

# DBE Schools Bulletin

October 2020

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

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



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## Harvest Gifts

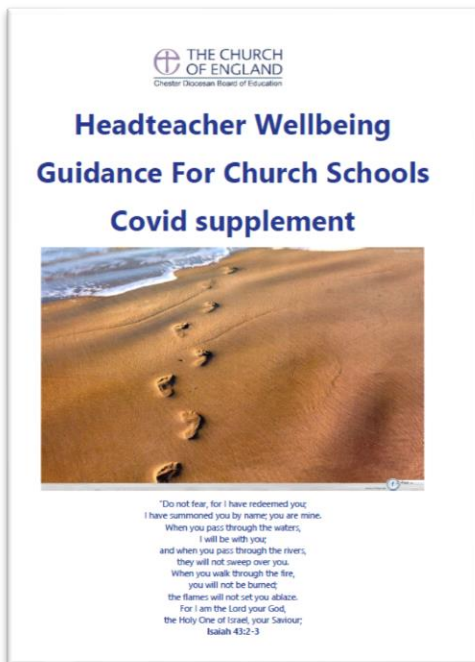
This season of Harvest is a time when we give thanks to God for all His goodness, and in particular the food that we receive so freely, our 'daily bread.' Whilst it may not have been possible for schools to hold their Harvest festival in the usual way, donations of food parcels have still been invited and collected to be distributed within local communities.

The on-going pandemic has brought into sharp focus how freely we have access to food, and the impact when this is not the case. We saw at the start of lockdown, and again in the last few weeks, that due to panic buying, some of the essentials like flour, pasta and even toilet rolls were difficult to come by.

During this time, our schools showed a tremendous effort in supporting local foodbanks across our Diocese, as well as providing for the disadvantaged families within their own school communities. There were many examples and stories of staff delivering food parcels and meals to pupils and their families. A wonderful example of Christian faith in action, sharing the love of Christ and helping those with the greatest need. We know that this effort and commitment happens throughout the year.

As you look to care for and support your school community, we are committed to supporting you. In this month's bulletin there is an article by Sue Noakes for headteachers and governing bodies on headteacher well-being, particularly relating to the current pandemic period.

## Headteacher Well-Being – A co-vid response



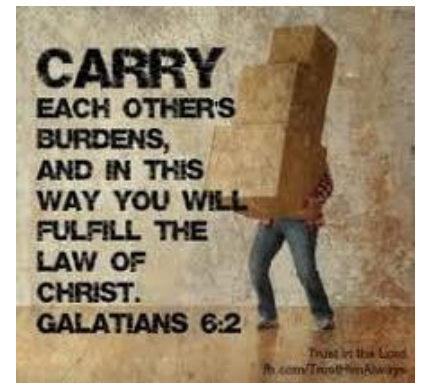
It has been said many times over the past few months that we are living in unprecedented times. It may sometimes seem like a cliché but it is true. No headteacher has ever had to lead a school in a global pandemic such as this and whether a headteacher for 6 months or one for 20 years, no one will have experienced anything like it before. We do not know how long we will be experiencing the 'new normal' but it is clear that this experience will have changed lives and how we work for the future.

The DBE is committed to championing wellbeing in school for all staff and pupils, and in particular that of the headteacher. In the new year, we hope to be able to launch our brand new headteacher well-being guidance and resource compiled and produced by Sue Noakes. Its aim is to provide both a practical and reflective resource for headteachers and governing bodies in addressing the challenges of headteacher well-being.

In the meantime, Sue has produced a co-vid supplement on the subject that maps some of the challenges and additional strain this pandemic situation has inevitably caused. We know that headteachers will be supporting the mental wellbeing of their staff and pupils and so it is for governors and Trustees to monitor the wellbeing of the headteacher and, as a DBE, we will support in any way we can.



headteacher  
wellbeing covid sup



## DBE Officer New 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

## Family of Schools' Membership 2020-21



Thank you to the schools who have already confirmed their Family of School 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](#).**

## Church of England worship resources



Following the successful launch of the Church of England Faith at Home resources in the summer term, a new series has been created for the autumn entitled 'How do we flourish together?' The intention is this resource will be more interactive than previously, with tutor notes so teachers can lead a time of worship and use the video and activity as part of that in school and the follow up for home.

