

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 2022

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

As I write, we are nearing the end of another really challenging term in schools and I wish to pay tribute to Headteachers for their steadfast commitment to their pupils. The level of Covid-related absence has been at its highest this term, affecting both staff and pupils. This has made the challenge of arranging cover even harder. Schools have worked tirelessly to remain open and to provide a high quality education for all. Our thanks and appreciation go to you all.

Our hearts go out to those in Ukraine and we have put together various links to information about [how to help](#) and about [school places](#). It has been very moving to hear stories of Suffolk families welcoming Ukrainians into their homes, or applying to do so.

As Ofsted's [annual report](#) clearly shows, the pupils who have lost most as a result of the pandemic are disadvantaged pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). I have arranged for church school Headteachers to meet with Ros Somerville, Assistant Director (Inclusion) for Suffolk County Council on 5 May to discuss concerns about provision for SEND pupils in Suffolk. The DfE's [Green Paper](#) sets out the government's proposals and I would encourage schools to respond to the consultation, which ends on 1 July 2022.

The DfE's long-awaited [White Paper](#) has been published. Of particular interest is the DfE's commitment to a fully academised system and the expectation that "We want all schools to be in or joining a strong trust by 2030." This will be the focus of the next Heads' Forum on Tuesday 17 May when we can begin to explore together what this might look like in Suffolk.

In the meantime, it is good to see signs of spring all around, new growth in the garden and sunshine to cheer us. Let us make the most of this season of Lent, as we look towards Easter. I hope that the Easter holidays provide some opportunity to celebrate the hope and joy of the Easter season.

SEN Meeting Thursday 5 May

Ros Somerville, Assistant Director (Inclusion), SCC has been invited to meet with church school Headteachers to outline what steps are being taken regarding SEN in Suffolk and to hear Headteachers' concerns and answer questions.

The meeting will take place on Zoom on Thursday 5 May at 1.30pm. If you would like to attend, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

SIAMS

The CofE's SIAMS national team has made available two new summary SEF templates. For these and other useful resources, please click [here](#). For any support with SIAMS and/or completing the SEF, please contact [Phil Knowles](#).

May you know
the peace of the babe of Bethlehem,
the gladness of the boy of Nazareth
the strength of the man of Galilee
the courage of the Christ of Calvary
the joy of the Risen Lord
and a foretaste of the glory of the ascended Christ.
Amen

With all good wishes from all of us,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education



Sue Todd, Deputy DDE has provided an update on admissions. For VA schools and academies, there is a reminder about allocating places and for VC schools, further information about the removal of oversubscription criteria from admission policies from 2023-24. To see the update, please click [here](#).

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Wilby CEVCP School** which is celebrating 150 years since the school opened. Roisin Wiseman, Headteacher writes: "To mark the anniversary, we performed a special 150 years celebration musical to a packed-out audience on Wednesday 16 February and then on the 17 February we conducted a special anniversary service led by Bishop Mike at St Mary's Church in Wilby. To read more about the wonderful time the school is having celebrating, please click [here](#).



Virtual Training - Summer term

Leadership/Governance

- * Leading a church school;
- * Assessment for Governors;
- * Monitoring for governors.

RE/CW

- * Annual Update for RE Subject Leaders;
- * Assessment in RE;
- * Diving Deeper in RE;
- * Spiritual Development in Primary Schools.

Wellbeing Sessions

for Heads, governors and administrators. More below.

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

Congratulations to the pupils at **All Saints' CofE Primary, Newmarket** who had a Wellbeing Challenge Week to support Children's Mental Health. Each day they did something to focus on their mental wellbeing. They INCLUDED their whole school community with the events, planned by Mrs Macro but it INVOLVED everyone working together to make it happen. For more, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Bawdsey CEVCP** which now has a new purpose-built teaching kitchen which pupils will be able to use for lessons with the school's trained chef. The school's head Katie Butler said the kitchen was created to continue the good work after receiving recognition, including a Healthy Schools award. The kitchen will be officially opened on 8 April. For more, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Barnham CEVCP School** who created beautiful hearts for Ukraine. Amy Arnold, Headteacher writes: "Each child decorated a wooden heart with the colours of the Ukrainian flag and on the reverse added a word to show their support, such as peace, hope, solidarity; clutching their hearts tightly, children closed their eyes and said a prayer for the recipients. Each heart has been put into the pockets of donated military clothing and children's coats and should now be in Ukraine."



