

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



April 2020

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

THANK YOU

I am writing this to offer our support and resources to church schools across the diocese in these extraordinary times. Above all, I wish to thank our Headteachers and school staff for all that they are doing and continue to do to care for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers following the "closure" of schools on 20 March.

Amidst all of the challenges of dealing with the anxiety of staff and parents, I continue to be impressed by the resilience, willingness to serve and positive attitude of Headteachers and their staff. Whilst most schools remain open, a number have collaborated to ensure provision at a nearby school. As we see relatively small numbers of children attend most settings, this makes sense.

As we approach what would have been the end of term and the beginning of the Easter holidays, I know that schools will miss their usual end of term services. I am grateful to clergy for their continued support of schools in these difficult times.

The government is encouraging schools to stay open over the Easter holidays where possible. This raises the possibility of opening on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Please see the NAHT's [FAQs](#).

The key principle remains that wherever possible, every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. Where schools are open over the holidays, they should follow the advice on staffing from the LA in Suffolk Headlines, seeking volunteers and ensuring that all staff are able to have time off work. I know that governors will want to ensure the wellbeing of staff, especially Headteachers at this time. We are also available to support Headteachers.

There is no shortage of information and I would especially commend [Suffolk Headlines](#) and the [Suffolk Primary Headteacher Association](#) (SPHA) updates to Headteachers.



Virtual Training - summer term

We will be running the following virtual courses:

- * our termly Basics of RE and Basics of CW courses on 29 April

- * a twilight session on leading a church school on 7 May, 4.00 - 5.30pm.

If you would like to book or for any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#).

Please note that the twilight session on Christianity with the Rt Revd Dr Mike Harrison planned for 22 April has been postponed and will be re-arranged at a later date.

Child Wellbeing

Karen Harman writes: If you have wellbeing concerns over children being cared for at home, do contact the support agencies.

Izzy Connell is clear that the County Inclusion Support

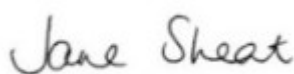
I have listed below some websites, poems and resources which you may find helpful. Whilst there are many decisions to be made, from free schools meals to staff rotas, may I encourage us all to be kind to those around us and to trust in the God who gives us hope for the future.

I am struck by how often in the Bible God says "Do not be afraid. I am with you" to all sorts of people, in all sorts of situations. He doesn't promise us a life free of hardship, but instead promises to be with us always.

As a team, we are keen to support you in whatever way we can. Please feel free to contact us by email or mobile phone.

May the God who brings new life and hope fill you with His joy this Easter.

With all good wishes from all of us,



Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

Lockdown

by Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM March 13th 2020

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and
reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their
neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new
reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.

Service (CISS) etc
want to help wherever
they can and you can
still make referrals.

For further details,
please click [here](#)

DARE bulletin

The second Spring 2020
DARE (Diocesan Adviser's
RE) bulletin is now available,
providing RE advice and
information on resources,
please visit our [website](#) for
more.

Useful websites

Listed below are some
websites which you may find
helpful.

Public Health England (PHE) advice

[To the general public](#)
[To educational settings](#)

DfE Coronavirus Helpline

Phone: 0800 046 8687
[Email](#)

Suffolk County Council

[Schools guidance](#)

NAHT

[Guidance for school leaders](#)

Church of England

[Prayer resources](#)

Useful Resources

Collective Worship

The Diocese of Guildford has
designed five collective
worship ideas for children to
do at home. Please click
[here](#)

Resources for mental health and wellbeing

Mentally Healthy Schools has
a free toolkit with resources
and tips to help address
anxiety - please click [here](#)

To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

News from Schools

Linda Curran-Spain, Head at **Trinity CEVAP School, Stowmarket** has kindly shared a letter she sent to parents on 26 March which offered support and advice to parents over concerns about children's schooling during the coronavirus lockdown. To see the letter please click [here](#).

Congratulations!



Congratulations to schools within the **All Saints Schools Trust** which have been helping children and families in need.

Melanie Barrow, CEO of the All Saints Schools Trust writes: "Staff at "The Haven" which is the Trust's base at Laxfield have worked with our catering company Chartwells to utilise food stores from across each school and make hampers for the Free School Meal children and families in need.