Each session centres around an encounter Jesus had with someone in the Bible and helps to explore the theme. There will be resources for Years Reception to Year 4, Year 5-8 and Years 9-13. For each theme a series of short film clips, tutor resource pack and a range of home-based activities will be provided. These are the themes available during October including one for harvest;

- Key Festival: Harvest (*released 28th September*)
- 5<sup>th</sup> October - Why do we belong together? (community and interdependence)
- 19<sup>th</sup> October - How do we know we are loved? (self-esteem and security)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November – How do we get back on track? (character and renewal)
- 16<sup>th</sup> November – How do we make sense of our feelings?
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – How do we face our fears? (anxiety and failure)

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/i-am-school-leader#na>

*(scroll down to the bottom of the page once you click the link)*

## School Improvement Service 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)

## AYYL Award FREE Resources: 'Be Rooted'

<https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/news/be-rooted-in-leadership>



The Archbishop of York Youth Trust - Young Leaders Award scheme have produced a set of Free resources produced for schools at KS1 and KS2 on the theme of Be Rooted. They creatively explore how children and young people can be leaders during today and beyond. These resources include activities to run in the classroom or at home. There are five free sessions aimed at supporting pupils returning to school and helping them stay strong and 'be rooted'. The first session is an introduction, before pupils explore how to 'Be Rooted' in:

Leadership Skills

Character Muscles

Community Actions

Faith Awareness

They can be downloaded at [www.abyyt.com/yla-free-resources](http://www.abyyt.com/yla-free-resources). There are also a number of other free resources there that schools can download, including at KS3.

To support schools and pupils in these difficult times the AYYT are offering a **20% discount** on running the Young Leaders Award to brand new schools with the code **New20**. The discount is available to any school who signs up more than 10 pupils and who have not run the Young Leaders Award before.



## Family of Schools' CPD Programme 2020-21

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 autumn 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:

### Autumn 2020 Courses

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
13/10/20	<a href="#">Being a governor of a Church School</a> (Sue Noakes)	<b>ON-LINE</b> (no charge)
17/11/20	<a href="#">Help I am a Religious Education Subject Leader in a Church School</a> (Sue Glover)	<b>ON-LINE</b>
18/11/20	<a href="#">Analysis of the Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) and Analyse School Performance (ASP)</a> (Susan Walters)	<b>ON-LINE</b>
23/11/20	<a href="#">NQT Course 2020-21</a> <a href="#">6-day Programme</a>	<b>ON-LINE in 2020</b>
27/11/20	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking</a> (Sue Noakes & Mark Whitehill)	<b>ON-LINE</b> (no charge)
01/12/20	<a href="#">Religious Education &amp; the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule</a> (Sue Glover)	<b>ON-LINE</b>
08/12/20	<a href="#">Faith Encounters</a>	<b>ON-LINE</b>

## Statutory RSHE

For those who may be turning their attention once again to facilitating statutory RSHE at school by the end of this academic year, the Church of England have championed the following free resource produced by Bristol Diocese that will prove very useful for schools seeking to keep Christian distinctiveness at the heart of this area. *Goodness & Mercy* is a selection of RSHE resources written primarily for Church of England schools. All schools are welcome to use them. It

is named from the last line of the well-loved 23rd Psalm: *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."*



These resources are written to meet both the mandatory requirements of the 2020 Department for Education guidance for RSHE, the Church of England Education Office Charter and the Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools expectations. <https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/>

## Bible Course for School Leaders

Headteachers are invited to take part in a pilot project in conjunction with the Bible Society and three other dioceses where we are developing a Bible Course for School Leaders. This is based on the Bible Society's Bible Course and aims to help School Leaders develop their understanding of the big story of the Bible. It will have 8 sessions spread over the year starting at the end of October and will include online video content, reflections on the video, reflections on implications for school leadership and links to wider Church of England resources.

