

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



May 2023

## News from the Diocese

Dear Colleagues

It has been lovely to see pictures of various celebrations of the Coronation taking place in our schools this month. I know many of you have enjoyed creative ways of celebrating with the children and local community.

One of the most moving parts of the Coronation service for me was the presentation of the bible to King Charles with the words: "We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God." I love the idea of the most valuable thing that the world can give: the living word of God.

We are looking forward to our own celebration of church schools and to welcoming schools to our cathedral service on 19 June at 1.30pm. Our cathedral service theme is Seeking Wisdom, Knowledge and Truth. I hope that schools continue to seek inspiration from the Church of England's vision for education, with its four key elements: educating for wisdom, hope, community and dignity- [Vision for Education](#).

There have been many calls for a review of how Ofsted works following the tragic death of Ruth Perry, Headteacher. As a Diocesan Board of Education, we very much recognise the pressure of the system on school leaders, but acknowledge, as do Headteachers, the need for accountability for standards and an independent inspection system. Overall Ofsted has been a force for good and most schools' experience of inspection is positive. As a team we are privileged to attend final Ofsted feedback meetings along with governors and a representative from the local authority (in the case of maintained schools). We are always happy to support Headteachers both before and after inspection and will continue to offer training for heads and governors. It will be interesting to see how the changes in the SIAMS framework from September work out as we move away from gradings to an overall judgement.

Given the pressures on Headteachers, may I commend our



**Monday 19 June 2023,  
1.30pm**

We will be holding our annual service of celebration for church schools at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds. If you would like to attend, please let [Jacqui Studd](#) know by Wednesday 7 June.

**Wednesday 1 November  
2023**

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



**Heads' and senior staff  
wellbeing day**

Friday 7 July 2023

9.30am - 1.30pm

Thomas Clarkson Centre,  
Bury St Edmunds

This year's theme is mind management: when anxiety reigns, helping you get the reins back on your anxiety. In this session Colin Tapscott, Director of Everyday Leader and former

annual wellbeing day for heads and senior leaders on Friday 7 July?

We currently have two vacancies on the Diocesan Board of Education for serving Headteachers. If you would like to find out more, please contact me for an informal discussion. The DBE meets four times a year.

With good wishes from all of us,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat  
Diocesan Director of Education

### A Prayer for those sitting exams

Dear God,

We thank you for all of the young people in our community, and particularly think of those undertaking GCSE exams over the next few weeks.

We pray for peace of mind as they go through revision, interventions, lessons, tutoring and the final exams. Give them opportunities to rest, where they can experience joy and peace, and help them not to feel overwhelmed by the pressure and the pace of exam season. We pray for peace over our school, teachers, and students' families.

Thank you that we can read so many stories in the Bible of people experiencing the normal feelings of anxiousness and fear. Thank you for the many times you show that you are greater than the situations which cause us to feel anxious and fearful.

In amongst all of the stress and pressure of exam season, may they not lose their excitement and hopefulness of all that is to come.

Amen

## News from Schools

### Congratulations!



**Congratulations** to the following schools on their Coronation celebrations....



**All Saints CofE Primary, Laxfield** was visited by members of the Scots Guards, one of whom had taken part in the Coronation;

Pupils at **Charsfield CofE Primary** made pledges to help the planet which they will achieve by the end of the summer term.

Headteacher, will help us unpack just how our mind works when it comes to worry and anxiety and how we can learn practical steps to help us keep our worries in check and reduce anxiety and lead again with authenticity and confidence. For more details, please click [here](#).



### Upcoming Diocesan courses

#### Leadership/Governance

- \* Leading a Church School: Part Two
- \* Monitoring for governors

#### RE/CW

- \* Annual RE Update
- \* 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](#)



### Archbishop of York Youth Trust Update

Free online sessions on the Young Leaders Award Programme are being run next half-term for both Primary and Secondary schools. Find out more and sign up [here](#).

