

# DBE Schools Bulletin

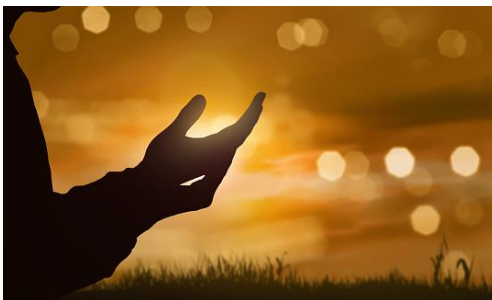
February 2021

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

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



**Pray in the Spirit on all occasions...With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.**

**Ephesians 6:18**

*"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." – Max Lucado*

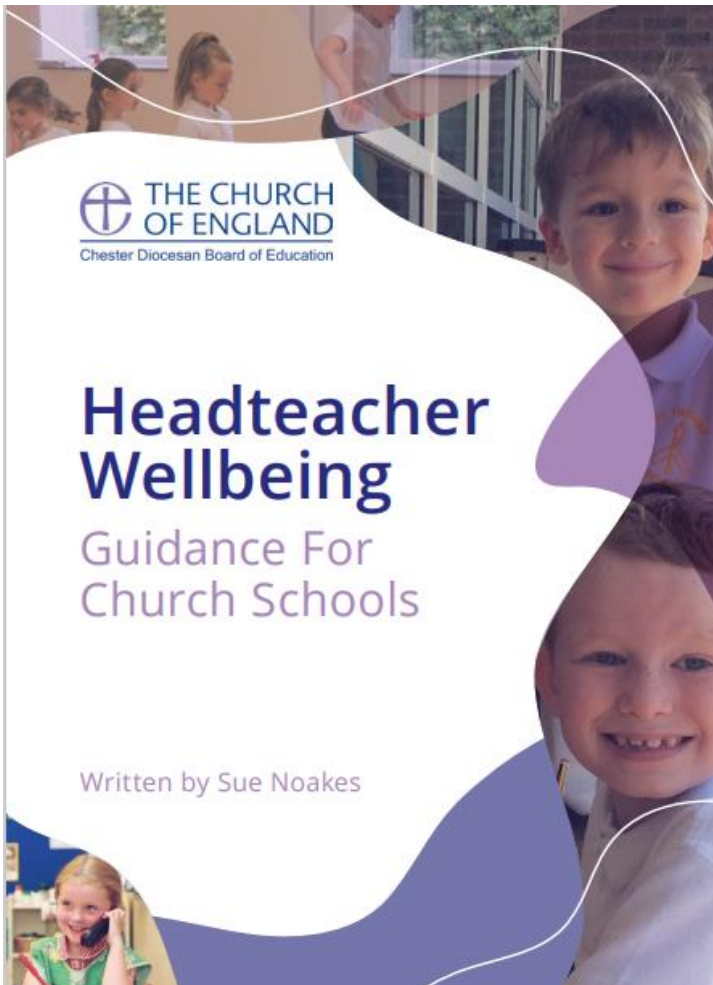
## A time for prayer

The month of February sees the start of Lent, marked by Ash Wednesday on the 17<sup>th</sup> February. As Christians, Lent offers a time for prayer and penance, remembering the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who withdrew into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days. It is often a time where we may choose to make our own personal sacrifice, to 'give something up' during the time leading up to Easter. The pandemic and current lockdown has brought into sharp focus much of what we have been forced to give up or go without, as the many restrictions have come into force. And yet, the season of Lent also enables a time to make a conscious commitment to pray.

There is much to pray for during this current time whether in our personal lives, our schools, our local communities, nationally and across the world. In our schools, prayer forms an important rhythm to the school day, and even during this disrupted period, pupils and staff have found opportunities to pray for others and to seek comfort themselves in prayer. In this bulletin, Bishop Mark has invited our schools to join in praying for those being called to be appointed as one of our two new bishops in the Diocese.

The diocesan education team has continued to maintain a prayer list during the pandemic, praying for colleagues, pupils, families and situations in our schools in need of prayer. If you wish to put forward someone or something to pray for linked with your school community, please drop us an e-mail. You might consider making a commitment to prayer as a whole school focus during Lent 2021.