There will also be the opportunity for a Zoom base discussion group each month where you will join with others on the pilot to share reflections and help us with feedback on the development of the resource. There wouldn't be a great time commitment needed – perhaps up to a couple of hours a month – and hopefully the course will be very beneficial both to you as a school leader and the wider Church school network as we develop the course. The first session will be in the middle of November with the material being sent out at the end of October.

I am looking for **12 volunteers** who would be willing to join the programme. If this is something you would be interested in, please email [chris.penn@chester.anglican.org](mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org)

The project will enable the group to join with the other participants from the dioceses of Leeds, York and Lincoln.

The Bible Course

Explore the BIG story

The Bible Course for teachers

WELCOME TO SESSION ONE  
INTRODUCING THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO SESSION TWO  
CREATION & COVENANT

Session 1 – Introducing the Bible

Session 2 – Creation & Covenant

WELCOME TO SESSION THREE  
EXODUS & THE PROMISED LAND

WELCOME TO SESSION FOUR  
JUDGES & KINGS

WELCOME TO SESSION FIVE  
EXILE & PROPHETS

Session 3 – Exodus & The Promised Land

Session 4 – Judges & Kings

Session 5 – Exile & Prophets

WELCOME TO SESSION SIX  
JESUS & THE GOSPELS

WELCOME TO SESSION SEVEN  
ACTS & THE CHURCH

WELCOME TO SESSION EIGHT  
REVELATION & REVIEW

Session 6 – Jesus & The Gospels

Session 7 – Acts & The Church

Session 8 – Revelation & Review

## Admissions Update

Voluntary aided schools that submitted admission variations in the summer may have received or may receive a request for further information. It would seem that the adjudicator considering a large number of Chester schools has decided that he cannot make the variation without seeing the full admission arrangements despite the agreement with the Chief schools' adjudicator that this wouldn't be necessary. If we had known at the time, we would have been able to submit these at the same time as the other paperwork. If you are asked to send your 'full admission arrangements' you need to send the full 2021 policy and any notes/maps that accompany it.

One thing that has become apparent is that there are a number of occasions where the wording on the SIF is different to the wording in the policy and so we would urge you to make sure that the wording is exactly the same and that you have both the regularity of attendance and the time frame for this. For example the adjudicator picked up that a policy stated 'on average twice a month for the six months prior to application' but the SIF stated 'at least twice a month for the six months prior to application' which may not seem an issue but technically they are two different definitions. The adjudicator will identify any small changes such as this in policies and it is a good opportunity to make these amendments as small errors can creep in as policies are tweaked.

Please remember that the DBE should be sent the policy before any consultation and also that you must consult every 7 years if there are no changes.

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

In responding to the current situation and restrictions, the regional diocesan headteacher cluster meetings for this term will all be on-line via Zoom. We know that it can often be a challenge getting away from school to be able to attend such meetings so having them on-line will hopefully enable more of our headteachers to be able to attend and be involved. Whilst some of the meetings have already taken place, here are the dates for the remainder of this term.

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
Macclesfield HTs	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Chester HTs	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am – 12.00pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am – 12.00pm
Northwich HTs	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	10.00am – 12.00pm
Congleton/Nantwich HTs	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Trafford HTs	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30am – 11.30am
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	10.00am – 12.00pm

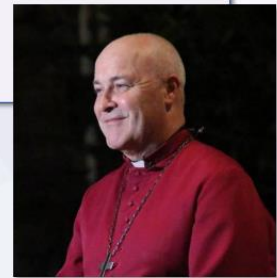
Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the meeting date. For any queries, please contact [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

## 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 to this journey.***

*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



We are seeking nominations for young people from across our school family to take part in this exciting opportunity.

