

Diocesan Schools' Newsletter

Summer Term 2018

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Director's Briefing

Dear Colleagues,

July 2018

It is hard to believe that the end of another academic year is fast approaching. So much has taken place over the last ten months and the Education team have been so privileged to have been part of many special events, projects and achievements across our church schools. It was my aim, in taking up my post at the start of the school year, to visit as many of our schools in the Diocese to see this work first hand. It has been a real delight to see such wonderful work and the strong Christian ethos that is at the heart of the education that we provide for our pupils and students. Despite my best efforts, I'm afraid that I have only achieved visits to just over a third of schools and so I look forward to making up for this and visiting many more of you in my second year.

Whilst not making so many individual visits to schools, it has been hugely valuable to meet with headteachers through our Anglican Heads' Cluster meetings. This has enabled us to share important information and the latest developments and policy from both the Board of Education and the Church of England Education Office. I am excited to develop this work further with each of the 11 clusters in the coming year, as each group determines how it wishes to work together to share the very best practice within our schools.

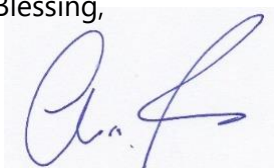
This year has also seen the launch of a new and enhanced Family of Schools offer for 2018/19, which has come in direct response to requests from schools for greater access from the Diocese to school improvement and training. Initial interest in the enhanced offer has been very positive and, if successful, we plan to expand our team of headteacher consultants for the second year. This has also seen an extended training programme for NQTs and RQTs, as well as a Middle Leader course that reflects the principles and structure of the very popular and successful Christian Leadership course and an increased number of governor courses. We also hope to launch our Headteacher Well-Being programme at the start of the autumn. All of this is a further indication of our commitment to supporting leadership at all levels across our schools.

As we come towards the end of the school year, we will be saying good-bye to our pupils in Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13, as they prepare to move on to new schools, new pastures and new opportunities. At the same time, we will also be saying goodbye to several of our headteachers, senior leaders, teaching staff and support staff who are either moving on to new posts or retiring. We are hugely grateful and appreciative of the contribution each has made in their time in our church schools and pray that they go with God's blessing, as we wish them well in their future endeavours.

We will also be saying good-bye to a member of our team, as Jill Kelly, Deputy Director of Education has decided to take early retirement at the end of the school year. I have included a separate thank you below acknowledging Jill's contribution to our Diocesan schools during her twelve years' service. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank each member of our existing team, Sue, Charlotte, Sandra and Sandra for their continued hard work and support throughout the year in what at times have been quite a challenge.

Finally, can I thank you and your staff, governors and families for everything that you have collectively contributed to enhance the Christian education of all of our pupils during this school year. I wish each of you a restful and relaxing summer break and look forward to working with you on a range of exciting projects and initiatives planned for the coming year.

Every Blessing,



Chris Penn - Director of Education

Director's Briefing Staff News

Ms Jill Kelly, Deputy Director of Education



As indicated above, this summer we will be saying good-bye to Ms Jill Kelly, one of our Deputy Directors of Education. Jill is well known to many of our schools and has been part of our Diocesan Education team for nearly twelve years.

During this time, Jill has taken a key lead in school effectiveness and our CPD programme, with the children always being at the heart of her work. This has seen Jill work with many talented and dedicated colleagues, providing support that has included mentoring and pastoral work. Under Jill's leadership our School Improvement work has grown, working alongside colleagues from our Local Authorities, Ofsted and the RSC team. More recently, this has seen the creation of our Headteacher Consultants, who will be providing school improvement support from next year.

Jill has particularly championed the Christian Leadership programme, delivered in conjunction with the five North-West dioceses. Jill has been instrumental in developing this course which has seen over 100 delegates from Chester Diocese renewing their desire to serve God as school leaders, but also often as part of their own personal faith journey. Another highlight has seen the creation and development of special groups, in particular a group focussing on disadvantage, which Jill was instrumental in setting up. This has seen colleagues and schools from across the diocese to come together to share expertise and knowledge particularly in relation to supporting disadvantaged pupils.

Reflecting on her time with the diocese, Jill has provided her own personal message of thanks,

At Church House, I have had the great pleasure of working with a small team of great individuals, along with diocesan consultants, who work tirelessly to always put children and schools first. I will continue to remember with grateful thanks, everyone in church schools, children, staff and governors who have extended the warmest welcome to me on a visit or at meetings, for what they have achieved and taught me through their diligence and commitment to serve God, through the children and families within their school community. My continued prayers are assured for everyone who learns and works in happy, healthy and distinctively successful church schools – Jill Kelly

On behalf of the Diocesan team, I wish to offer our thanks to Jill for her Christian leadership, commitment and contribution to the many pupils and staff of our schools across the Diocese and as she looks forward to retirement, to wish her every happiness in the next chapter of her journey.

