

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



October 2024

News from the Diocese

Dear colleagues,

I hope that term has started well for you. It is early days in the life of the new government and a number of policy areas are still under review. The funding in full of a pay award for teachers of 5.5% and a pay award for support staff is certainly encouraging. It will be interesting to see what decisions are taken in respect of academisation and whether, for example, the withdrawal of the £25k conversion grant from September 2024 other than for groups of three or more schools will be reviewed.

A number of changes to Ofsted (see below) have been well publicised and a revised handbook published recently. I know that heads welcome the move to phone calls being made on Mondays in advance of inspections on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There will no longer be an overall effectiveness grade for graded inspections, although the four sub category judgements will remain. School report cards will be introduced from September 2025 to provide a "much clearer, much broader picture of how schools are performing".

It is very good to have Rachel Cutts join the team as our new Diocesan Schools' Adviser. Rachel is happy to visit schools to provide support on RE and collective worship.

We have a number of events coming up this term and some dates for your diary for later in the school year, too.

Headteacher wellbeing

We are inviting all heads to join us for our wellbeing session, which this year is **free**. We have moved this to the afternoon of **Friday 11 October 2024**. Revd Laura Mumford and Jonathan Gray, Head at Acton CEVCP will speak. We have sent [further details](#) to Headteachers.

Forums 2024-25

Admissions

Tue 8 Oct, 4pm
Thu 16 Jan, 4pm

For Chairs of Governors

Tue 26 Nov, 4pm
Wed 19 Mar, 4pm
Thu 26 Jun, 4pm

For Small Schools

Mon 21 Oct, 4pm
Tue 25 Feb, 4pm
Mon 9 Jun, 4pm

For Headteachers

Tue 14 Jan, 1.30pm
Thu 1 May, 1.30pm

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



Enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and

Church school leaders' conference

May I commend our annual church school leaders' conference to which you are warmly invited? We are holding this year's conference on **Wednesday 6 November 2024** from 9.30am to 4pm at the Salvation Army, Stowmarket. Please do make every effort to attend if you possibly can: the closing date for bookings is Friday 18 October. We have a great line-up of speakers. Cathy Priest from the [Faraday Institute](#) will speak about "Integrating science and religion in the classroom". The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion is a Cambridge-based interdisciplinary research institute improving public understanding of religious beliefs in relation to the sciences. Revd Dr Tom Wilson, Director at the [St Philip's Centre](#), Leicester will speak about "Refilling the Reservoir of Hope". The St Philip's Centre works with communities to help people to live well together, bringing people together and running courses and programmes with churches and schools. Given the divisions in society highlighted by the riots over the summer, the work of the centre has never been more important. Janita Betts, Headteacher of St John's CEVAP, Ipswich will speak about the impact of coaching on leadership and teaching. The conference is for Headteachers, senior leaders and governors and is a great opportunity to network. For the programme and how to book, please click [here](#).

Big Sing - after the success of last year's pilot with Christian Aid, we are already looking forward to next year's Big Sing. This will be held on **Tuesday 1 April 2025** at 10.30am at the cathedral.

Cathedral service - our annual service for all church schools will take place on **Monday 23 June 2025** at 1.30pm.

We very much hope you can join us at some of these events, or at some of our other training sessions this term.

We are pleased to be sending Headteachers and foundation governors copies of recently published booklets from the Grove Book series. This series is designed to offer and promote Christian thinking rooted in practice for all involved in schools and churches. The booklets are available to download from the links below:

[Governance in a Christian Manner;](#)
[Developing a Theologically rooted Christian Vision in Schools;](#)
[Spiritual Agents: Pupils as Leaders of Collective Worship.](#)
We plan to make available future Grove publications to schools as they become available.

We are always on the lookout for resources for schools. Please read on for more information.

With all good wishes from all of us,

interactive way. Further information and ideas are available [here](#).



Training programme 2024-25

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

Leadership/Governance

- * Leading a church school
- * Monitoring for Governors
- * SEND for Governors

RE/CW

- * New to Teaching RE

Ofsted

- * Ofsted

Wellbeing

- * for Administrators
- * for Headteachers

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



School Visits - Cathedral

The Learning Centre at the Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds has a dedicated team who work with all schools when they visit. For more information about visits, please click [here](#). To contact the Learning Centre please [email](#).

Jane Sheat

Jane Sheat
Diocesan Director of Education

The Archdeacon of Ipswich, Rhiannon King will be leaving the diocese to become the new Bishop of Southampton in the Diocese of Winchester in October. A full press release is available on our website [here](#). We wish Rhiannon every blessing in her new ministry.

News from Schools

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Trinity CEVAP School, Stowmarket** on its recent 10 year celebrations. Linda Curran-Spain, Headteacher, said: "We had such a wonderful celebration of what is so special about Trinity, our children and our community. As a leader of a Church school I am so privileged to be able to share the teaching of Jesus and watch our children grow and develop in so many ways. Sharing the day with Bishop Martin who has been part of the school since its first days was really special. Hearing his praise of the children and their behaviour was lovely." For more, please click [here](#).