## Headteacher Wellbeing Handbook launch



We are pleased to share with you our Headteacher Wellbeing Handbook. We are initially launching it in its digital version following feedback from our heads, chairs and incumbents briefing and hope to get hard copies out to schools with a wider launch later in the year.

We know how difficult things are for everyone at the minute and we have published a 'covid supplement' to this resource. This handbook is designed to be used throughout the year, not when headteachers get to breaking point but regularly so that hopefully the breaking point is never reached.

It is for headteachers to use themselves to consider what they can do to manage their wellbeing with both ideas and programmes that may help heads understand themselves and their team better; and practical ideas to manage the day to day workload and homelife.

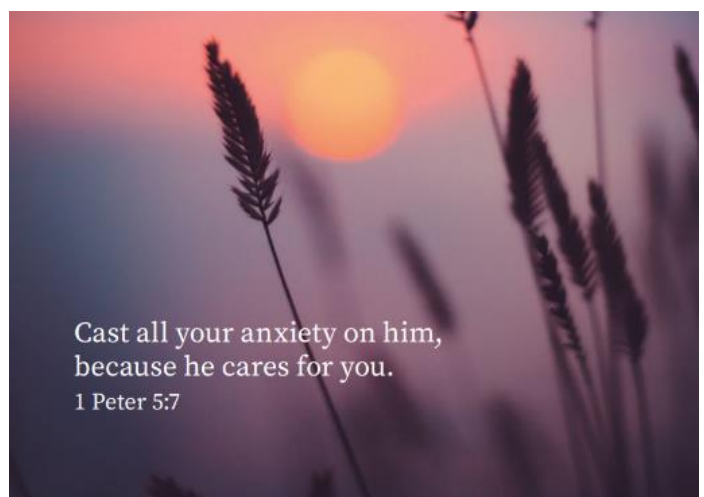
It is also designed to be used by governors, to help them understand the pressures of being a headteacher and practical actions they can take to lessen the burden on headteachers whilst still

to maintaining their important role.

It can be used by governors to encourage their headteacher to take up some of the strategies suggested and support them practically and pastorally and also for headteachers to discuss with governors the ways that governor business can be managed to support them.

The handbook is full of strategies suitable for any school but in a church school the spiritual health of headteachers is also a focus. It is then designed to support headteachers in keeping themselves spiritually healthy and for clergy to reflect on how they can support this. There are Bible quotes throughout which we hope will inspire and encourage.

Schools will be sent three copies of the book later in the year, a copy each for the headteacher, Chair of Governors (or headteacher wellbeing governor) and the vicar.



We ask though that every governing board member receives the digital copy, as well as those mentioned above, as it is the duty of every governor to ensure their headteacher's wellbeing is safeguarded and supported.

The handbook is divided into sections, starting with ideas for understanding oneself better, important support structures and spiritual wellbeing. It is followed by practical strategies for home, school, communication and support with an extra section for small schools and the particular challenges they face. This is followed by a section for governors considering roles and responsibilities, practical actions for business meetings and small personal actions that can have a big impact. At the end are a variety of websites and publications that have been suggested to us by headteachers as being useful.

To give a flavour of the book and to get you thinking; below are some practical suggestions offered. Do you manage to do this?

### Practical ideas

In this section there are some practical ideas of strategies that you can use in order to support your wellbeing. Obviously, the ones you choose will be based on your interests and lifestyle. What is important is that you do things for yourself. In order to get everything done it can be tempting to take work home and spend evenings and weekends working but in order to support others you must ensure that your own reservoir is topped up and that is done by taking time for you.

These are some ideas shared by leaders that have helped them manage their wellbeing.

### Headteachers

- Designate time for working from home during the day to work on strategy and documents that require concentration without interruption – make it regular.
- Set up 'Rules' in your inbox to allow emails with specific words in the subject to automatically go to a set folder when they are received. This means that you do not need to manually file them yourself, and you can read them when it is convenient.
- Ensure time for reflection, prayer and reading (building up your reservoir).