If you would like to contribute towards a gift for Jill's retirement and to mark her time in the department, please send them for the attention of Charlotte Somers at Church House.

New Buildings and Finance Officer

I am delighted to announce that we have recently appointed Mr Simon Geddes to the newly created post of Buildings and Finance Officer. Simon will be joining the team from September and primarily, will be supporting our Voluntary Aided schools' building and capital work, with a focus on LCVAP projects. Simon will also oversee the legal responsibilities for school on matters relating to land, site trustees and insurance. He is looking forward to taking up his post at the start of the new school year and working with our schools.

Annual Headteacher & Senior Leaders Conference

Thursday 22nd – Friday 23rd November 2018 - The Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, Warrington

This year's conference is an opportunity for our church school leaders to explore 'Brave Leadership' in all its contexts. With our church schools surrounded by an ever-changing educational landscape and pressures from differing views of society there has never been a more important time for brave leaders within our schools.

The main conference day (23rd November) is designed to support church school leaders as they consider this within their own context and that of the wider church school family. This year we are offering a residential option with a twilight session the night before starting at 4:30pm led by Bishop Libby, followed by evening worship and a conference dinner. Our keynote speakers on the main conference day will be Bishop Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford and Will Ryan of 'Independent Thinking.' There will also be the opportunity to attend workshops on the new SIAMS framework, Valuing All God's Children and Dealing with difficult circumstances as a church school leader.

[For further details and to book places, click on this link.](#)

Family of Schools Offer 2018/19

In response to requests from our headteachers we are pleased to be able to offer an enhanced service as part of the Family of Schools that will include bespoke school support and school improvement partners, whilst retaining the current offer. The existing family of schools' offer is now called the Family of Schools 'core offer,' with a new level of support being offered for next year called the Family of Schools 'enhanced offer.' This is available in three forms; -

Enhanced Offer – Complete

- School Improvement Partner (3 x ½ day sessions – termly)
- Bespoke School Improvement support (3 x ½ day sessions)
- Headteacher Performance Management

Enhanced Offer – SIP

- School Improvement Partner (3 x ½ day sessions – termly)

Enhanced Offer – Bespoke Support

- Bespoke School Improvement support (3 x ½ day sessions)

In addition, each of the enhanced offers also include;

- 20 x ½ day sessions priority places on DBE Training courses
- Reduced fees for any additional school support and training
- All services included in the core offer

The details and costings of the new offer to schools have been sent out to schools with an order form and details of our School Improvement Partners for 2018/19. **Schools are asked to return completed forms by Friday 20th July** to [Charlotte Somers](#).

CPD & Training Programme 2018/19



Booking for our programme of training and courses for 2018/19 will be made available before the end of term. The range of courses have been extended from this year and will include CPD opportunities for all levels of leadership, including governance. We will also be providing a wider range of senior leadership and school improvement training, as well as several safeguarding courses. There will be a more comprehensive NQT and RQT programme and we will be introducing a specially tailored well-being programme for headteachers, further details are provided below.

The booking process has been made easier with the introduction of a new on-line booking system. Details of all the courses for 2018-19 has already been sent to schools and a link to the booking site will be e-mailed out to schools and posted on the Diocesan schools' website under CPD and Training before the end of term.

NQT Programme

A revised and more comprehensive programme for Newly Qualified Teachers has been designed for church schools from next year. The programme will be available as either the full 5-day course, or the option of a shorter 3-day course and will run throughout the academic year. The programme will be delivered by both Diocesan officers and our Headteacher consultants and will take place across a range of our schools in the Diocese.

The programme will include an overview of 'working in a church school,' including visits to 3 church schools to see RE and Worship. Further sessions will include, safeguarding and behaviour, classroom management and working with support staff, an inclusion day, managing workload, a curriculum day including assessment and moderation, the wider curriculum and parental engagement. The programme will culminate in a half-day session on reflection and next steps. Full details and how to book a place will be sent out separately in the next few weeks.

In addition to this, we are inviting all of our NQT's to attend a free welcome lunch and afternoon at Church House on Monday 17th September between 12:30pm and 3pm. It is a chance for us to welcome our NQT's to the Diocese and introduce the team and the services and support that is available. It will also be an opportunity to make informal networks with other NQT's across the diocese. It will be necessary to book a place on this event to help us with catering.

