

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 2024

News from the Diocese

As we approach half term, this newsletter brings you news and information from across the diocese. After the success of the Big Sing at the cathedral in Holy Week, we are very much looking forward to welcoming children, staff, governors and parents to our annual cathedral service on Monday 17 June at 1.30pm. The theme this year is hope.

I am delighted to let you know that following re-advertisement for our Diocesan Schools' Adviser, we have successfully appointed Rachel Cutts. Rachel is currently RE and Collective Worship lead at Creting St Mary CEVAP School and will take up post in September. We look forward to welcoming Rachel to the team.

We are here to support you to develop the Christian vision and ethos of your school. Please do take advantage of Phil Knowles' SIAMS support visits and SIAMS training. A number of training courses are taking place this term. Please read on for more details and see our [website](#) for our full training programme. Highlights include Victoria Bush's [RE annual subject leader update](#) on 26 June and [spiritual development in primary schools](#) on 2 July. Victoria is RE subject lead at Barrow CEVCP and is kindly providing support to schools on RE and Collective Worship this term and developing ideas on spirituality. Victoria can be contacted direct at v.bush@barrowcevcpprimaryschool.co.uk.

We encourage Headteachers and senior leaders to attend our annual wellbeing morning on Friday 5 July in Bury St Edmunds (more information below).

Elveden Schools Trust has been approved as the academy sponsor for St Edmundsbury CEVAP School in Bury St Edmunds. If any schools in the area are considering academy status, and would like an informal discussion, please do contact Lorna Rourke, Executive Principal at Elveden Academy at headteacher@elvedenacademy.co.uk



Pupils from **Barnham CEVCP School** who took part in the Big Sing event on Tuesday 26 March and showcased the courageous advocacy taking place at the school.



The Learning Hub at St Edmundsbury Cathedral is responsible for organising structured school visits and family activities during the school holidays and is looking to build its volunteer team. If you are available during term time or the holidays and would like to continue to inspire young people, please contact learninghub@stedcathedral.org for more information.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

With all good wishes from all of us,

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

News from Schools



Follow the Torch

As the 2024 Paris Olympics grow closer, the Diocesan MAT is raising awareness about the Olympic Games and its values by having a Torch travelling round all 21 of the MAT schools. The MAT have been lucky enough to borrow a real Olympic torch from a competitor in the 2012 Paralympics. The latest stage of the journey saw four students from **Chelmondiston CofE Primary** together with their Headteacher climb into a rib boat and make their way across the River Orwell to collect the torch and olympic flag from year 6 pupils at **Nacton CofE Primary**, who waited on the beach for the handover. For more on this story, and to see previous stages of the Torch's journey and follow progress, please click [here](#).

Congratulations!



Congratulations to the senior choir at **St Gregory CEVCP, Sudbury** who were invited to sing at St Paul's Cathedral again. The choir sang two songs during the lunchtime Eucharist on 16 May.



Wednesday 6 November 2024

This is the date for our annual church school leaders' conference which will take place at the Salvation Army Hall, Stowmarket.

Summer Forums

For Chairs of Governors

Thur 20 June, 4pm

For Small Schools

Mon 24 June, 4pm

The Forums are free and via Zoom. For queries or to book, please email: [Jacqui Studd](#)



RISE Theatre's final primary school tour of **God's Planet** takes place this autumn. Bookings are now open for 1 October - 29 November 2024 and there is a special offer for all school bookings confirmed before **30 June** as well as further discounts for academy and group bookings. Further information is available [here](#).



Daniel Woodrow, Headteacher writes: "It's obviously a huge honour to be asked to sing at the cathedral again."

The invitation came around as Tom Cogan, our inspirational, irreplaceable choirmaster, is retiring at the end of this school year and St Paul's agreed to help us give him the best possible send-off that we can." For more on this story, including the videos of the pupils singing the two songs plus a flashmob of Mary Poppins Feed the Birds on the steps of St Paul's, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to the Courageous Advocates after-school club from **Barrow CEVCP** who spent an afternoon creating a butterfly-shaped pollinator-friendly garden in the churchyard of All Saints Church. Victoria Bush writes: "This was the end result of months of research, planning, fundraising and working with parents, other pupils, local parish councillors and the church leaders to make a real difference to the issue of climate change and habitat destruction. This also supported the Eco Church plan for churchyards to become nature havens."



Congratulations to pupils at **St Matthew's CofE Primary School** who have turned thousands of discarded bottle caps into artwork and ditched plastic cutlery at lunchtime to save the environment. The Eco Warriors at the School have been working towards an internationally recognised environment protection award, known as the Green Flag Award. For more, please see the Ipswich Star by clicking [here](#).



Congratulations to **Stutton CofE Primary** which has been taking part in a project with the British Council and have been paired with a school in Egypt. Crystelle Edwards, Headteacher writes:



Summer courses

Our training programme is available on the Diocesan [website](#). Courses this term:

Leadership/Governance

- * Being a Governor
- * Effective Headteacher performance management
- * Monitoring for Governors

RE/CW

- * Annual RE Subject Leader Update
- * Inspirational Collective Worship
- * Spiritual development in primary schools

SIAMS

- * SIAMS: are you ready?