Pupils from **Barnham CEVCP** arrived at St Gregory's Church in style. The procession of children included a horse and hobby horses as they 'galloped' to the church ready to crown their King.



For the full story on the Diocesan website, please click [here](#). Also featured in Suffolk News, please click [here](#).



Chaffinches Class at **Dennington CofE Primary** re-enacted the Coronation and pupils worked in mixed age groups to create a speedy and elegant carriage for the King and Queen.

Pupils at **Fressingfield CofE Primary** designed and made crowns to wear during a picnic feast on the field and there was a re-enactment of the Coronation.

**Great Barton CofE Primary** honoured the Coronation of King Charles III with a project focusing on nature – a key passion of the King's.



Pupils created a Coronation garden, one side themed red, white and blue and the other side bee-friendly. For the Suffolk News article, please click [here](#).

Pupils at **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary** enjoyed an afternoon tea, craft making, cricket challenge and singing celebration to mark this special occasion.



Pupils from year 5 at **Mellis CofE Primary** learned about King Charles III, the Coronation and in particular the Coronation Chair. The children designed, built and decorated the chair using up-cycled old boxes and wood. Full story [here](#).

Pupils from **Orford CEVAP School** dressed up in red, white and blue for the King's Coronation and learning was themed all around the Coronation for the week.



### **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](#).



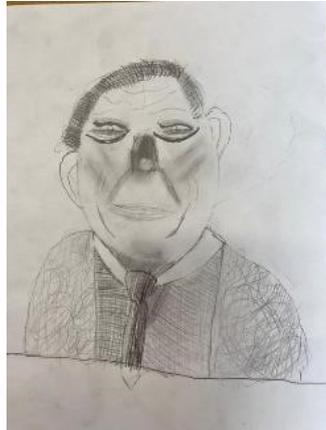
Pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP** in Sudbury celebrated the Coronation by coming to school dressed in red, white and blue.

There were Coronation-themed activities during the day, including a Coronation time capsule and a picnic on the school field. Two pupils from Reception dressed up as King Charles and Queen Camilla and were cheered as they walked along the red carpet onto the playground. The national anthem was sung and the King was asked what his first act would be as King to which he replied "free ice cream for everyone!" Unbeknown to the children, an ice cream van had been parked out of sight and then emerged playing its chimes!

Daniel Woodrow, Headteacher said: "The videos that we made and shared on Twitter went viral and ended up being shown on the news in Canada, Australia and America. It was crazy - we've never had a reaction like it! We combined the two videos and put them on YouTube - the link is [here](#)."

Pupils at **St John's CEVAP School, Ipswich** held a Coronation day on Friday 5 May. There were prayers for King Charles III in the morning and then everyone enjoyed a tea party in the afternoon.

**St Peter & St Paul CofE Primary, Eye** and **Stradbroke CofE Primary** enjoyed fish and chip picnic lunches with everyone dressed in red, white and blue; and Oak class at **Thorndon CofE Primary** sketched portraits of the King before the whole school had activities, games, a raffle and cakes with their parents and families.



Pupils at **Tudor CofE Primary** in Sudbury had a whole day learning about the King's Coronation. They all made red, white and blue bunting to decorate the

classrooms and the corridor. They also designed, made and decorated a crown fit for a king. The youngest children acted out the Coronation and listened to 'Zadok the Priest' by GF Handel, which was among the music played at the Coronation. Full story [here](#).



## Dates of interest....

**Pentecost**  
28 May 2023

**World Environment Day**  
5 June 2023

**Child Safety Week**  
5 - 11 June 2023

**World Oceans Day**  
8 June 2023

**Healthy Eating Week**  
12 - 16 June 2023

**Fathers Day**  
18 June 2023

**Refugee Week**  
19 - 25 June 2023

**National School Sports Week**  
19 - 25 June 2023

**National Thank a Teacher Day**  
21 June 2023

**Suffolk Day**  
21 June 2023



**Small schools and effective curriculum**  
**14 Jun 2023**

**3:45 pm - 5:15 pm**  
British Educational Research Association (BERA) invites school leaders, educational researchers, education policy makers and interested stakeholders to a twilight online panel discussion on 'Small schools and effective curriculum.' For more information, please click [here](#).