RQT Programme

A newly created course for Recently Qualified Teachers (in their second, third or fourth year of their teaching career) will be offered for next year. The course will be delivered over six half day sessions, one each half term, and will look to build on the NQT year. It will be delivered by Amanda Donelan, Headteacher at Christchurch Moreton, and one of our Headteacher Consultants. Details of the course will be sent out to schools separately.

Well-being for Headteachers

A further addition to our support to schools next year, is the introduction of a well-being programme for headteachers. This will run as a pilot for next year and if successful, will be expanded in the following year. The aim of the course is to provide the time and space for reflection and to share experiences and mutual support. The course will be delivered by diocesan officers and a team of church school headteachers, who have helped to develop the course, and will be supplemented by occasional invited speakers.

For this first year, it is hoped to run two cohorts of 6-8 headteachers, one aimed at colleagues new to headship or in their first couple of years, and a second group for more experienced heads. The course will include four 'face to face' days during the year and will take place at our retreat centre at Foxhill. In addition to this, on-going support throughout the year will be made available with access to a diocesan officer or one of our Headteacher Consultants. We will also facilitate a peer to peer support network. An invitation to take part in the programme will be sent out shortly.

Church of England Education Office Publications

We have had several queries from both schools and governing bodies regarding recent publications from the Church of England Education Office and where to find them. Some of these relate to the Church of England, Vision for Education, Valuing All God's Children and Embracing Change: Rural and Small Schools. These can be found on the Church of England website, Education and Schools section – Education publications. For ease of access the link has been provided [here](#).

Mental Health and Well-Being: Towards a whole-school approach

This document was produced by the Education office in March of this year and is seen to be used alongside the new SIAMS framework. The document includes some helpful background information and statistics relating to both mental health and well-being, as well as a useful toolkit at the back of the publication for headteachers and senior leadership teams to use with both staff and governors. A link to the document has been provided [here](#).

Understanding your data

The ESFA have recently published a guide for school governors and academy trustees entitled, 'Understanding your data.' It provides general guidance as well as a set of key themes that provide a basis for challenge to ensure value for money whilst focusing on educational outcomes. A link to the document can be found [here](#).

New £1.5m Centre Opens in Handbridge



St Mary's Handbridge Centre was officially opened on 10th June by the Right Revd Dr Peter Forster, the Bishop of Chester. Over 200 people attended the ceremony, including Chris Matheson MP, Councillor Razia Daniels, Rupert Collis the Estate's Manager from Eaton Estate and representatives from a wide number of individuals and charitable organisations who have made donations to the building of the Centre. Also present were those who have been closely associated with the development and building of the Centre.



The new facility which replaces the old church hall, is over twice the size of the former building, and will serve as the long-awaited community facility for Handbridge and the wider Chester area.

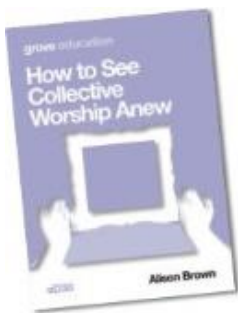
St Mary's is extremely grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to fundraising, and to those who have worked

tirelessly over the past three years to see this project become a reality.



Contact: Doris Keen, Parish Administrator. Tel 01244 671202; admin.stmaryschester@talktalk.net

Useful Booklets



Grove Books have an education series produced in partnership with the Association of Anglican Directors of Education that offer and promote Christian thinking rooted in practice for everyone involved in schools, colleges and churches. The latest publication is entitled 'How to See Collective Worship Anew'. Collective worship is a core practice of any church school community. As such it carries a particular power which is often overlooked. Collective worship all too easily can be little more than moral education: 'Be good...because Jesus says so.' 'Seeing Anew' helps schools to explore how effective they are at painting a picture of what life looks like if lived as God intended.

You can see a copy of the publication in the resource library at Church House. It, and others in the series, can be purchased (or downloaded) from [Grove's website](http://www.grovebooks.co.uk) for £3.95.

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School Job Vacancy Form

There is now a new form that needs to be completed for any school vacancies. If you would like to advertise any job vacancies, please email [Sandra Reynolds](mailto:Sandra.Reynolds@stmaryschester.org) for a form.



Please be aware that we need plenty of notice before the closing dates of the vacancies

Inspections

Congratulations to the following schools

Section 48 SIAMS outstanding/good outcomes

Bollinbrook C of E Primary School

Bollington St John's C of E Primary School

Elworth C of E Primary School

Little Bollington C of E Primary School

Overleigh St Mary's C of E Primary School

Smallwood C of E Primary School

Section 5 OFSTED outstanding/good judgement

Saughall All Saints C of E Primary School

St John the Evangelist C of E Primary School, Macclesfield

Section 8 OFSTED outstanding/good judgement

Norley C of E Primary School

News from schools



Bickerton Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

Everyone was delighted to welcome Mr Chris Penn (the Director of Education for the diocese). During his guided tour of the school, he met with each class where he introduced himself to the children. He told the children about his role and answered questions that they had.