Wellbeing

- * for Headteachers (please see below)

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



Heads' and senior staff wellbeing day

Friday 5 July 2024

9.30am - 1.30pm

Thomas Clarkson Centre,
Bury St Edmunds

This year's theme is O still small voice of calm: What can we learn from Elijah about finding moments of rest amidst the 'earthquake, wind and fire'. In this session, the Revd Laura Mumford will reflect on what rest might mean for you and how you might be able to prioritise it at different times

"Each school does a project on the Global Development Goals and shares work. We completed work to share with our partner school and it was all about showing care and compassion." For more, please click [here](#).



Stutton CofE Primary School also had a visit from Bishop Mike, who talked to pupils about his job and some of the things a Bishop does and what a Bishop has to wear. Bishop Mike also blessed the school.

Congratulations to the Friends of **Whatfield CEVCP School (F.O.W.S.)** who have created a beautiful outdoor area for spiritual reflection. The School writes: "A school's strength is greatly enhanced by the unwavering support of its parents, and at Whatfield, this support is abundant!"

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our incredible F.O.W.S. over the Easter holidays, what was once an unusable, overgrown and neglected pond area has been transformed into a



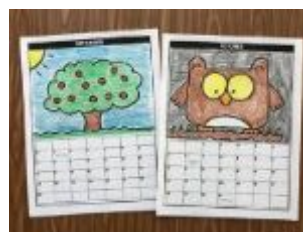
vibrant space where children can engage in spiritual reflection, collaborative learning with their peers, and enjoy pond-dipping adventures at any time. Recognising the crucial role of outdoor learning spaces in children's education, the F.O.W.S. organised numerous fundraising events and dedicated their free time to renovating this area, driven by their love for their own children and the future students of Whatfield CEVCP School. Our heartfelt gratitude to Mr & Mrs Baker, Mr & Mrs Death and Mrs & Mrs Morley." For more photos, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to pupils at schools within the Thedwastre Education Trust who joined together to perform at a concert at Thurston Community College last month. A special music day was held for pupils from **Great Barton, Rattlesden, Thurston CofE Primary Academies** and Woolpit Primary School which included

of the year. We are grateful to Jonathan Gray, Headteacher at Acton CEVCP School who will also present. Further information to follow after half-term.

School Visits by a Bishop

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!



Dates of interest....

World Environment Day

5 June 2024

Child Safety Week

3 - 9 June 2024

World Oceans Day

7 June 2024

Healthy Eating Week

10 - 14 June 2024

Fathers Day

16 June 2024

Refugee Week

17 - 23 June 2024

see more below on World Refugee Day 20 June

National School Sports Week

17 - 23 June 2024

National Thank a Teacher Day

19 June 2024

Suffolk Day

21 June 2024

a series of workshops to prepare for the concert in the college auditorium in the evening.
For more on this story, please click [here](#).



Congratulations also to Sarah Hutchens of **Thurston CofE Primary Academy** who won the Bury Free Press Teaching Assistant of the Year. For more on this story from Suffolk News Online, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to pupils at **Tattingstone CEVCP School** who have entered the Suffolk Show Schools Garden Competition. Beverley Derrett, Headteacher writes: "The theme for 2024 is 'An Olympic Themed Garden' and the children at Tattingstone Primary have really enjoyed this exciting project. All children were invited to take part in the competition and three of our KS2 children have seen the project through from start to finish. They started by planning how they wanted the garden to look and what plants they would like to grow / buy for their design depending on what was available in the garden centres at this time of year. They researched the plants and looked at what would be good for the bees and butterflies and then wrote some information sheets about the plants." For more, please click [here](#).

The gardens will be judged on the first day of the Show, Wednesday 29 May. Good luck Tattingstone!



Congratulations to the following church schools which made the semi-finals and finals of the Suffolk Farming School of the Year competition 2024. The final takes place at the Suffolk Show next week.

Year 3 pupils at **St Peter & St Paul CofE Primary, Eye**. The School writes: "Pupils made this amazing model showing a cross-section of healthy soil. The judges were impressed with their efforts and our school got through to the semi-final."



World Refugee Day

Thursday 20 June 2024
The Sanctuary Foundation has organised another Great Big Live Assembly, this time for World Refugee Day. If you register on the link below you can either watch the assembly live at 09.05 on 20 June or later at a time of your choice. More information is available [here](#).



The Big Help Out

Friday 7 - Sunday 9 June

Back for its second year, the Big Help Out has created a series of specialised resources for teachers to get involved and create a new generation of volunteers. There are lots of ways schools can get involved, including hosting Big Help Out assemblies. Information and resources for schools available [here](#).



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. For more information, please click [here](#). Mothers' Union has also recently started a School Uniform grant scheme. For further details, please contact the Mothers' Union (Suffolk) by clicking [here](#).

Year 3 pupils at **Acton CEVCP School** have reached the final. The School writes: "We had to build a model out of recyclable materials to represent a cross section of healthy soil. We used a range of boxes to create each layer, which we then added to with different recyclable materials." For more, please click [here](#).