### Governors

- Assign a governor whose responsibility is the wellbeing of the headteacher and who regularly monitors this.
- The Governing Board has a responsibility for ensuring that "their headteacher has a reasonable workload, in support of a reasonable work/life balance". Monitor this and put things in place to make it appropriate such as regular working from home.
- Look at the timing and length of governors' meetings. Heads will already have had a long day. How long is their drive home? Legally, there must be an eleven hour gap before returning to work.

We really hope that the handbook proves useful and if you can make at least one change that impacts positively on you/your headteacher's wellbeing then it will have achieved part of its aim and will most certainly impact positively for staff and children too.

Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.  
Romans 12:12



## Diocesan school devastated by flooding

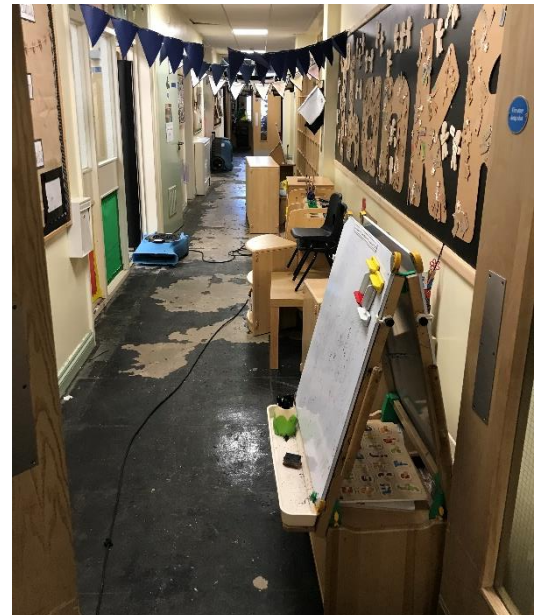


Witton Church Walk CE Primary in Northwich has been severely damaged by flood waters following unprecedented rainfall and weather from Storm Christoph. The flood waters penetrated the ground floor of the school, causing extensive damage to classrooms, the school hall, offices and the kitchen which has resulted in the school needing to be closed to pupils. A recovery operation is in place to dry out all of the affected areas, including the outside play areas, before the repair and renovation can begin. The school is likely to be closed for a number of weeks, with critical worker and vulnerable pupils being taught by staff in the nearby leisure centre. Much of the contents of the rooms has been lost to the flood and will need to be replaced.

This has been a really testing time

for headteacher Kathryn Magiera and her staff team, in what was already challenging circumstances. Offers of help from neighbouring schools and the local community have been welcomed by the school and have been a huge help. The incident was featured on the [BBC North-West news](#) and on their webpage.

We continue to hold them and the pupils and families in our prayers during this disrupted period for the school. The Diocese are working with the school, the local authority and the insurers to ensure the school can be returned back to its original state and able to re-open to pupils again just as soon as is practically possible.



## SIAMS Update

Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for the Church of England, recently wrote to schools with an update on the current situation regarding SIAMS inspections;

I am writing with a particular update about SIAMS in 2021. As you will be aware, Ofsted and DfE are still working on the basis that Ofsted will not be conducting graded inspections in the spring term and SIAMS has followed suit. The requirement to have a section 48 inspection every five years is disapplied and so SIAMS cannot restart until that disapplication is lifted by DfE. We will wait until Ofsted make a further announcement before we can consider what if anything can or should be done about restarting SIAMS inspection before September. We realise this will be disappointing for some who value the external recognition of all the hard work they do in providing such a rounded education for their pupils, but we will continue to be guided by the best advice and seek to ensure that the reintroduction of inspection is managed in a way that is mindful of the pressures on staff and schools.

## Life under Lockdown



Charlotte Gill, a teacher at Grosvenor Park CE Primary Academy, and part of the North West Academy Trust, recently featured on ITV News and has produced her own personal short film of 'Life under Lockdown – the teacher learning to educate pupils still at home'. The video diary was created as part of a special series of video diaries organised by Granada TV and ITN News, inviting local people to share their experience in lockdown.

Charlotte's video provides an insight into some of the challenges faced by her and fellow teachers presently, as she shares her experience of juggling home learning with her family, whilst teaching her class and providing remote learning at Grosvenor Park CE Primary. Charlotte's film can be viewed by clicking the link [here](#).

