

# DBE Schools Bulletin

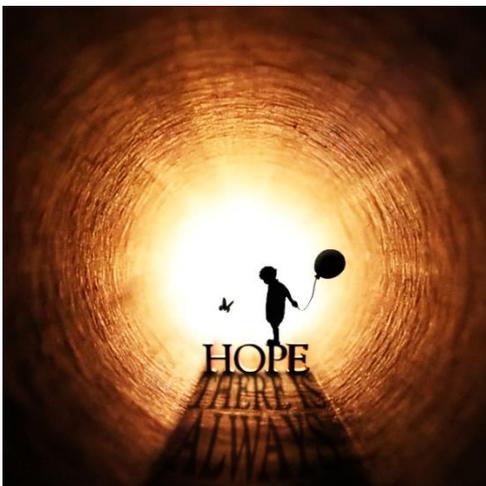
January 2021

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



**May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

*God's love, expressed most powerfully in Jesus Christ, offers encouragement, hope and strength for the tasks that lie ahead.*

## New year, new hope

A new year brings optimism, hope and a sense of expectation, as we look forward to what lies ahead in 2021. As the pandemic takes a greater hold and we enter another lockdown, we certainly need this more than ever, and a desire for some 'good news.'

Reflecting on 2020, no-one could have imagined that it would have turned out the way it did and that the pandemic would present so many challenges that would impact on our lives, as well as our schools. Only one day into the new term and schools have had to face the challenges of a further national lockdown and a move to remote learning for all year groups.

Once again, our schools have risen to the challenge, immediately putting in place plans and resources to ensure learning is not disrupted and that all pupils are catered for whether at home or in school. The paramount focus remains the safety and well-being of staff and pupils. The DBE and its officers recognise the demands and strain the lockdown presents for both school leaders and staff. We are committed to providing the same high level of support, advice and guidance to our school leaders, staff and governors and have adapted our support to reflect the current situation.

Whilst we don't fully know what this new year will bring, we can find hope and strength in God's word and seek to adopt a positive outlook that things will get better and there will be 'good news' ahead. God's love, expressed most powerfully in Jesus Christ, offers encouragement, hope and strength for the tasks that lie ahead.

## DBE Support through lockdown

The DBE team have restructured our support to reflect the current situation and to offer practical help and guidance during this period. Below is a summary of this, with further details found later in the bulletin.



Here to help

### Here to help!

The team are available to provide individual and school support as required on all aspects of diocesan work. A key part of our work is the ability to offer pastoral support and to be a listening ear, offering practical help where we can. It is important to know that you are not alone, please do pick up the phone to contact us. *(contact details for DBE officers can be found on p.11)*

### Headteacher On-line Surgery

Mark Whitehill will be facilitating a surgery for headteachers, providing a network of support in dealing with current and live school issues that are arising from the pandemic, with further surgeries planned during the term. *(more details on p.4)*

### Headteacher Cluster Meetings

The scheduled spring term cluster meetings for heads will take place as planned and will provide updates from the Diocese, as well as the sharing of school news, projects and a further support network. *(more details on p.9)*

### New Headteacher Group

This term we welcome a number of new headteachers to our Family of Schools, and what a challenging time to take up post! We will be hosting an on-line welcome and networking event to introduce the team and a chance to meet the other new heads. *(more details on p.3)*

### Remote Learning Resources

A reminder that all of the learning resources that we highlighted and signposted during the summer lockdown are still available and can be found on our website. We will be adding further resources and will also highlight them through this and future bulletins as well as uploading them to the website. <https://chester.anglican.org/schools>

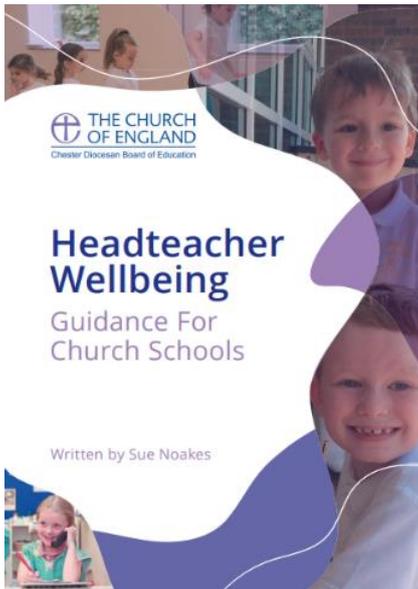
### Training & Courses

Most of the training courses for this term will continue to go ahead as planned on-line for this term. It has been necessary to postpone certain courses due to the practical arrangements around them. We hope to reschedule these for the summer term. You will receive an e-mail confirmation if there has been any change to an existing booking. *(more details on p.10)*