Later on in the term, Antoinette Sandbach, MP visited. Again, she had a tour of the school and talked to the classes about her job and the things she is passionate about. She asked the children what was important to them and encouraged them always to aim to challenge what is not good.



Canon Ian Davenport recently brought some very special visitors to our school too. The Melanesian Brothers from The Solomon Islands talked to the children about their culture and their role within the community. They also taught the children a song about being part of God's family, as, although we are from opposite ends of the earth and from very different cultures, we are all joined together as part of God's family. During

playtime afterwards, Brother Martin joined in with a game of football and the other visitors talked to the children. It was a privilege to welcome them and a very special



opportunity for us. We now hope to set up a link with a school in The Solomon Islands, so the children can find out more.



Following the Royal wedding, the youngest children acted out their own wedding. After lots of preparation (as with any wedding) they came dressed for the occasion and joined together to share in the wedding between the bride and groom. Through the role play the children learnt all about this very special sacrament. Great fun was had by all.

Bishop Wilson C of E Primary School

On the evening of Friday 18th May the school entered their swimming team into the Junior School's Swimming Gala at the EPSV competing against 15 other schools. The team consisted of children from Years 4, 5 and 6. There were heats for each event, and all the students made it through to their finals. When the competition closed and the points were totalled, the Bishop Wilson team were declared the overall winners and were presented with a magnificent shield. Well done everyone who took part.



Bosley St Mary's C of E Primary School

With the extra focus and hard work for Y6 and Y2 SATs behind them, everyone immediately laid out the trestle tables and hung up the bunting for the sunny Royal Wedding street party, with staff and pupils, parents and friends tucking into cakes the children had decorated and fantastic ice-creams from the visiting van, as well as posing in the royal wedding photo booth.

The Reception and KS1 children had a super trip to Sudbury Hall and the National Trust Museum of Childhood as part of their term's topic about traditional toys and games. The theme continues in several transition events planned for the newcomers to Reception next September, and their parents, such as a picnic afternoon.



Special places and journeys and the concept of pilgrimage has been an interesting focus of RE investigation for the junior class this term. Y5 & Y6 pupils recalled what they had learnt on the Chester Cathedral Pilgrim Days, and local speakers have shared their own pilgrimage experiences on countries like Santiago de Compostela, Lindisfarne, Taize and the war graves of Flanders/France. The journey of life theme flowed into collective worship too, including a Taize-style contemplative, musical prayer time by candlelight. This was just one



of the ways in which they have been trying to offer the children different ways of praying and responding to God, including pop-up prayer spaces created in school by their Vicar, Revd John Harries.

The brilliant iSingPOP musical project run by the Innervation Trust was the perfect focus for the week after SATs and before the holiday. The village church and chapel helped to fund the event, and provided refreshments at the concerts, so that it was truly the community church school project that it is intended to be. It absolutely lived up to expectations, not that everyone knew quite what to expect. It delighted and wowed parents and friends who came to hear the children live in concert. From the youngest to the oldest, they were all amazing, thanks to the enthusiasm and skill of the vocal coach Emma who led the project so professionally. Everyone eagerly awaits the delivery of their own CD of seven specially written iSingPop songs.



Delamere C of E Academy

Pupils have been getting out and about as their learning journey continues to take them across the country.

Already this term groups have travelled to York for a Viking experience, to Denbighshire to brush up on their survival skills, to Anglesey for an artistic adventure, to Cornwall, for thrilling outdoor experiences and canoeing on the Shropshire Union Canal.

The trips, which generate huge excitement, are helping the children to learn about the world around them and how to care for themselves and each other.

During four days in York, Year 4 children visited the Jorvik Viking Centre, Railway Museum, York Minister, took part in a Tudor workshop and tried their hands to copper embossing at The Royal Armouries.

Year 3 pupils enjoyed nature walks, rope swings over streams and toasting marshmallows over open fires at Denbighshire.

There were arts workshops and outdoor adventures for the youths who went to the Conway Centre, Anglesey.

Rock climbing, surfing, water sports and camping were on the



itinerary in Cornwall.