62 were delivered to three locations... and the families either

Supporting Good Mental Health

The Church of England's mental health reflections booklet - please click [here](#)

Prayers for When You Feel Anxious: coloring pages

Illustrated Ministry coloring page prayers to help in times of anxiety. Please click [here](#)

Active Coping Calendar

Daily actions to look after yourselves and each other during this global crisis. Please click [here](#)

100 things to do indoors

A great way to keep yourself and your family occupied during these uncertain times. Please click [here](#)

More News from Schools

Congratulations to **Barnham CEVCP School**

and Headteacher Amy Arnold, featured on Look East on Monday 23 March for how they are helping children and families during the current crisis. To see the feature, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to pupils from **Bawdsey CEVCP School** who took part in a remembrance service in honour of an American air crew who lost their lives 75 years ago when a Flying Fortress crash-landed into the River Deben. Pupils read poems they had written about the crew at the service. For more on this story, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Creting St Mary CEVAP School** on being featured in the East Anglian Daily Times in March. The school decided to try something different for World Book Day this year and decorate a potato as a book character rather than dressing up! There were many wonderful creations

collected these or volunteers from the staff delivered them. The families were so grateful.

We have wonderful, committed staff working across the schools. Watching them pull together at the Haven has been a very humbling experience- very proud!"

Congratulations to the following church schools which took part in the virtual #hymnflashmob, at the request of St Paul's Cathedral, to send a song of support for those who are anxious, ill, isolated or lonely in their community.

Pupils at **Bedfield CEVCP School** offered a musical gift of [Easter Jubilation](#)

Pupils at **Bentley CEVCP School** came together to sing **Everywhere around me** (apologies link not working)

Pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** gave a heart-warming rendition of their favourite hymn, [Show me the way](#)

Year 5 and 6 pupils at **St Edmundsbury CEVAP School** sent a message of hope with [Be Bold, Be Strong](#)

Pupils at **St Mary's CofE Primary School, Woodbridge** with an action packed rendition of [Our God is a great big God](#)

Pupils at **Sproughton CofE Primary School** were so excited to be part of this positive campaign that they sang two songs [Who Put the Colours in the Rainbow](#) and [Lord of the Dance](#)

For more about the #hymnflashmob, please click [here](#) or to hear all schools who took part in this wonderful initiative please click [here](#)

Ofsted Inspections

St Mary's CofE Primary, Hadleigh Good

Outcomes

SIAMS Inspections

Bawdsey CEVCP

Eyke CofE Primary

Gislingham CofE Primary

St Mary's CofE Academy,
Mildenhall

Outcomes

Good

Good

Good

Requires
Improvement

Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following on their recent appointments:

- Jess Damant who has been appointed Head of School at Kersey CEVCP School from Easter 2020
- Simon Martin who has been appointed Headteacher at Debenham High School from September 2020.

from the very hungry caterpillar, to Harry Potter; from the tiger who came to tea to Rapunzel! For more, please see the [East Anglian Daily Times](#) (EADT).

Congratulations to pupils at **Great Barton CofE Primary School** who, along with pupils from nearby schools, campaigned about air pollution outside their school in early March and held special assemblies. For more please see the [EADT](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary School**, who with the help of an art company, created a 3D collage of a rainforest out of old materials. For more and to see the stunning display, please see the [Bury Free Press](#)

Congratulations to **Whatfield CEVCP School** which celebrated its 160th anniversary with a Victorian Day in March. Staff and pupils wore traditional Victorian clothing, lessons and school meals gave pupils an idea of how things were in 1860. For more on this story, please see the [EADT](#).



Chase the Rainbow /Rainbow Trail

Children are being encouraged to create rainbows to display in the window at home, so that when children go for walks they can 'chase the rainbow' and see how many rainbows they can find especially during this hard time of self isolation. For more, please see Chase the Rainbow on [Twitter](#) or the Rainbow Trail on [Facebook](#).

Headteacher resignations/retirements

We will be saying goodbye to Vanessa Wells who is leaving Orford CEVAP School at the end of the summer term.

For the Attention of Headteachers

If you are retiring or resigning as Headteacher, please do let us know. Jane, Karen 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.

For Governors

The **Department for Education** has published a governance update providing the latest departmental and government advice on the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and how this relates to the role of those on governing and trust boards and clerks/governance professionals. Please click [here](#) for the Governance Update page.

Schools' Choice has issued a virtual governance model policy. Please click [here](#).

GovernorHub has produced detailed guidance on setting up and holding virtual meetings - please click [here](#).