### NQT Support

Jen McIlveen, who runs our NQT programme, is offering a series of short open fortnightly meetings, for any NQTs who would find it helpful to have the opportunity to share resources and network with others in the same situation. *(more details on p.4)*

Please continue to share your school news, we love to hear and share what your school is doing. Contributions should be sent to [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)



## Headteacher Wellbeing

We are excited to let you know that the Headteacher Wellbeing handbook, developed in collaboration with headteachers, is now ready to be launched. We will be in touch with schools about a launch date and some training sessions in the coming weeks, with hard copies of the book itself heading into schools soon.

In the meantime, a further reminder of our covid supplement, which was sent out through the bulletin last term can be found by clicking [here](#).

## Welcome to our new Headteachers

At the start of this spring term, we welcome a number of headteachers who are either new in post or have moved into substantive or acting posts.

<b>Mr Mike Lynch</b>	<b>Taxal &amp; Fernilee CE Primary</b>
<b>Mrs Mel Scattergood</b>	<b>Mottram CE Primary</b>
<b>Mrs Joanne Marrow</b>	<b>Broadbottom CE Primary</b>
<b>Mrs Alicia Bellshaw</b>	<b>Kettleshulme St James CE Primary</b>
<b>Mrs Stephanie Beckett</b>	<b>Woodcock's Well CE Primary</b>
<b>Mr Mark Harrison</b>	<b>St John the Evangelist CE Primary, Macclesfield</b>
<b>Miss Victoria Rippon</b>	<b>Bosley St Mary's CE Primary</b>
<b>Mrs Caroline Middleton</b>	<b>Bridgemere CE Primary</b>
<b>Mrs Helen Harrison (acting HT)</b>	<b>Mossley CE Primary</b>
<b>Mrs Nicola Hewitt (acting HT)</b>	<b>St George's CE Primary, Hyde</b>



We look forward to working with you and getting to know you as you settle into your new role and new schools. We wish to invite you to a Diocesan welcome and network event for new headteachers, we will be in touch with a date and full details will be sent out to you separately. In addition, we hope you will be able to join with us and colleagues at our termly headteacher cluster meetings (*details on page 7*)

## Headteacher on-line surgery

As a Diocese, we would like to support headteachers to connect and discuss issues with other leaders during this current lockdown. To this effect, we wish to offer an opportunity to meet together online with an open discussion about the return to schools so far this term, to share what has gone well and what has been challenging and maybe to offer a chance to share ideas/find solutions to common issues.



**This first online session will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> January at 1.30pm**

The Zoom link will be sent out to all headteachers prior to the session. Please do reply directly to the link to indicate your proposed attendance. If you are unable to attend due to a prior commitment, feel free to offer ideas/send queries; we would welcome suggestions as to how we can make this work best for you all in future (time of day, organisation of session, how often/duration, discussion themes etc.)

## NQT Support

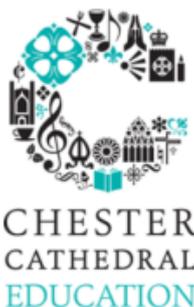


Whilst our **NQT** programme is successfully up and running, and flexibility has always been a key feature of the profession – this year is far from normal, and your bendiness is being tested to the limits – you may even be wondering why you came into the job in the first place! Psalm 37:24 is a wonderful verse to remind yourself of each morning 😊

We'd love to support as many NQTs in this difficult time so that you come through this year still enjoying the job and feeling stronger for the network around you. We have decided to postpone our next meeting on the programme (19.1.21, until March tbc) and instead will run a series of short **open meetings, 45mins-1 hr @ 3:30pm, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Jan for any NQTs** (on the programme or not,) who would find it helpful to have the opportunity to share resources and network with others in the same situation. Please contact Jen McIlveen for the zoom code; [jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org)



## Chester Cathedral Canon Chancellor Award 2021



Primary and secondary pupils are invited to take part in this year's Chester Cathedral Canon Chancellor Award, celebrating teaching Christianity in Schools. The theme for 2021 is 'God and climate change.' This year's entries are invited through the use of video, in particular the use of animation or stop video. Entries should be no more than 5 minutes in length.