Families and children come together at St Peter's Church

Each year, classes hold a collective worship at St Peter's Church, Delamere, for their families. The service is an opportunity for families to come together to reflect on the wonders of the world around us through a child's eyes. The children stood proudly and shared what the school's Christian values of respect, care, peace and love meant to them. Through the beauty of art, the children produced wonderful pieces of work highlighting a school value chosen by them and stood with pride as they all took turns to speak in front of a special audience about their artwork. The children thoroughly enjoyed talking about something that was personal to them.



Frodsham C of E Primary School

A Royal Wedding



To celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, children were all invited to a mock wedding at St Laurence Church on Friday 18th May.

There were lots of volunteers to be Harry and Meghan and the two children drawn out of the hat were Penelope (Y3) and Austin (Y4).



Each class took part in the preparations, from making invitations, decorations and bunting, to writing poems to be read during the service, and also practising singing and playing musical instruments to perform at the wedding.

The service was a great success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this very special occasion.

A special thank you to Catering Supervisor Mrs Weedon for preparing the wedding breakfast for pupils when they came back to school. Everyone at Frodsham CE would like to congratulate the new Royal couple and hope they enjoyed their day.



Great Budworth C of E Primary School

Everyone at school went to church just before the half term holiday for the wedding of Prince Harry (Jo from year 6) to Meghan (Eleanor, also from year 6). Pupils from year 5 and 6 came dressed as other members of the Royal family, whilst the rest of the school looked splendid as the wedding guests. One of the ladies in the village had beautifully decorated the church with flowers especially for the occasion. Rev Phil Highton, the Chaplain at Hartford Church of England High School (who often visits school to lead Collective Worship), led the service and explained that marriage is a gift from God. As Harry and Meghan exchanged their vows, he told the pupils what the promises meant and how God could help them to keep them. We listened to the Bible reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 13 and Phil told everyone that this was a perfect example of how to love although it is too hard to achieve, and that is why we need God's help to love each other. After the church service, everyone went back to school to enjoy some cake and to toast the happy couple.



Hartford C of E High School

Answering tough questions

Every Wednesday lunchtime, 15 or so pupils meet as part of the school Christian Union. Once sandwiches have been devoured a question is usually asked by one of the pupils, invariably a tough question that they have been asked by their friends about the Bible or something Christians believe or one that has been triggered by a lesson. We then spend the remaining time working out the answer to that question by looking at what the Bible actually says.

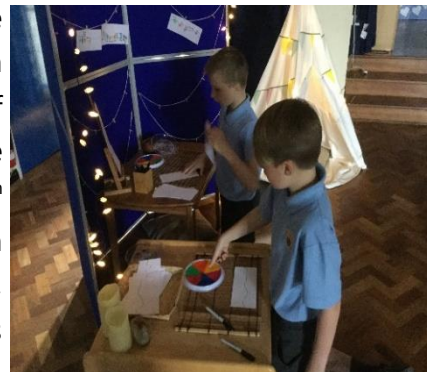
On 25 April the CU had an opportunity to find out how much they had learned. The Ethos Group from Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School came into the High School to ask the CU members some tricky questions they had been thinking about. Questions like:

- Do you believe in resurrection, and why?
- Why are there lots of different religions in our world?
- Why do we say we are all part of one family?
- Why didn't the Pharisees like Jesus?
- What does heaven look like?
- How was God made?

Heswall St Peter's C of E Primary School



On Friday 18th and Saturday 19th May, St Peter's community took part in a worldwide prayer event 'Thy Kingdom Come.' This event was to enable people from all parts of the community to gather together in prayer. The event was based within our school hall and was visited by the whole school, some parents and members of the community across the two days. Each class in school had been given the task of creating their own prayer station where people could visit and spend time reflecting or praying. On Thursday 17th May, the school hall was transformed into a wonderful, reflective and calm environment. It featured a variety of different stations some for reflecting, some for creating and some for exploring. On Friday, each class was



allocated a time to visit the hall and there the children had the opportunity to explore this creative way to access prayer. Each child thoroughly enjoyed their experience and came away with a very special message after spending time reflecting on prayer in different ways. After school, some parents visited the school hall and experienced the children's message of prayer enjoying many different ways of getting to know Jesus.

Saturday brought members of the local community through the doors as they took some quiet time to reflect and enjoy the children's prayer stations. The event was a true success and showed how the power of prayer brings everyone together in a positive way.



Lostock Gralam C of E Primary School

Pupil voice is very important to everyone at school as it uses the children's thoughts to further develop RE and Worship.



Lower Peover C of E Primary School

Mr B's Bingo



On Friday 18th May, a bingo event was held to raise money for school. Hosted by Mr Bradley, Year 1 Teacher and Chair of the school's PTA. Accompanied with popcorn and cake the event was enjoyed by all children from both Key Stages and requests have already been put in for the event to be repeated. As well as the children enjoying the event, it also raised £400 for school.



