pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

For more on the CofEPQH, please click [here](#).

## Headteacher resignations/retirements

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

- Julia Bowles who is leaving St Mary's CEVCP School, Benhall
- Elaine Burdiss who is retiring from Elmsett CofE Primary School
- Lynne Golding who is retiring from Bedfield and Wetheringsett CofE Primary Schools
- Julie Welham who is retiring from Gislingham CofE Primary School

## 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.

## Sessions for Heads

### 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.

## Identity and Belonging

Last year, Lorraine Prince (the East Anglian BAMEed Rep) ran a series of twilight sessions on identity and belonging. If you missed these and would be interested in further sessions, please let [Jacqui](#) know.

## Inter Faith Week

13 - 22 November

Provides an opportunity to:

- \* Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- \* Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- \* Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

To find out more, please click [here](#).



A fun and friendly guide to moving to secondary school. This revised edition offers lots of advice, together with stories of real people who have already made the move. This book makes an ideal gift for Year 6 pupils.

Currently on special offer - 10 for just £18 instead of the usual £22.50. This offer is open until 31 May 2022.

Please click here for [more](#).

## News from the Church of England

For more information about the Church of England's NPQs, please click [here](#). The DfE is now fully funding all NPQs, and the next cohorts are due to start in the autumn 2022. Registration for applications is due to open on 1 June 2022.



Please see below and opposite resources and ideas to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Festival of Suffolk.

### 'My Suffolk Story' Children's Writing Competition

Suffolk Libraries have launched a writing competition for children aged 5-11. Entries should focus on 'What you love about the outdoors in Suffolk'. This could be the wonderful countryside, the beach, your local park, street or anywhere outside.

The competition will have three categories for KS 1, 2 and 3 with a winner and runner-up to be announced for each category. Children have until 30 June to submit their entries, with the winner to be revealed on **15 July**. For further details, please click [here](#).

### Cheeky Pandas

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, and as part of Thy Kingdom Come 2022, Cheeky Pandas have produced a [cartoon episode](#) on the theme of faithfulness, a special Platinum Jubilee song for children to sing in churches, schools and homes: [A Right Royal Party!](#) There is also a Cheeky Panda [assembly plan](#).

### Our Queen free resource pack

A brand new song, written by Becky and Nick Drake and Alex Hart, to help schools celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. For more and to download the resources, please click [here](#).

### Platinum Jubilee Challenge

The Archbishop of York's Trust is asking pupils to consider what they would like to see change for the better over the next 70 years and to think about how they can start to take action towards these changes now and 'be the change they want to see' in their communities. To take part, please click [here](#) where you can download a **FREE** activity pack.

## News from Ofsted

### Every child deserves the best start in life

Ofsted has published a new strategy for the next 5 years (2022 to 2027). Please click [here](#) for more.



Hope Together and Biblica have published Our Faithful Queen, a gift book full of photos and rarely-seen prayers written for the Queen. It is a unique gift to help readers appreciate the Queen's Christian faith and could be a special commemorative gift to schools. Cost £5.00. For more information, please click [here](#).



As part of the celebrations #Suffolk blessing is an opportunity to bless those around you. For schools this could be sharing the [Suffolk prayer](#) during assemblies. For more, 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.

## From the Diocesan Education Team

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