All schools are eligible to apply. Closing date for entries is 31 March 2021.

For full details, please click [here](#) to view the flyer.

## Faith in the Nexus

The end of 2020 saw the launch of a crucial piece of research that very much feeds into the [Growing Faith Adventure](#) in the Church of England. Led by the National Institute for Christian Education Research (NICER) the key findings outline how spiritual flourishing for children and young people takes place in the nexus of school, homes and church. Click the image to the right to read the full report.

It is encouraging to see that much of what we do already as church schools has a significant impact on children and young people being able to explore the big questions of life. It is good to celebrate the relationships between church, school and home whilst considering how we can develop them further as we strive to create a community in which children and young people are encouraged to develop spiritually as well as academically – Ofsted



themselves cited such opportunities as one of their key factors in progressing schools in their 2019-20 report. Click on the image to the left to find a short animation outlining the key findings and challenges to move forward in this area.

At the start of the new year, it is a good time to consider how we can effectively work together, each aspect of the nexus, helping children to think deeper and remain spiritually

curious as they grow, and how we, as church schools can help households to continue the conversation. Reflective spaces in school were a key positive feature in the findings. If you know this is an area you would like to develop or strengthen over the coming year, you might find our [Prayer Spaces in Schools](#) training session and the networking during the session helpful in generating inspiring ideas. We'd love to hear how you are working with churches and households in this area – do share your events and ideas in the school news section of the bulletin!

## Global Resources for Schools

[Lyfta](#) is a versatile resource which our schools may wish to use to give pupils an opportunity to explore real life human stories from around the world. It is a learning platform which allows children to foster critical thinking and discuss their own (and the school's) values in relation to a changing world. It can broaden their world view by giving them a chance to be 'immersed' in different people's lives and communities, in an engaging manner, encouraging them to see beyond their lived realities.

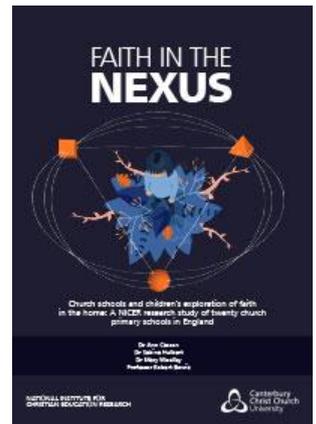


It is a really exciting resource to engage with, focused on genuine experiences for global awareness, giving the opportunity to enhance many key areas of the National Curriculum as well as work in several strands of the SIAMS framework within school (such as courageous advocacy). In addition, state-funded schools can receive a free CPD session and a term's free subscription to explore the platform for themselves.

The link to the website is: <https://www.lyfta.com/>

A further site of interest is : [RE Learning through global partnership - rewithsoul.co.uk](https://www.rewithsoul.co.uk)

It contains some superb lesson plans and links which could enhance schools' confidence and repertoire of resources in delivering the RE and Humanities curriculum, as well as elements of collective worship.



## Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day this year is *Be the Light in the Darkness*. This theme is explored on the Holocaust Educational Trust website at <https://www.het.org.uk/hmd-2021> where colleagues can find guidance and resources for primary and secondary school teachers, information about how to sign up for the Holocaust Memorial Day webcast, and a collection of readings for Holocaust Memorial Day events.



The Holocaust Education Trust are also offering free **online teacher training sessions** which model how this theme can be discussed in the classroom. Their 'Introduction to the Holocaust Educational Trust' seminar takes place twice a month and will next run on:

**Tuesday 12 January (11.00 - 12.30)**

**Thursday 14 January (15.30 - 17.00)**

On completing this introductory seminar, teachers are invited to register for the follow up seminar, 'An approach to teaching about the Holocaust', which models some of their free teaching resources and discusses some of the pedagogical considerations when teaching about the topic. This also takes place twice a month and will next run on:

**Tuesday 19 January (15.30 - 17.00)**

**Thursday 21 January (11.00 - 12.30)**

Colleagues can register for any of these sessions by emailing [TeacherCPD@het.org.uk](mailto:TeacherCPD@het.org.uk).