The Church of England are inviting each Diocese to nominate 3-4 students from both Primary and Secondary phases to take part in their new National Younger Leadership Groups. Each group will have approximately 100 students and will take part five themed sessions over the course of this school year. Further details about the groups;-

- Students selected may be of any age within the phase but will be required to share verbally and through a range of interactive online feedback activities so will need to be confident to do so in a large group.
- Students will 'attend' the session online accompanied by an adult from their school to support them.
- Each group will be led by a person with an Enhanced DBS check, and Church of England safeguarding procedures will be followed at all times
- Once confirmed, full joining instructions (covering safeguarding, technical and content preparation etc.) will be sent to each student/school

If you wish to nominate a student(s) from your school, or would like further information, please contact [jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org)

**The deadline for nominations is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October**



## News from Schools

### Brereton C of E Primary School



Year 2 class recently enjoyed a Victorian Day. The children baked some delicious biscuits, following a traditional recipe and they used slate and chalk to complete handwriting exercises. When comparing then and now, they loved finding out all about the playground games that would have been played over 100 years ago, but they were very glad that the punishments had changed.

### Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School

Year 6 have read the book "Malala's Magic Pencil", written by Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani children's rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner. The book is all about the things we would draw or erase if we had a magic pencil that could change the world. Year 6 designed their own magic pencils and thought about our Christian values. Many of the things we decided we would draw included food for all the poor, schools for all the children and shelter for all those who were homeless. We thought about how we would erase war, poverty and inequality.



### Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School



Everyone was very proud to have achieved the Rainbow Flag Award. Teaching children the importance of inclusivity and respecting everyone is so important and the document, "Valuing all God's Children" underpins and drives the school's work. The award focuses on positive LGBT+ inclusion and visibility. The assessor commented that, "The school council are clearly passionate and driven and want to make the school an inclusive place for everyone!" Pupils completed a range of work including poetry, song writing, reading responses and a particular highlight was working in collaboration with Tilston School, where the children led part of this service to mark Education Sunday at St Mary's Church.

An outdoor worship in beautiful sunshine recently took place. Heartfelt thanks to Reverend Tim and Reverend Norma for leading it with such humour, they had to compete with tractors, garden strimmer's and the food delivery truck.

## Astbury C of E Primary School

Astbury Acorns Pre-School opened in January 2020 with one child. During lockdown, care was provided for children of a few key workers and the Pre-School welcomed eight new children in September. The group have enjoyed being together, welcoming new friends and exploring learning together. Each morning they wait at the Pre-School gates to greet their friends and shout each other, running to join the session! Friendship and being together was certainly one thing that was greatly missed earlier this year and we are all grateful for the opportunity that we all have now.



## Tilston Parochial C of E Primary School



Joy – *'A happy heart makes the face cheerful'* Proverbs 15:13.

Introduced their new Worship Leaders for 2020-2021. Worship leaders worked hard to think of creative ways to join together for daily worship. Every Thursday they support Revd Tim and Revd Norma. Their first project is to develop a spiritual garden to reflect the school's core values.

## Headteacher reflections from the start of the year

*Sorry not be able to include everyone's contributions*

It has been so good to have a full school again! We were only able to spend three weeks in our brand-new build before lockdown, so it still feels like a brand-new build. I have been shocked by the amount of physical growth some of our students have managed but I should have expected that after not seeing them for the best part of half a year. Split breaks and lunch times go on forever, but they also mean there is more time to chat quietly to students about what they have been up to.

**Mike Holland (Hartford High)**

A highlight for us was 'Zoom' worship. As a school, this was the first time we had experimented with virtual worship. The musical director from Astbury church was at her house playing her piano, the older bubble at school were in the hall whilst the younger bubble was in their classroom. There was great joy on the children's faces as they could see the other bubble and could wave at them and say hello! The 'quiet' singing was excellent, and we had a great time worshipping together!

**Pip Blythe (Astbury St Mary's)**

It feels as if our school is encircled with a ring of positive prayer and God is central to all we are doing! The staff team have been incredible! Their commitment, care and enthusiasm to ensure the school learning environment was a calm, welcoming and safe place has helped all the children to feel safe, special and to have a positive transition into their new year groups.