Overleigh St Mary's CE Primary School

Year 5 enjoyed learning all about the Passover and making links between the sacrificial blood of the lamb and the sacrificial blood of Jesus. They sampled a Passover meal and their poems reflect the aspects of the freedom story which are focused upon in this act of remembrance.

Tonight we remember,

We remember the bitter people, who had once been full of joy,

We remember the initial flourishing but then how the tears started flowing,

We remember the building, exhaustion and torture of slavery,

We remember the sacrificial blood that flowed across the door frames,

We remember the new life as God's people walked through the door of promises.

Written by year 5 students



Tonight we remember

We remember the tears, tears of fear that burnt their skin like the whip that hurt them most,

We remember the bitterness of the people, who had once expressed happiness, joy and love,

We remember the Israelites, who had shone but shone no more,

We remember the exhaustion and pain of building the pyramids,

We remember the Hebrews' hope was hard to take over and kill,

We remember the unimaginable suffering and pain; the forgotten joy,

We remember our victorious freedom,

We remember the new life for all Jews,

We remember our Passover tradition.

Curtis Williams, 5W

Share a Pencil Day

The school also recently celebrated Share a Pencil Day and reflected on the hope that education can bring to children around the world. Pupils wrote about why they love school, considered how they can show gratitude for the education that is often taken for granted. They also heard from children around the world about their dreams to be educated and completed activities whilst sharing a pencil. Some of the children prayed for a boy in Ghana (who is sponsored via Compassion) that, with God's help, his education will result in a bright future.

Saighton C of E Primary School

Really enjoyed working with Christian dance company Springs Dance.

The team of professional dancers worked with all the children from Reception to Year 6 to create an interpretative dance depicting the Easter story.

The children performed their dances at Aldford Church as part of our end of term Easter Service.

It was a moving service and the children were amazing at embracing this unique experience.



Saughall All Saints C of E Primary School

Everyone recently welcomed a local artist into school to work with the children on a mural for the entrance hall. The mural is entitled Window on the World and focuses on patterns from different cultures to help further the children's understanding of the diversity that is part of our world today. Different children from across the school were given the opportunity to get involved with the mural and the final result is impressive.



Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School



Badgers Class enjoyed a memorable trip to Chester Cathedral on 1st May. The children were treated to a tour, a Christian symbols search in the Nave and a wonderful stained-glass workshop. The children were literally spellbound by the magnificent stained-glass windows in the cathedral.

The new Rainforest topic was launched with a fascinating workshop from Animals Takeover. The children absolutely loved meeting Freddo the smiling Tree Frog, an Asian Forest Scorpion and some adorable Sugar Gliders. They also bravely held

a Royal Python; the children were amazed to learn that these snakes have about 450 bones. The visit led to some wonderful rainforest poetry writing and inspired additional independent research

On May 9th, some of Year 6 took part in the West Cheshire Interfaith Group's Open Mic Evening on Empathy and Compassion

The children wowed the audience with their presentations and handled questions from the audience with confidence and conviction. Back at school, Year 6 shared some of what they learnt from the other speakers about faith and they were inspired to create a faith tree. One child wrote, don't just look at the stub of the tree, look for the branches.



Earlier in the term, Foxes Class held their own Baptism service in school, each child was given their own very special role and dressed up beautifully for the occasion. Reverend Jane led the service and commented on how respectful the children were at what represents the start of an amazing journey of faith.

The sun shone brightly for Sports Day. After the usual individual races and a hilarious obstacle course, the whole school competed in mixed age teams and enjoyed games such as water pong and boules. Many commented on how lovely the older children were supporting the younger children including those with more competitive natures! It was wonderful to see past parents, now grandparents, coming back to help out with the set-up, scoring and cheering the children on. The day finished with a family picnic and a rounder's match on the school field,



On Sunday 13th May, the Shocklach community celebrated Rogation Sunday with a special Pet Blessing Service in the field opposite school. The children brought kittens, dogs and even a baby tortoise to be blessed by Reverend Jane.

The school joined forces with Tushingham with Grindley C of E Primary School for a trip to The Storyhouse, Chester to watch a special private screening of A Wrinkle in Time. Pupils had been studying this book to link in with their work on space.

Finally, Shocklach Oviatt has some very exciting news to announce, they have secured provision for nursery age children, Opening this September, for three-year olds, five mornings a week. They are very much looking forward to welcoming even more new families into their thriving and very happy church school.