## Reflections on Returning

Towards the end of the summer term Jen McIlveen put together a series of reflections for use as part of the return to school. There are ten individual reflections on a specific theme that can be used as an opener to a staff meeting/briefing or adapted for use in Collective Worship. You may wish to adapt them for this time to coincide with any on-line collective worship you might be offering. Each reflection comes as a PowerPoint slide, with a music video clip and leader notes. They can be accessed by clicking on the individual links below.

[Reflection on Courage](#)

[Reflection on Worry](#)

[Reflection on Trust](#)

[Reflection on Blessed](#)

[Reflection on a Journey](#)

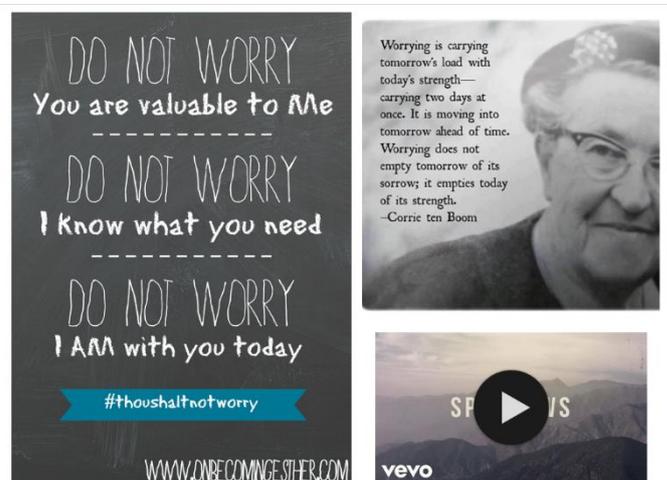
[Reflection on Thankful](#)

[Reflection on Hope](#)

[Reflection on Growth](#)

[Reflection on New Creations](#)

[Reflection on Returning - 10 Vision](#)



# Islam Teaching & Learning Resources for Primary Schools

We were delighted to welcome Imran Kotwal, founder of IslamREsources.co.uk and Muslim Learner Services, to deliver Faith Encounters training in December 2020 as part of our CPD programme. Imran also supports primary school RE teachers with Islam teaching and learning resources.



**RE Teachers' Islam Resources Portal** is packed with content to develop subject knowledge and teach Islam with confidence. A variety of resources such as presentations, worksheets, teachers' notes, videos and quizzes are available to download when schools subscribe to the portal. The resources have been created by Practising

British Muslim Teachers, to support non-specialist primary school RE teachers. Further details and an order form can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Artefacts resource boxes** can also be ordered through IslamREsources.co.uk, please click [here](#) for further information.

For more information, please visit their website at [www.Islamresources.co.uk](http://www.Islamresources.co.uk)



## Teaching and learning about Islamic artefacts

Islamic stories, teachers' notes, fact sheets, activities and resources  
By Mr Imran Kotwal



## Admissions

**Admissions Code amendments:** Work has begun on amending the required Statutory Instrument regarding changes to admissions and it is intended to lay this before Parliament in February. (The main reason for that is because Parliamentary time will probably not be available in January, given the requirements of Brexit and other legislation). The required amendments to the Code itself will carry on in parallel. This means we can expect to see a new admissions code soon after this.

Once the instrument and Code are passed with these amendments, they can be included in school admissions arrangements at whatever date they come into force. One of these will be the inclusion of children in care from overseas. Such additions do not require consultation or notification, as they will come under the provision that schools must comply with the Code and must therefore amend their arrangements accordingly.

We will update you as soon as we receive any further information.

This is a reminder to schools that the variation agreed by the schools' adjudicator regarding attendance at worship remains in your policy for subsequent years. If you wish to remove the variation you would need to consult using the normal consultation process. As it is not clear whether or not there may be further closure of churches we would recommend that you keep the variation in your arrangements when you determine your policy for 2022 (which needs to be done by 28<sup>th</sup> February this year).