## More congratulations to schools

**Congratulations** to the PTA of **All Saints' CEVCP School, Lawshall** which is focusing fund-raising efforts on the Forest School sessions for all the children at the school. Over £1,000 has so far been raised through fundraising events and a GoFundMe page. For the Suffolk News article, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to the Year 10 Young Enterprise Team "Koazy" at **Debenham High** who won the Company of the Year in the Suffolk and Norfolk finals. Koazy now goes through to the Regional East of England final held at the University of Suffolk representing Suffolk and Norfolk. For the East Anglian Daily Times article, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to pupils and staff at **Great Whelnetham CofE Primary School** who have raised £1,200 towards play equipment. The school has partnered with Sports for Champions, a community interest company, to launch the fund-raiser, with 60% of the money going to the school and 40% going to professional athletes in need of support. Top gymnast, Jaydon Paddock, visited the school in April to inspire pupils. For the Suffolk News article, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to **Hopton CEVCP** which held an Education Exchange Day on the last day of the Easter term. The day was to celebrate and learn all about Kenya and the



fantastic work and aid provided by the charity Education Exchange. Activities included creating designs inspired by African art, learning the Swahili language of Taita, and finding out about some traditional African playground games, as well as brainstorming fundraising ideas for mosquito nets. The school writes: "the children..all agreed that the day had been fun and were looking forward to holding a fundraiser with the hope of supplying mosquito nets." For more on the day, please click [here](#).



**Congratulations** to **Orford CEVAP School** which has been awarded the Sandwell Well-being Charter Mark. The Charter Mark is awarded to schools which have shown a commitment to creating an environment that promotes the well-being of pupils and staff in accordance with the Sandwell Well-Being Charter Mark criteria.

For more about the Charter Mark, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to **St Matthew's CofE Primary School, Ipswich** for holding a kindness week. Kori Dorrington, Year 1

## Music and Creative Arts

**Right Tracks** is a collection of pop-style songs written by the Salvation Army for use in work with primary school-aged children. There are five songs with Christian themes and five which are based on values. The songs are available as lyric videos, audio tracks, backing tracks and more - some even have assembly plans to go alongside them. For more, please click [here](#).



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



An exciting, interactive day of performance and workshops for the whole school exploring themes around the environment,

Teacher and Chaplain writes: "At St Matthew's we have had Kindness week, a time of encouraging staff and students to be kind. Stickers designed by the children have been used to award kindness, staff have been secretly blessing each other in generous and creative ways, and Church School Council have been secretly watching out for acts of random kindness. It has been really lovely to see the children trying to be extra kind, and it has been wonderful to see the joy on staff members' faces when they've received a secret blessing. A highlight was the delicious cakes baked to bless staff by kind members of St Matthew's church. Let's keep the kindness going together!"

**Congratulations** to Stoke by Nayland Benefice and **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School** which have joined forces to offer 'no form-filling' financial aid to support families in need through a Hardship Fund.

Kelly McGrath, Headteacher said: "The types of things funded are especially matched to the family need. This could be items such as a new washing machine, new glasses for children with particular sight needs or new shoes. The fund will finance the items on behalf of the families, and arrange delivery to them, no questions asked."

For the fuller story, please click [here](#).

**Congratulations** to pupils at **Wetherinsett CofE Primary** who were visited recently by Bishop Mike and Rev Canon Julia Lall. The school writes: "Recently two new stained glass windows, that were bequeathed to All Saints Wetheringsett, have been installed. Pupils have been visiting the church and taken inspiration from the



windows to design their own 'stained glass' windows for the school. In all our subjects at Wetheringsett we focus on 'Three Big Ideas'. For art these are inspiration, experimentation and expression. Many of the pupils' design windows expressed the school vision 'The parable of the Mustard Seed' and the surrounding rural area and community.

climate change, God's love for each of us and how we can care for God's amazing planet! For more information, please click [here](#).