Congratulations to the **Eco Council** at **Acton CEVCP School** which has achieved Green Flag status, on behalf of the school, for the first time. The school writes:

"Mr. Newcombe has been working with Eco Council on a number of projects both inside and beyond the school gates and we are really very proud of their hard work and dedication." For more about the Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation programme, please click [here](#).

Congratulations to **Barningham CEVCP** which celebrated Harvest Festival last week. Families donated to the local food bank with generosity and kindness.



SHINE YOUR LIGHT

Scripture Union has produced resources to help shine the light this Halloween:

Shine Your Light for Children is designed for use with pupils aged 8 to 11 to help them share their faith.

Shine Your Light - Teens explores the importance of the peer-to-peer approach – young people reaching their peers with the good news of Jesus.

To download these free resources, please click [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](#).

Congratulations to pupils at **St Gregory CEVCP School, Sudbury** who made a special video for National TA Day (27 September) to say thank you to all of their amazing teaching assistants. For the video, please click [here](#).



"These rooms are being used to help our children feel calm, secure and supported. The Nurture Room is also the base for our amazing new Wrap Around Care offer."

Congratulations to **St Edmundsbury CofE Primary School, Bury St Edmunds** on its new Nurture Room and Sensory Room. Kim Bramley, Head of School writes: "Staff were very busy working hard on these wonderful spaces over the summer."



Congratulations to **Honington CEVCP** on its new Sensory Room – The Ark (photo opposite) - and reading shed (photo below). **Congratulations** also to pupils from the school council who helped to unveil the new village sign in July. For more, please see the [EADI](#) article.



The reading shed at Honington CEVCP School

Congratulations to the hard working group of helpers who helped **Thurston CofE Primary Academy** transform the reflection garden and create the beginnings of a digging/ mud kitchen zone.



Dates of interest....

Black History Month

October 2024
see below

National Week of Prayer

12 - 20 October 2024

All Saints Day

1 November 2024
see also [CW planning](#)

Children's Book Week

4 - 10 November 2024

Inter Faith Week

10 - 17 November 2024
see below

Remembrance Day

11 November 2024
see also [CW planning](#)

Anti-Bullying Week

11 - 15 November 2024

Nursery Rhyme Week

11 - 15 November 2024

World Kindness Day

13 November 2024

Children in Need

15 November 2024

Road Safety Week

17 - 23 November 2024

UK Parliament Week

18 - 24 November 2024

Universal World

Children's Day
20 November 2024

St Andrews Day

30 November 2024

Advent

1 December 2024
See [Advent padlet](#)

Christmas Jumper Day

12 December 2024



Congratulations to **Worlingworth CEVCP School** which also celebrated Harvest Festival recently and received harvest donations. During a recent Rainbow Value Day, the school thought about the question: 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8)

Ofsted inspections

Kersey CofE Primary

Outcomes

Good

East Bergholt CEVCP

Good

St Mary's CofE Primary, Woodbridge

Good

SIAMS inspections

Ringsfield CofE Primary

Outcomes

J1

Headteacher resignation

We offer our thanks and best wishes to Clare Wells, Headteacher at Kelsale CEVCP who is leaving this term.

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.

Heads' Performance Management

Both Sue Todd and Phil Knowles are available as external advisers for governors carrying out Headteachers' performance management reviews this term.

Please feel free to contact [Sue Todd](#) or pass on Sue's details to your governors. Our external advice and support costs £350 per review, which includes preparation, the review itself and write-up. For a mid-year review, this optional extra is available at £150.

News from the Church of England

Flourishing for All: Anti-bullying Guidance for Church of England Schools (2024)

The Church of England has updated its guidance for Church of England schools to prevent and tackle bullying.

Part A (an overview and general principles) and Part B (guidance for preventing and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in school) are available [here](#).



Great Big Live Assembly: Black History Month 2024 (Primary Schools)

Tue 15 October 2024

9.05 - 9.25am

Sanctuary Foundation is inviting all primary schools to join a special assembly to celebrate Black History Month. For further details or to book, please visit Eventbrite by clicking [here](#).



Black History Month – Live Primary Assembly

Tuesday 15 October

9.30-10.00am

Picture News is also inviting all primary schools to join its assembly which will be joined by BBC Presenter Swarzy Macaly. Suitable for: KS1 and KS2 Full details and registration [here](#)

Please also see links to Picture News resources for Black History Month:

- [the pack](#) (ppt)
- [Collective Worship](#) (ppt)



Inter Faith Week 10-17 November 2024

Provides an opportunity to:

- * Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- * Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution

Parts C to G (which will address bullying on the basis of race, SEND, faith and belief, sexism and socio-economic disadvantage) will follow over the course of the next year.

Updated webinar slides to explain how the guidance works are available [here](#).

SIAMS: annual report 2023-24

The report outlines key recommendations to support continuous improvement in Church schools. For the report, please click [here](#).

Special Edition Newsletter: Responding to the Summer Riots

The CofE is committed to supporting schools in addressing racism, believing that every student deserves a safe, valued, and respectful learning environment. To achieve this, the CofE is providing resources, training, and guidance to help educators and administrators confront and dismantle these issues within their schools. For more, please click [here](#).