## National Younger Leadership Groups 2020

Autumn saw the first Session of the new National Younger Leadership Groups. Over 100 students getting together on a national scale - developing their own leadership skills and discussing areas such as Diversity, Social Justice, the Environment and Growing Faith.

We had a strong response in our Diocese to take part in this new venture, making young voices heard in the Church's strategic planning and thinking is so important. We'd like to thank the staff and pupils for giving up their time and energy to represent us in this way. We're excited to see the impact this will have and will look to share what is going on with you all in this bulletin.



### National Younger Leadership Groups 2020-21 Invitation

*"We long to see our church grow younger, **growing faith of children and young people** through schools, churches and families. As we shape the vision of the Church of England for the next decade together, **we want children and young people to be central***

*I am therefore delighted to encourage young people from every Diocese to take part in our three younger leadership groups (for those in Primary, Secondary and Further Education) this November – **for your voices to be listened to and for the church's thinking and direction to be shaped and led by children and young people.**"*

**The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell**  
Archbishop of York




Our first article has been written by the student rep from Witton Church Walk CE Primary:



*"As Head Girl, I was delighted to have been chosen as the school representative for the meeting between church diocese and connected schools, to discuss how to make the church more welcoming, for all ages.*

*Prior to the meeting, I planned my ideas using spider/bubble diagrams and a Top Trumps style diagram. Some of my ideas included nature walks, creating festive decorations and meeting, to get to know one another.*

*At the start of the session, I had mixed emotions. I was nervous about the unexpected, but also excited to meet new people and to hear their ideas. As the session progressed, I became much more relaxed and enjoyed seeing what we could achieve by working together.*

*It was great to hear other peoples' suggestions, and to try and add value with my input to hopefully achieve a common goal. By sharing suggestions with each other, it added much more strength to our thoughts.*

*I felt at ease throughout the meeting because I was given very clear instructions, the format was clearly laid out and there were lots of fun elements. I thoroughly enjoyed the first session and how it allowed us to come together to share our experiences. The main point I would like to take from this session is by coming together, we can make the church more inclusive for all.*

*I look forward to the next session where we will be able to make even more progress towards our goal."*

Many thanks for writing us this article and representing us so well – it will be powerful to see young people working towards a common goal.

In our own Diocese, we are looking at how we can listen more closely to pupil representation at a local level...watch this space for opportunities to get involved throughout the year!

## 'The Blessing Song'

The background to the song was that it was written shortly before lockdown began. It then became a bit of a global Christian hit with each nation recording their own version and sharing it. The lyrics are from Numbers 6 (Moses is leading the Jewish nation in the desert and God gives his brother, Aaron – the chief priest – this blessing to say over the Israelites):

**'The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace'**

The idea of singing these words as a blessing over the nations became a very powerful idea in lockdown and was recorded by many nations globally. It became a shared prayer and a source of unity in challenging times. Click on the links below for the various languages / countries:

The UK Blessing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtll3mNj5U>  
 In Polish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmkvgkCryjs>  
 The Blessing Zimbabwe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA1tVs7VNcY>  
 In Arabic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qy0v69p5Jik>

There are many more available if you google 'The Blessing Song' and the country/language you want.

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the meeting date. For any queries, please contact [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
Chester HTs	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	10am-12pm 10am-12pm
Macclesfield HTs	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	1.30pm-3.30pm 10am-12pm
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> March Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	10am -12pm 10am -12pm
Warrington HTs	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	10am -12pm 10am -12pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10am- 12pm 10am- 12pm

## Family of Schools' Membership 2020-21



Thank you to the schools who have already confirmed their Family of Schools membership for 2020-21. It is hoped that all of our schools will continue to be a member of the Family of Schools and benefit from the additional support from the DBE, including preferential rates for our training and CPD programmes.

To confirm your membership for 2020-21 or to discuss it further, please contact [charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org](mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org)

For details about the services and benefits of being a member of the family of schools for 2020-21, [click here](#).