Pupils at **Stoke by Nayland CofE Primary School** also reached the final with the model opposite completed for Stage 1. The semi-finals (Stage 2) involve pupils competing against other schools to complete a day's worth of challenges before being selected to go through to the final.

Good luck to our schools in the final! For more on the Farming School of the Year Competition, click [here](#).

Ofsted inspections

St John's CEVAP, Ipswich	Good
Tudor CofE Primary, Sudbury	Good
Hartest CofE Primary	Good
St Edmundsbury CEVAP	Requires Improvement

SIAMS inspections

Acton CEVCP	J1
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Headteacher appointments

Congratulations to the following Headteachers on their appointment:

- Katie Hammond at All Saints' CofE Primary, Newmarket from September 2024
- Gemma Cannon, current Head at Orford CofE Primary, who becomes Head at Rattlesden CofE Primary Academy with effect September
- Kim Bramley, as Head of School, at St Edmundsbury CEVAP from the summer term



Enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Further information and ideas are available [here](#).



Archbishops' Young Leaders (AYLA) Award webinars are a great way to find out how the AYLA works. Just 45 minutes, the twilight sessions help you think about how you might develop courageous advocacy in your school and equip the next generation of young leaders. The session will unpack how the Award helps learners grow and develop in key leadership skills and character virtues and the kinds of social and environmental action projects which schools get involved in within their communities. For dates of sessions running this term, and to register, please click [here](#).

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.



Kagera - link Diocese
The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich has a partnership with Kagera Diocese in Tanzania and the Education Team encourages schools to find out about life in Kagera.

We are exploring ways of building and developing further meaningful links, focusing on mutual benefits and reciprocity for children and teachers here and in Kagera. Here are two opportunities to gain first hand experience of life there:

The Revd Gail Minter, Carlford Benefice, visited Kagera with Bishop Mike earlier this year and is now planning a return trip with her daughter. They will visit from 23 October to 1 November 2024 and will be there over half-term but will also miss a few days of term time. Gail is happy for her details to be passed on to anyone who might be interested - she says "I would love to have others join us. Of course, they could take a separate flight and have a shorter visit." If you are interested, please contact Gail directly: gail@carlfordchurches.org

Chris and Anji Dawkins are our Link Diocese Co-ordinators and they have had a request for help with English teaching at KCTC, the Bible College in Kagera, starting in September. They say "We wonder if it's worth advertising to schools in case anyone knows of a retired teacher waiting for an adventure!" Chris and Anji have taught there several times for 6-8 weeks at a time, since 2013 and say "What a joy and privilege it has been to teach adults there". If anyone knows of someone (retired or otherwise) who would be interested, Chris and Anji would be very happy to talk to them about it, or offer advice on potential future visits: kagera@cofesuffolk.org

News from the Church of England



SIAMS 2024-25

For the list of schools likely to be inspected in 2023/34 and (newly published) in 2024/25 please click [here](#).



News from the Diocesan MAT

We are currently recruiting for a Chief Finance Officer. Please see website for more information, please click [here](#).

Do contact Sue or Phil if you would like them to be your external adviser for Headteacher performance management reviews.



A new project from the Church of England, a partnership between the much-loved Cheeky Panda characters and the award-winning Jesus Storybook Bible, looks to empower and equip families to support their children's faith journey. Free resources such as videos (narrated by celebrities such as Mary Berry, Bear Grylls, Gemma Hunt, and the Archbishop of Canterbury), activities, crafts and prayers will be shared as part of a six-week journey through some well-loved Bible stories. The hope is that this exciting new project will give families, churches, and schools the tools they need to engage children with the Bible. [Sign up to receive email updates from the Cheeky Pandas](#)

News from Ofsted

'Deep dives' removed from ungraded inspections

4 May 2024

From September, inspectors will no longer conduct subject deep dives during ungraded inspections, which are designed to check on standards in schools that already carry a good or outstanding grade. For more, please click [here](#).

News from DfE

Academy trust governance guide

7 March 2024

Guidance on strategic leadership and the governance of academy trusts which replaces the governance handbook 2019. To see the guidance, please click [here](#).

Maintained schools governance guide

7 March 2024

Guidance on the strategic leadership and governance of local-authority-maintained schools which replaces the governance handbook 2019. To see the guidance, please click [here](#).

Managing older school buildings

25 April 2024

Guidance to help school building owners and maintenance staff identify building systems and prioritise maintenance and repair of their school estate. For the guidance, please click [here](#).

Review of the RSHE statutory guidance

16 May 2024

Consultation seeking views on changes to the relationships, sex and health education statutory guidance. This consultation closes on 11 July 2024. For the consultation, please [click](#) here.

Subject report series: religious education

17 April 2024

An Ofsted subject report into factors that influence the quality of religious education (RE) in schools in England. To see the report, please click [here](#).

Fairness and transparency central to Ofsted's updated complaints and pausing policies

5 April 2024

An updated policy for complaints about inspections, which aims to handle providers' concerns more fairly, thoroughly and efficiently. To see the policy, please 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.

From the Diocesan Education Team

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