**Sue Lane (Gee Cross)**

So important to look for the joy! Our value for this half term is Thankfulness. I am grateful for a team that has pulled together over a tricky few days and supported one another in the best interests of the children, and to have a school full of children where they are happy calm and learning. I shared this quote with staff this week on the Monday briefing –

*So often we dwell on the things that seem impossible rather than on the things that are possible. So often we are depressed by what remains to be done and forget to be thankful for all that has been done.* [Marian Wright Edelman (b. 1939), American activist for the rights of children]

**Natalie Tomlinson (Wharton)**



As Principal, the past few months have probably been some of the most challenging of my career. However, with positivity, perseverance and the amazing team of people at Bunbury, we are coming through the other side. It was a genuine pleasure to welcome all the children back into school on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The children were happy to be back in class and there's a buzz and excitement in all the rooms. Both staff and pupils have shown such resilience and determination during difficult times and a strength of character beyond their years. Their positivity and joy at being back in school has been infectious and Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary is once more alive and developing that 'love of learning'.

**Nic Badger (Bunbury)**

My highlight from the start of school. I was blown away by the confidence of the 11 new reception children who strode into school – a building some of them have never visited – leaving parents at the gate as they walked across the playground and into class. They have continued to be settled in school and their parents, staff and I are really proud of them. It needs saying, the rest of the children have all returned to school and are all pleased to be back with their friends.

**Claire Green (Capenhurst)**

We have had a brilliant start to the academic year. It has been so lovely to see all our families returning to school with such positivity, warmth and love. The children have settled in well and we are looking forward to making some new memories with our children.

**Mel Scattergood (Mottram)**

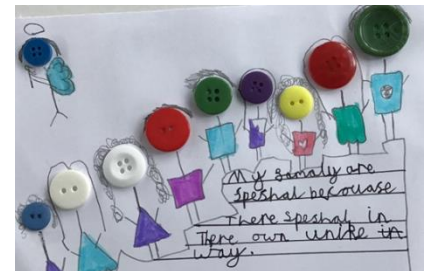
It has been so delightful having our whole school community back together. The children have skipped in, with huge smiles on their faces eager to learn. Hearing their laughter, seeing their smiles and watching them chitter chatter together has been just beautiful. Greeting our parents and seeing my staff greet their classes and do what they do best, care, nurture, teach, keep them safe and allow all the children to flourish has been something to treasure.

**Kathryn Magiera (Witton Church Walk)**

It has been a fabulous start to the school year despite the challenges! The children never fail to surprise me with their level of resilience and practicality. One of my highlights this week has been using Microsoft Teams to vote in our house captains. All four houses now have two captains from Y6, who wrote their speeches and spoke live to the whole school virtually. A wonderful symbol of triumph in the face of adversity!

**Jo Costello (Stretton St Matthew's)**

Everyone back in school has been exciting and heart-warming but also more daunting than usual with all the COVID logistics and worry, especially in terms of welcoming our new children to school and helping them to have the experience on their first day we would like them to have. Then we received this email from a mum in YR:



*\* changed from not wanting to go to school to leaping out of bed this morning, excited that he was having his lunch at school for the first time. The thoughtful parent pack on the first day - not a dry eye in the house. And the great picture \* has brought home today. Thankyou from the bottom of our hearts.*

A fabulous reminder to worry less, to look for the excitement in each school day, to see what a difference a bit of encouragement and positive feedback makes and to remember to do this for each other too.

**Emma Drew (Overleigh St Mary's)**

Coming to the end of the first week has been a mixture of pleasure and relief. Pleasure seeing everyone back as one big happy family: the smiles on the children's faces, the laughter from the classrooms and our children once again turning a shell of a building back into a school. An overwhelming sense of relief that the time spent hatching out a plan over the summer on how school could reopen safely under the current guidance was not spent in vain!

**Alex Goodwin (St Oswald's Worleston)**