## Pilgrim Pathways

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust have released online their brand new free resource for Lent, **Pilgrim Pathways**. With 6 weeks of content, **Pilgrim Pathways** will take pupils on a pilgrimage journey through Lent, looking at 6 different items that are important on a walking pilgrimage.



Each week will focus on a different item beginning with a lamp and followed with a map, first aid kit, walking stick, shelter and finally food & drink. **Pilgrim Pathways** will help KS2 and KS3 pupils explore how these items symbolise ideas that can help them when facing challenges in their personal life journey.

The resource encourages reflection and practical actions that can support pupils' wellbeing and happiness. They are suitable for use in the classroom, as part of collective worship, or can be used for pupils learning from home.

The resources can be accessed here:

[www.abyyt.com/projects/pilgrim-pathways](http://www.abyyt.com/projects/pilgrim-pathways)

## Prayers for two new bishops in our Diocese

Bishop Mark has invited schools to join in praying for God's wisdom, discernment and calling as the Diocese seeks to appoint two new suffragan bishops to the posts of the Bishop of Stockport and the Bishop of Birkenhead. The Diocese has been granted permission to make the appointments following Bishop Libby's appointment as the Bishop of Derby back in 2019 and Bishop Keith's announcement that he will be retiring in March. Bishop Mark has invited schools to join with churches and parishes across the Diocese in praying for the prospective candidates, as he and the members of the Advisory Group seek to make these important appointments in our Diocese over the coming months. An announcement on the appointment of the two new bishops is expected in May.



**Word cloud image created from sentiments expressed by people across the diocese who completed the survey seeking views and comments about the two bishop posts**

## Mentally Healthy Schools



We know the switch back to remote learning during this new lockdown may be a difficult one, and you may be concerned about the weeks ahead. You can find lots of

free resources, toolkits and guidance to support you, your pupils and their families, on our [coronavirus and mental health](#) page.

Children's Mental Health Week is on 1<sup>st</sup> February, and the theme this year is 'express yourself'.

By talking openly about mental health from a young age, children can learn to better understand their emotions, break down stigma, and feel safe enough to reach out for help when it's needed.

Talking about mental health and expressing our feelings can be difficult, no matter our age. In this toolkit, we've rounded up lots of great resources to help children, staff and parents start the mental health conversation.





## Springs Dance Company - Easter Project

Springs Dance Company specialises in cross-curricular dance, in particular with Religious Education, Citizenship and PSHE. Springs is offering to schools its sought after Easter Project, which can run for between one and six days.

Delivering fun, engaging, and thought-provoking dance workshops, The Easter Project provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. The workshops can culminate in an informal sharing or performance by the pupils, which can be shown to the school and parents through either a live or filmed presentation.

For further information on **The Easter Project**, please click [here](#).

New for the Summer term is Springs' combined dance performance and workshop experience for schools, delivered with Covid safety at the forefront. Encounter, influence and reflect as we bring parables to life and go deeper into RE. Further details available soon, in the meantime please click [here](#).



To book and to find out more please email [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk) or call **07876 752 910**.

## RE Stories for Primary Schools – Written & Performed By Mike Peacock



**'Tales from The Miracle Book' is a collection of fun and engaging short films, designed for the teaching of RE & PSHE (Key Stages 1 & 2).**

Mike has over 20 years' experience of performing in schools, teaching & running workshops. He is delighted to now be bringing these amazing stories to life in a brand-new way. These films are available for home-learning as well as in the classroom. Each set of films

comes with its own downloadable education pack – filled with top-quality worksheets to help unpack these memorable stories for Key Stages 1 & 2. A school's licence gives access to a growing library of over 30 short films plus KS1 & 2 teaching resources. They have just been awarded the *Understanding Christianity National Accreditation*, for a selection of their films too!