Congratulations to **Elveden CofE Primary Academy** which had a busy start to the spring term. Lorna Rourke, Head writes: "It was wonderful to welcome parents in after all this time to participate in our Shrove Tuesday celebrations, we feel like we have our school family back together again."

"This was followed by Mrs Flack, our lay reader, coming into school for our annual Ash Wednesday Collective Worship.

Children enjoyed hearing how the ash came from the palm crosses and reflected on their own Lent promises."



Also at Elveden, "the play team have been working hard to develop our OPAL lunchtimes which see children mixing across the school to collaborate, support and achieve to 'Let Their Light Shine' and live in God's image through their behaviour. We are so proud of them and they cannot wait for lunchtimes to play with friends!"

Congratulations to the pupils at **East Bergholt CEVCP** who held two wonderful concerts in St Mary's Church on 31 March for parents and families. The children sang songs from ISingPOP a Christian organisation which provides songs for children to engage with in collective worship. For more information see <https://www.isingpop.org/>

Congratulations to the pupils at **Kelsale Primary School** who attended a service at the local church to celebrate Mothering Sunday. 150 children were present together with 80 adults (staff and parents). The focus of the service was on gratitude and celebrating mothers and all who fulfil a mothering role. The local church reported: "It was excellent to see each of the classes present something they had made, a poem, or a song. It was also amazing to see the church so full and buzzing with people!"



Learnings from net zero carbon action plans: Webinar 9 May 2022, 4.00 - 5:50pm

Aimed at school business managers, school leaders, school governors and directors of MATs and anyone interested in how schools can work towards Net Zero.

To register please click [here](#). For information from the CofE to inspire and encourage church schools to sign up to a vision of sustainable schools, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to **Ash Class at Hopton CEVC Primary** who raised £410 for the Disaster Emergency Committee for Ukraine by holding a fair at school. The school wrote: "The class totally stepped up to the challenge of putting on a fair: thinking of ideas for fun games; sourcing prizes; and then putting the games together."

"We are all incredibly proud of the mature attitude and focus they demonstrated – and also the amazing support from the whole school. Well done!"

For more, especially from the viewpoint of the pupils involved, please click [here](#).

Congratulations also to the school council at **Hopton CEVC Primary** for raising over £70 for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. The children had wanted to do a whole school event and organised a pancake race.

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



Congratulations to **St Matthews CofE Primary School** for raising £695 for St Elizabeth Hospice and £305 for Comic Relief. The school will also be participating in the [Big Hoot](#) this summer with their design inspired by the school's vision - "Whatever you do, do it with all your heart." Colossians 3:23.

Congratulations also to **Vasile Sandu, a teaching assistant at St Matthew's** who spoke at Parliament's education select committee in February on his experience working with Roma families in Ipswich and the need for greater understanding in schools. For more on this, please click [here](#).



Wellbeing events in the summer term via Zoom

For Governors
- Friday 6 May

For school administrators
- Thursday 16 June

For Heads/senior staff
- Friday 1 July

Each event will involve guest speakers leading reflections and will include time to reflect, network or pray. More information will be available in due course. For any queries, please contact [Jacqui Studd](#)

The spring 2022 DARE (Diocesan Adviser's RE) bulletin provides advice and information on RE and resources. The bulletin is available on our [website](#) together with past issues.



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

Save the Date!
The national CofE Education conference will take place on Friday 27 January 2023 in London.



Congratulations to **Worlingworth CEVCP** on celebrations for World Book Day. Vicki Gascoyne-Cecil, Head: "An alien space craft landed at the school, just in time for book week! During our Sci-Fi themed week, we enjoyed reading, reciting and writing lots of poetry. We had daily cosy reading sessions and on World Book Day we all dressed as aliens!"

Forums in the summer term

Heads' Forum

Tuesday 17 May,
1.30pm - discussion
on the white paper
and academisation

Chairs Forum

Tuesday 24 May, 4pm

Small Schools Forum

Monday 13 June, 4pm

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

Ofsted Inspections

Creting St Mary CEVAP

Outcomes

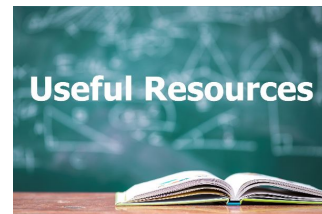
Good

SIAMS Inspections

Hopton CEVCP

Outcomes

Good



Religious education

Gemma Taylor has produced two proformas for RE Class Scrapbook/Journal monitoring and the RE Pupil Voice, as well as a number of world faith padlets. For these and other RE resources, please click [here](#).