Black History Month 2024: Reclaiming Narratives

The CofE has produced collective worship resources for both primary and secondary schools to use in Black History Month 2024. Click [here](#) for the resources.

Flourishing Leaders, Flourishing Schools: National Conference

Wednesday 22 January 2025

Saint Church, Hackney, Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD
Speakers include: Sonia Thompson, Leora Cruddas, Sir Hamid Patel, Sufian Sadiq, Dr Haili Hughes

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

News from DfE

'National conversation' on curriculum begins

Professor Becky Francis has launched a call for evidence seeking views on the current curriculum and assessment system to help shape the future of education. For further details please click [here](#). Deadline for responses is 22 November 2024.

News from Ofsted

School inspection handbook

This guidance came into force on 16 September 2024
Please click [here](#) to see the Handbook.

Blog about changes to ungraded inspections

For more please click [here](#).

Response to the Big Listen consultation

Please click [here](#)

Webinars on changes to ungraded inspections and school inspection update Autumn 2024

Please click [here](#).

News from Suffolk Libraries

Suffolk Libraries sits within the heart of 45 communities across the county and is always looking for ways to engage with children, families and schools both within those

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](#).



The Archbishop of York's Trust is inviting schools to join in ***Follow the Star: Calm and Bright*** this Advent. This will explore the carol:

*"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright..."*

and the stories of four characters - the Angel Gabriel, Joseph, a shepherd and Mary- and how they experienced 'All is calm, all is bright', the message their story brings of Jesus' birth and what those messages might mean for us today. For more information, please click [here](#).



Christian Aid is inviting schools to take part in a Courageous Advocacy project this term and raise their voices through art. As well as holding a local exhibition, Christian Aid is working with partners to host an exhibition of children's artwork in Parliament. For further details, please see the [project flyer](#) and [website](#).

communities and beyond.

A new schools programme was launched in October 2023 with opportunities for schools to engage with libraries and build on literacy skills. These programmes are available to request from schools@suffolklibraries.co.uk. Examples of free opportunities are class visits, school library guidance and a conference based around reading for pleasure to be held in March. Schools can also enquire about a Teachers Library Card which allows them 35 books for a 17-week loan period. This card has an annual cost of £50.

A member of the local library team may also be available to come into school and speak with children in classrooms or lead an assembly around the library service.

Schools are encouraged to reach out to Erin Hamilton, Children's Librarian at Erin.Hamilton@suffolklibraries.co.uk for further discussions around the reading or literacy needs of their school.



The National Education Nature Park is a free, fully resourced programme for all schools in England led by the National History Museum with the RHS. It provides resources, support and guidance to embed climate and nature into learning in a way that suits your school setting and learners. For more information, please click [here](#).

Upcoming webinars about the programme for the East of England will take place on:

- 8 October 2024, 16:15-16:45
- 28 November 2024, 16:15-16:45

To register, please click [here](#)



Care for the family: Care for the family have a fantastic range of resources which schools can use to strengthen families in their school community. These resources can be used to equip staff in their work with families, share with parents and signpost parents towards. They are designed to complement schools' existing engagement with parents and help build stronger links between home and school. You can find out more information on their website and for schools [here](#). Many of these resources are free- do take a look.



Teacher Advocates: Local issues, global learning, & newly elected MPs

Additionally, school leaders and staff can use Christian Aid's new Teacher Advocates tool to build long lasting relationships with newly elected MPs and highlight local issues, as well as the need for good global citizenship education. For more click [here](#).



We are encouraging schools to apply for an award from Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Scheme. For more information, please click [here](#).



The Good Childhood Report 2024

Published by The Children's Society, this year's report provides crucial insight into children's wellbeing, presenting the latest trends in children's subjective wellbeing, exploring how families fared with the current economic challenges facing the UK, and comparing the wellbeing of 15-year-olds in the UK with their peers across Europe. For the report, please click [here](#).



The Great Big Small Schools INSET Day

Monday 6 January 2025

Online event

Join colleagues working in small school settings across

Spring's Dance Company workshops in the autumn and spring terms include:

[The Nativity Project](#) - brings to life the traditional, much loved scenes of the Christmas story, then continues the story after the birth of Jesus, highlighting the importance of showing hospitality to others;

[A Christmas Story](#) - guides pupils on a journey of dance, drama and discussion inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story Refuge; and

[The Easter Project](#) - provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story.

Further details on all projects for schools can be found [here](#).



Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub is offering a free subscription for educational settings across Suffolk. Further details [here](#).

the country, for a day of thought-provoking discussion about evidence, research and education through a small school lens. This is a joint venture between the Church of England (CEFEL) and the Chartered College of Teaching, open to all types of small schools.

Speakers so far: Dame Alison Peacock, Mary Myatt, Andy Wolfe, Danielle Lewis-Egonu, Dr Cat Scutt, Chris Such, Cassie Young, Mike Sheridan, Elizabeth Olulari, Kate Smith, Jade Pearce, Alex Pethick. Tickets: £14-£20. To book, 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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This newsletter is sent to all church school Headteachers, foundation governors, chairs of governors and clergy.

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