St Andrew's Bebington C of E Primary School

In 2016 St Andrew's had their SIAMS inspection and achieved outstanding. Their target was to extend the children's understanding of the Trinity through collective worship. In school it seemed the children had an excellent understanding of God and Jesus as the Son of God but helping them to understand the power of the Holy Spirit and the effects of the Holy Spirit at work each day in us was difficult to explain. This became their focus.

In a discussion between our headteacher Mrs Viv Woods and Mr Ian Thomson, Ian shared the idea of the Holy Spirit behaving like light entering a prism. The light enters the prism and emerges breaking out into a spectrum of colour. Could the colours be presented to the children as the Fruit of the Spirit.

Our next step was to launch the idea of the light in a prism being compared to the Holy Spirit. Ian Thompson kindly visited for key stage assemblies to introduce the concept of light behaving like God and to illustrate the idea of the light coming from a prism. Building upon the introductory assembly, the children then experienced a Biblical focus day enabling them to explore the Bible story reflecting their class Fruit of the Spirit. Children's thoughts and reflections were recorded in a class reflection book and the Bible stories were very central to these reflections. Children also considered how the stories could give them a message for their lives today. The stories allowed the children a real opportunity to engage with Bible stories they hadn't heard before and develop a depth of understanding which really challenged their thinking.

Mr Chris Gilbert, the Art and Soul Man was invited, to help with designing a new focal point for the school hall. This has encapsulated the idea of the light breaking into a spectrum reflecting the Fruit of the Spirit. All the children in school contributed ideas, drawings and Bible verses for the new focal point and it represents a culmination of all they have learnt about the Fruit of the Spirit and the Holy Spirit at work in them. The Holy Spirit and the Fruit it provides are now a very real part of school. The focal point is fantastic, and the children are reminded each day of the Fruit of the Spirit and can identify with what they learnt in their class.



In years following they will encounter a new colour and a new Fruit of the Spirit. Everyone is very grateful to the Art Students and staff from Woodchurch High School who assisted during the Art Day and also Ian Thomson and Chris Gilbert for their support with the project.

St Bertelne's C of E Primary School



During worship, Mrs O'Neil talked to the children about the Lent Charity Appeal. The children heard about the incredible challenge the River of Life boys undertook themselves back in September 8 of them travelled 130 miles on bikes in one day, raising sponsorship to pay for their education.

St Bert's school decided to see how far 293 children could go in one day by completing 0.2 mile laps of the school. From 9 in the morning until 3



in the afternoon, children were dancing, singing, congaing, hoola hooping, trust walking, dressing up as super hero's flag waving, teddy chaining and generally have a marvellous time all the while thinking of others and supporting global friends who they have never even met. There was real buzz and excitement in the school despite the fact that the heavens opened and most of us got drenched. The St Bert's team stayed strong and then raised an incredible £3,650 in sponsorship money for the team in Uganda.

As a school, everyone has been blown away by the generosity, kindness and support that everyone has shown. Thank you a million times from both St Bert's and the River of Life wabele nyon which is Ugandan for thank you **very** much.



Tarporley C of E Primary School

On Friday 21st May the school held their very own Royal Wedding at St Helens Church, which was officiated by reception class teacher, Mrs Davies. It was a fun experience for everyone. Competitions took place for best fascinator, hat and tie which pupils took very seriously, some created their very own accessories. Each class took part in different activities throughout the day including afternoon tea in KS1. A big thank you to Mrs Brocklehurst and Miss Nicholas for organising the day's events, everybody had a wonderful time.



Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E Primary School

Signed up to the Daily Mile initiative in January 2017, thanks to Mrs Wendy Forshaw (Headteacher), and her drive, enthusiasm and determination to getting the programme started. The aim of the Daily Mile is to improve the physical, emotional and social health and wellbeing of the pupils regardless of age or personal circumstances. The Daily Mile was an instant hit, but it soon became apparent that the children and adults



needed a purpose-built track to fully benefit from the Daily Mile project. The school's PTA, Friends of Tushingham, plus an amazing group of people, came together to fundraise and create a fabulous Daily Mile track within the school grounds. The Daily Mile track was officially opened in April. Everyone was thrilled to welcome special guest, Chloe Hewitt, from Strictly Come Dancing, to officially open the track. Chloe Hewitt is an ex-pupil of Tushingham School and was a total delight and an instant hit with children and adults alike. The official opening was a huge success and very well attended by representatives from community groups involved in helping to fund and create the school's new Daily Mile track. Special thanks were given to the PTA for their commitment to providing a track for our pupils and for their organisation of the event. The weather was perfect for the official opening helping to make it a fabulous event for all. The Daily Mile track is a fantastic resource for pupils to enjoy.