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## News from the Church of England

### SIAMS: List of schools likely to be inspected by SIAMS 2023-24

For the list, please click [here](#) (and see page 12)

### Leaders Like Us

This programme is for UKME/GMH teachers and leaders which develops knowledge and skills over 18 months in preparation for headship in the next 2 – 5 years.

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

### Guiding Our Pupils Towards Change Practice: Educating for Community and Living Well Together

The latest podcast features the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA) team. The AYLA programme recognises and supports young people from across England who are actively making a positive difference in their schools and communities. To listen to the podcast, 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](#).

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They will be experimenting with different materials to produce their finished windows. Wetheringsett is in a Victorian building with high windows, that when the sun is shining glares the pupils. The stained glass or similar material should help stop the glare. Bishop Mike came to the school with Rev. Julia Lall on the 16 May to choose the winning designs, one of each of our classrooms."



### Ofsted inspections

	Outcomes
Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP, Debenham	Good
Debenham High	Good
St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall	Good
Bramford CEVCP	Good
Thurlow CEVCP	Good

### SIAMS inspections

	Outcomes
Crawford's CofE Primary. Haughley	Good

### Headteacher resignations

We offer our thanks and best wishes to the following Headteachers who are leaving their current school at the end of the summer term:

- Gill Mitchell, East Bergholt CEVCP
- Sarah Baker, East Bergholt CEVCP
- Trudie Harkin, Cockfield CEVCP
- Tina Hosford, Great Waldingfield CEVCP
- Helen Picton, Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP Framlingham
- Ruth Slater, Bures CEVCP
- Ginny Ryan, Nacton CofE Primary

### Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment with effect from September 2023:

- Clare Sampson, East Bergholt CEVCP
- Lora Cann as Acting Head, Sir Robert Hitcham's CEVAP, Framlingham
- Marc Gilbert, Cockfield CEVCP
- Michaela Harris, Bures CEVCP
- Roxanne Rutter, St Mary's CofE Academy, Mildenhall

## News from the DfE

### Improving attendance: good practice for schools and multi-academy trusts (MATs)

Updated guidance to help schools, academy trusts, governing bodies and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance, including roles and responsibilities. For the guidance, please click [here](#). Videos by schools and MATs sharing their different techniques for improving attendance rates in their settings are also available [here](#).

### Working lives of teachers and leaders

The findings of the first wave of the working lives of teachers and leaders survey has been published. For more, please click [here](#).

### News from Ofsted HMCi commentary: improving how we work

Article by HM Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman on calls to reform school inspections. Please click [here](#) for more.

### 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

## National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)

The St Edmundsbury and Ipswich DMAT is offering the following CofE NPQs – Leading Teaching (NPQLT) and Senior Leader (NPQSL), whilst the Diocese of Norwich is offering Headship (NPQH), Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD), Leading Behaviour and Culture (NPQLBC) as well as Early Headship Coaching Offer (EHCO), from Spring 2024.

The CofE NPQs are the only ones to offer coaching as part of the programme. For NPQLT and NPQSL the face-to-face days and the coaching are led by Heather Hann, Jane Trampnow and MAT Heads. At the moment, the costs are being funded by the DfE and there is a further £800 of funding available for schools with less than 150 pupils to pay for supply costs.

Applications for cohort 5, which starts next term, are now open. For an overview of the NPQ programme, please click [here](#). To apply, please visit: [www.cefel.org.uk/npq/](http://www.cefel.org.uk/npq/). If you have any queries, please contact Heather Hann [heather.hann@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:heather.hann@cofesuffolk.org)

to be your external adviser for Headteacher performance management reviews.

## 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.

## From the Diocesan Education Team

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