## Family of Schools' CPD Programme 2021

Due to the on-going pandemic and local lockdown measures, our CPD programme will need to continue to be delivered on-line for at least the beginning of the spring term. Where training is best delivered as a 'face to face' meeting, these will be postponed and rescheduled for later in the school year. We hope to be able to resume our meetings as soon as possible but, in the meantime, we would like you to be aware of changes to our programme as follows:

### DBE Courses January & February 2021

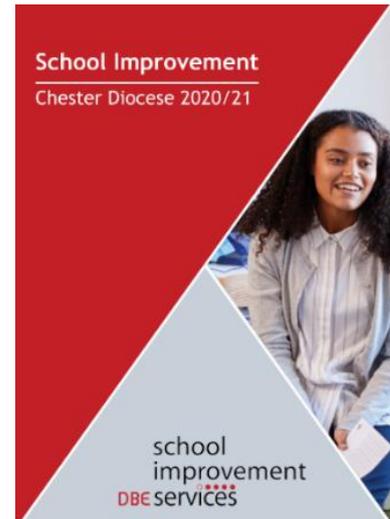
DATE	COURSE	STATUS
13/01/21	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme</a>	ON-LINE
15/01/21	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs &amp; Incumbent Briefing</a>	ON-LINE
19/01/21	<a href="#">NQT Programme</a>	POSTPONED
20/01/21	<a href="#">Understanding Christianity &amp; The Diocesan Syllabus- Assessing the Resources for the First Time</a>	ON-LINE
02/02/21	<a href="#">Vision Ambassadors- A Pupil Conference</a>	POSTPONED
09/02/21	<a href="#">Governor Training-Statutory Inspection of Anglican &amp; Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a>	ON-LINE
11/02/21	<a href="#">Being a Governor of a Church School/Academy *REPEAT COURSE*</a>	ON-LINE
23/02/21	<a href="#">Developing Excellence in Religious Education: Time to Review</a>	ON-LINE
24/02/21	<a href="#">Prayer Spaces in Schools</a>	ON-LINE

## School Improvement Services 2020-21

Our school improvement services for 2020-21, delivered through DBE Services offer the following support:-

### School Improvement Partner (termly or annual visit)

- **Headteacher Performance Management**
- **Tailored leadership & school improvement support**
- **School Improvement Course from Leading Schools**



All of our school improvement services are delivered by our team of trained diocesan and headteacher consultants, overseen by Mark Whitehill, our School Effectiveness Officer. This provides the perspective of school improvement within the context of being a church school.

For further details of the services available [click here](#) and to request an order form contact [liam@dbeservices.co.uk](mailto:liam@dbeservices.co.uk)

## DBE Officer Contact Details

Please note new contact telephone numbers for members of the DBE team have been added to enable schools to contact officers by phone as well as e-mail during this period.

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org">sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org</a>	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590



## News from Schools

### Frodsham C of E Primary School

Everyone enjoyed an Advent Spiral Service celebrating the lights of hope, joy, peace and love in our world.

All the children made a Christingle to take home and the spiral of light grew as pupils thought about different people in the community.



### Hoole C of E Primary School



During Advent everyone explored the message of the Angels- 'Do not be afraid'. The school has strong links with the local church, All Saints' on the Groves who have also been following the same theme in Sunday worship. Due to Covid-19 the Church Team worship was delivered by video exploring the messages of the Angels and the theme of Hope. They thought about when the angel appeared to Zechariah (Lk 1:5-25) to Mary (Lk 1:26-38) to Joseph (Matt 1:18-25) and the shepherds (Lk 2:8-20)

To encourage the children to connect with this learning, they were invited to take part in a competition to make an angel out of different plastic bottles and by recycling items, everyone was amazed at the contributions.



Some of the larger contributions were featured in the Nativity Video. The winners were chosen by the local Vicar Reverend Sam Durdant- Hollamby.

The Ethos team and a couple of staff members also collaborated to create their own sculpture from plastic bottles and willow to remind all who pass the front of school of the message of hope this Advent.



Pupils recently jumped into action in response to a call to help a local resident celebrate a special birthday. The school was contacted by the neighbour of an elderly resident who was due to celebrate her ninetieth birthday asking if pupils could help to make her birthday special. Children accepted the challenge immediately and created an array of brightly coloured birthday cards to help to bring a birthday smile. In addition to the birthday greetings, the school sent a birthday package of biscuits and treats to celebrate the special day. The local resident was also sent a VIP ticket for future events at the school once COVID restrictions are lifted.

In addition to supporting local projects in the area, pupils created Christmas cards that were distributed to people in the local area who were lonely over the festive period.