The NGA's latest guidance on Governing in challenging circumstances - Business continuity and holding virtual meetings can be found [here](#).

And the People stayed Home

A poem by Kitty O'Meara, March 2020

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant
ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended



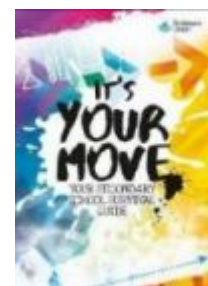
Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus, from 21 May - 31 May 2020. For more, please click [here](#).



Hope Church School Governance Online Training Programme - Improving Church School Governance

Aimed at Governors and Trustees (Directors) in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees (Directors) committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. Start date is May 2020. For more information, please click [here](#).



It's Your Move - 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 they are on special offer - £16 for 10 instead of the usual £22.50. Please click here for [more](#)

and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

Messages from the Church of England

The Rt Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich:

Thank you for all you are doing in these very challenging and uncharted times. I realise how you and your colleagues are accepting responsibilities that many in other professions and occupations are not being asked to do, as you continue to support and teach our children. I recognise the challenges of making the right decisions in times when the situation is changing rapidly and bewilderingly. So thank you for your diligence, commitment, skill and care. You and your colleagues and the children in each of our schools are in my prayers.

The Revd Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer:

Thank you to all our teachers and educational leaders who will continue to work tirelessly to support the whole country by enabling key workers to keep working. You are hugely valued and appreciated.

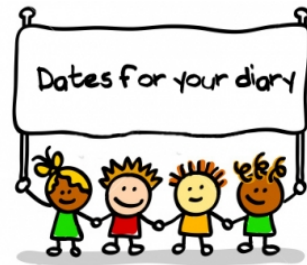
The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury:

Please be assured of my prayers for you all. As teachers and leaders on the frontline in education, you have my utmost admiration and gratitude for the work you are doing in the service of our children and young people, and for the common good. Christ calls us towards a vision of hope and service, to care for our neighbour and to be a light in the darkness. All those who work in schools are truly a sterling example of this, at this time and always.

A Prayer for Coronavirus

Dear God,
When I feel worried about what is happening
in the world,
Blow my worries away like the wind blows leaves
on an autumn day.
When I feel sad about how this virus is making so
many people sick,
Wash my tears away like a waterfall washes over rocks
and makes them smooth.
When I feel scared that I might get this horrible virus,
Calm my fears like the dawn makes a dark night fade
away and I feel safe again.
Thank you that you are with me and everyone I am
worried about.
Thank you that you love me and will always
be with me.
Amen.

by Dorothy Moore Brooks, Chaplain at Great Ormond
Street Hospital



Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

Easter Day

12 April 2020

St George's Day

23 April 2020

Shakespeare's Birthday

23 April 2020

World Book Night

23 April 2020

National Share a Story Month

May 2020

Children's Book Week

4 - 10 May 2020

May Bank Holiday

Friday 8 May 2020

Christian Aid Week

10 - 16 May 2020

Foster Care Fortnight

11 - 24 May 2020

National Children's Day

17 May 2020

Share a Pencil Day

20 May 2020

Ascension Day

21 May 2020

National Children's Gardening Week

25 May - 2 June

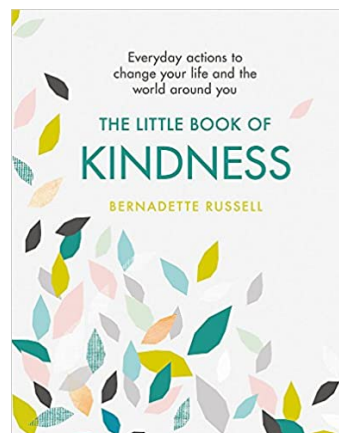
From the Diocese

To join in prayer and watch broadcasted services taking place in the Diocese, please visit the Diocesan [website](#).

If you would like to keep up to date with Diocesan news, please click [here](#)

A Prayer for a Pandemic

Dear Lord,
May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember the most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between their
health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the
tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot wrap our arms
around each other,
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to
our neighbours.
Amen.



A book recommendation

The Little Book of Kindness by Bernadette Russell is packed with fun ideas, practical tips and interactive exercises that encourage you to 'be kind' in every area of life - online, to strangers, to the environment, in your community, to yourself - and change the world, one act of kindness at a time. £8.99. Available from [Waterstones](#)

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 your Diocesan Education Team:



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