From Scripture Union: [Mental health and wellbeing resources](#)

[Jesus Died for Me? Free Resource Pack](#)

Diocesan Bereavement guidelines

The 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.



We offer our thanks and best wishes to all those staff who are leaving their current school at the end of this Easter.

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.

Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment:

- Crystelle Edwards who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Stutton CofE Primary with effect from 25 April 2022
- Leigh Hilton who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Elmsett CofE Primary with effect from 1 September 2022
- Holly Marchand who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Worlingham CEVCP with effect from 1 September 2022
- Kelly McGrath-Wells who has been appointed as the Headteacher at Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary with effect from 1 September 2022
- Imogen Wallis who has been appointed as the Executive Headteacher at Bedfield CofE Primary and Wetheringsett CofE Primary with effect from 1 September 2022

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.



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

From the Church of England

Ahead of Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, more than half a million books will be given to primary school-aged children by the Church of England and Archbishops of Canterbury and York's global prayer movement, Thy Kingdom Come.



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 **You are Special** workshop provides opportunity for children to explore how everyone is uniquely made and tackles the big issues of self-worth and of how we treat others. Please click [here](#).

The book 'Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle' – is the latest development from the Cheeky Pandas – a children animations series created by Swell Revolution which has featured contributions from Archbishop Justin Welby, Nicky Gumbel, CBeebies Gemma Hunt and many others. The free picture story book, based on the theme of faithfulness, was written to help children grow deeper in their faith and 'understand the faithfulness of the God who loves us' in honour of Her Majesty, the Queen's 70 years of faithful service.

Copies of Queen CJ and the Bouncy Castle will be sent to all our church schools from the CofE's national team. For other resources, please click [here](#).

Sale of RE artefacts by East of England Faith Agency (EEFA)

EEFA is selling items from its "Open the Box" RE resource boxes. These include items from a range of faiths, details are available [here](#). Items can be bought



From the Diocese Celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee In Suffolk

This booklet provides details of events and opportunities to get involved, together with some ideas for parishes, schools and local activities, and links to resources to use. To download, please click [here](#).

The Ven Sally Gaze, Archdeacon for Rural Mission & Convenor of Suffolk in Prayer, is also inviting schools to take part in a community prayer spaces initiative for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please click [here](#) for more details.



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](#).

From Hope Together

Resources for under 5's, primary and secondary schools to help children find out about the Queen, her faith and her 70 years of service. Further information for schools is available [here](#). For under 5s, click [here](#).



For more about the Festival of Suffolk, events and how to be part of the celebrations, please click [here](#).

News from Ofsted

[Education recovery in schools: spring 2022](#)

A briefing on the continued impact of the pandemic and education recovery, drawing on evidence from autumn 2021 and spring 2022 inspections.

[Ofsted Annual Report 2020/21](#)

The Annual Report looks at schools, early years, further education and skills and children's social care for the academic year 2020 to 2021. Published December 2021.

News from the Department for Education

[Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child](#)

This White Paper sets out the Government's long-term vision for the school system.

individually or by box and prices range from from £1 - £10 each. If you are interested, please contact Liz Bennett, lizb@eefa.net



Dates of interest....

Palm Sunday

10 April 2022

Easter Sunday

17 April 2022

St George's Day

23 April 2022

World Book Night

23 April 2022

Children's Book Week 2022

3 May - 9 May 2022

May Bank Holiday

2 May 2022

Foster Care Fortnight

9 May - 22 May

National Children's Day

15 May 2022

Christian Aid Week

15 May - 21 May 2022

Walk to School Week

16 May - 20 May 2022

Ascension Day

26 May 2022

National Children's Gardening Week

28 May - 5 June 2022

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

2 June - 5 June 2022

Festival of Suffolk 2022

May - October 2022







SEND review: right support, right place, right time

This Green Paper consults on a stronger national system for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) Please click [here](#) for the online survey/consultation.

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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