### Mollington St Oswald's C of E Primary School

In November, St Oswald's had a Biggest Story day looking at the different concepts from the Bible. This was the culmination of a series of weekly worships looking at each of the concepts in turn. The day started with a video created by Miss Walker to retell the whole of the Biggest Story. You can see that on their YouTube channel. [https://youtu.be/c\\_znP4yRMQ8](https://youtu.be/c_znP4yRMQ8)

The children looked at the Biggest frieze piece of artwork to see what they noticed and then in groups worked together to create a panel each for a larger display in the hall. Lots of different art techniques were used and it was great to hear the advanced use of language related to the Bible concepts being used in all classes.

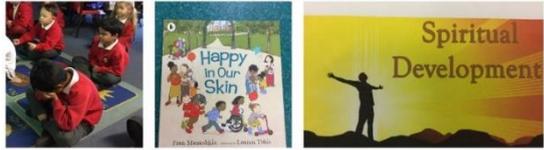
The day ended with a sharing session on remote technology so that each bubble could celebrate the work they had done. It was a great day!



**Stretton St Matthew's C of E Primary School**

Pupils enjoyed a very first spiritual afternoon at the end of November. During the spiritual afternoons, the children are provided with opportunities to develop the four elements of spirituality half termly. Last half term they focused on the element of 'self'. The children reflected on what makes them

truly happy, why they are special and knowing right from wrong. They discussed their gratitude for the things they have and the person they are. The children shared lots of thoughtful contributions and ideas with their classes. It was a lovely, relaxing afternoon and a special time to explore, express and share feelings. Everyone is already looking forward to the next spiritual afternoon in the spring term.



**Wharton C of E Primary School**

This beautiful banner was designed by the children in school when they came back this term in September. It captures their thoughts and feelings from lockdown and features symbols and images of the things the children said had helped them with their mental health and wellbeing.

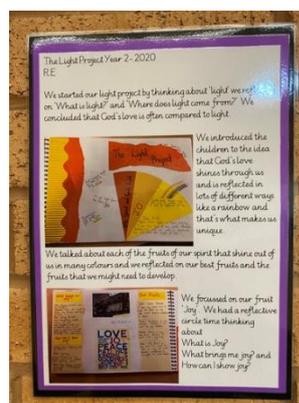
The "Light Project" was worked on by every child in the school, focussing on The Fruits of the Spirit. Each year group produced a large mural which are displayed around the school and accompanied these with writing which describes their work.



Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3

## Woodchurch C of E Primary School



Year 5 class are working hard to promote a positive reading culture in school. Part of this is to put in place a Reading Shed on the school grounds to help them do this, they have been looking for ways to raise money to help make this happen.

Year 5 children took ownership of a Recycle 4 School clothes bank. Recycle 4 School is a free fundraising scheme that helps schools, and other organisations, to raise funds in a way that is eco-friendly and educational, developing our pupils' awareness of textile recycling while at the same time raising funds for school.

The children have started collecting good quality unwanted clothing by encouraging parents, children, and staff to recycle their unwanted items. Hopefully it won't be long before they have enough funds to have a Reading Shed, a special place for children to go to read during break times.



## No Pens Day



A No Pens Day was recently held. The day was a focus on Oracy skills and the importance of listening and talking and communication.

There were a variety of activities across the school including performance poetry, teaching each other new skills and games, working as a team on jigsaws, drama linked to a class text, practical science with findings shared orally and more unusual activities like British Sign Language Finger Spelling

Both staff and children found the day fun and engaging with lots of new learning taking place.

## Arts Project

During Autumn Term the school Arts Project captured pupils experience of COVID 19 and lockdown. The children looked at the work of a range of artists including Anthony Gormley and Kelsey Brooks to see how experiences and feelings can be captured visually. The sequence of learning involved developing skills and experimenting with a range of materials and mixed media whilst at the same time investigating effects that impact on the eye and help convey a specific idea.

The children wanted to express the impact of isolation with a central human image immersed in a cold, blue background. They then chose the warm shades and tones of yellow, orange and red to emanate from the centre in order to represent love, hope and reaching out. Each panel was done separately before being combined to show how we came together as a family to support children, parents, carers, families, and each other.