University Church of England Academy

Easter Celebrations

At Easter everyone was pleased to welcome Bishop Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead to the school.

During the Easter Celebration Assemblies, the Bishop spoke passionately about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Pupils from the Christ Church, Church of England Primary School Choir who brilliantly performed two songs in front of a full theatre. Staff, students and visitors then joined in prayer which was led by Rev Gordon McGuinness from St Thomas Church. One of the sixth form pupils also led us in a reflective dance which was very moving.



Canon Chancellor Award



The Canon Chancellor's Award is earned for displaying innovation in Christian teaching and offers primary, secondary and special needs schools from across the UK an opportunity to demonstrate their expertise in the teaching of Christianity through art, drama and music.

Being a Church of England school, UCEA were invited by Chester Cathedral to take part in the Canon Chancellor Award ceremony. The aim was to encourage students to explore the concept of the Fall and Salvation by creating a 3D model. The Academy were able

to submit three entries and one of the entries, produced by Emily McIlhorne, was awarded first prize in the Key Stage 3 category.

It was a delight to share success with Christ Church Primary, who won at both the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 categories.

Anne Frank Trust Holocaust Project

Students at the University Church of England Academy (UCEA) were proud to present the story of young wartime diarist Anne Frank, her life and legacy, to the community of Ellesmere Port as part of their project work.

A public exhibition was hosted at the Academy and was run in collaboration with The Anne Frank Trust UK and Cheshire West and Chester Council, while UCEA students provided the roles of adept tour guides.



The exhibition captured the life of Anne Frank and her family during their extremely challenging times under the Nazi regime. The purpose of the display was to hear the lessons learnt and explore the messages we still need to realise as a society, while also being a fitting topic of study during Holocaust Memorial week. The content, while very emotional and at times hard hitting, was received incredibly respectfully by all in attendance.

Over 350 pupils from local primary schools passed through the doors of the Academy, to take part in the educational exhibition. The Academy was delighted to welcome pupils from Cambridge Road Primary School, The Oaks, The Acorns, Westminster Primary and Christ Church Primary, who all displayed exemplary behaviour and a keen interest in the life of Anne Frank.

The doors of the Academy opened to the public on the evening of Thursday February 1 2018, allowing families to come and experience the exhibition for themselves. UCEA was honoured to welcome special guests, Councillor Nicole Meardon, Mayor for Ellesmere Port and Ellesmere Port and Neston MP, Justin Madders. All guests were treated to guided tours of Anne Frank's life and the tragic series of events leading up to her capture and ultimately, death, using an array of storyboards, videos and presentations. Attendees then gathered in the Academy Chapel for a moment of reflection and prayer after a touching presentation from two Sixth Form students, Zoe Butler (Head Girl at UCEA) and Joshua Nolan, who had the opportunity to visit and document their educational trip to Auschwitz last year.



Wharton C of E Primary School



Reception children celebrated the Royal wedding by having a street party. Everyone made cakes, bunting, table decorations and hats. The staff and children were very excited. They wish Prince Harry and Meghan a very happy life together.



Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School

During the summer term children and staff took part in a Make a Wish week. Ending the week with a celebration of all the things we do to make a difference to the lives of others in the local community. A guest speaker visited school and shared how she is making a difference by running The London Marathon to raise money for The Make a Wish Foundation. The speaker inspired everyone to think about how when we are faced with challenges, to persevere and not to give up. The School Parliament sold cakes, and the money raised was donated to the foundation. School was decorated in handmade stars to reflect everyone's personal wishes.

The Royal Wedding was celebrated with Reception having their very own wedding, followed by a wedding breakfast, cake and speeches. The other classes created bunting for the street party lunch. Class cards were posted to the happy couple, congratulating them on their special day and wishing them all the best for the future.



Year 4 made life long memories whilst on their residential to Mount Cook, where they demonstrated teamwork, collaboration and risk and challenge. Year 2 are [looking forward to their residential next term to Tattenhall.](#)

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Adverts



Have some exciting resources for your school this autumn term!

CYBER TALES is an Interactive Drama Day about **Internet Safety & Cyber Bullying for years 1-4** – exploring how we can take care of ourselves & others whilst online.

<http://rhemaschools.org/cyber-tales/>

THE GOLDEN RULE FILM PROJECT is an action-packed, exciting **Citizenship opportunity for Years 5/6 pupils** to star in their own short film!

<http://rhemaschools.org/the-golden-rule-film-project>



If you are interested in booking or finding out more, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

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Simon Geddes - Buildings & Finance Officer [wef 01/09/18](#)

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