**So step into the Miracle Book to begin an amazing RE journey! Please click [here](#) for more information.**

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
<b>SPRING &amp; SUMMER TERM DATES 2021</b>		
Chester HTs	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	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	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May - <b>This is a new date and time</b>	10am -12pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	10am -12pm 10am -12pm
Warrington & Halton HTs	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	10am -12pm 10am -12pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	10am -12pm 10am -12pm

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)

## 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

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)





## Family of Schools' CPD Programme 2021

Our CPD programme will continue to be delivered on-line throughout 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:

### February & March 2021 Courses

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
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="#">Chairs' Clinic &amp; Networking Group</a>	ON-LINE
23/02/21	Developing Excellence in Religious Education: Time to Review	<b>POSTPONED – RESCHEDULED FOR 30/06/2021</b>
24/02/21	<a href="#">Prayer Spaces in Schools</a>	ON-LINE
03/03/21	Worship That Works	<b>POSTPONED – PLEASE SEE COURSE ON 23/03/21</b>
03/03/21	<a href="#">'Goodness &amp; Mercy' - RSHE For Church of England Schools **1.30pm-3pm**</a>	ON-LINE
03/03/21	<a href="#">'Goodness &amp; Mercy' - RSHE For Church of England Schools**4pm-5.30pm**</a>	ON-LINE
09/03/21	<a href="#">Who are the Heroes of Faith</a>	ON-LINE
10/03/21	<a href="#">Governor Training &amp; Employment &amp; Staffing in a VA School Academy</a>	ON-LINE
17/03/21	<a href="#">Vision Ambassadors &amp; A Pupil Conference</a>	ON-LINE
23/03/21	<a href="#">Worship in a Church School-Worship Warriors</a>	ON-LINE
24/03/21	<a href="#">Chairs' Clinic &amp; Networking Group</a>	ON-LINE
24/03/21	<a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2020-21</a>	ON-LINE

## Faith at Home



A reminder that 'The Faith at Home' resources can be found on the Church of England website and provide Collective Worship on a range of different themes.

Each resource covers a week of materials, alongside a video

including worship for primary and secondary schools. The resources can be used in school and also signposted for families to use at home. They can be found on the Faith at Home webpage through the Church of England.

The themes over the next two terms will centre around how can we '*be the change we want to see in the world*'? Each session will explore issues of social justice through 4 Biblical narratives. There will be resources for Years Reception-Year 4, Years 5-8 and Years 9-13. Each theme will provide a series of short film clips, tutor resource pack and a range of home-based activities. These will be released fortnightly on a Monday. The resources can be accessed from <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos>



## DBE Officer Contact Details

Please note contact telephone numbers for members of the DBE team enabling 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

### Bidston Village C of E Primary School

Pupils raised an amazing £3,224.71 for Wirral St John's Hospice. Children did an elf run to raise these funds dressed in elf hats and our wonderful families fully supported them.



### Bridgemere C of E Primary School



The RE theme this half term is 'Creation' and it has been great to see children continuing to engage with their RE learning at home. The photographs are from children in Nursery and Reception class depicting how the outside has been used to explore God's natural world and responded from the Creation story in

Genesis. This week the children are creating and looking after their own miniature tray gardens.



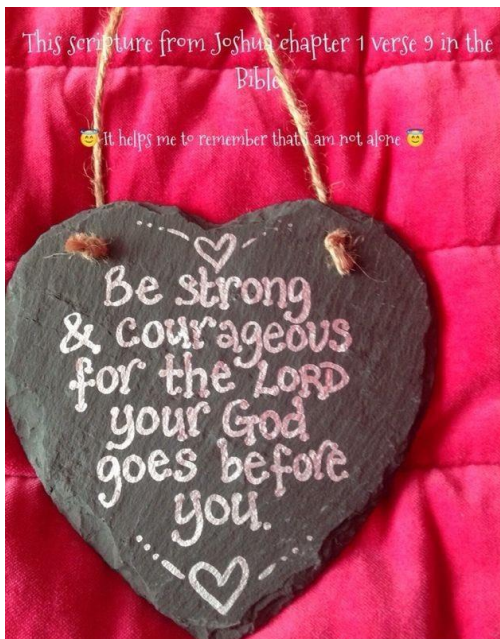
### Lostock Gralam C of E Primary School

Children missed not being able to read stories and sing Christmas Carols with the local care home residents as they usually do at this special time of year and so they decided that to spread some Christmas cheer, we would make every resident a Christmas card.





## Moreton Christ Church C of E Primary School



During the national lockdown, one of the priorities at Christ Church has been to continue to deliver daily worship and reflection activities for children, providing opportunities for them to explore their faith. They have been very fortunate that Reverend Canon Graham Cousins and his clergy team at Christ Church Parish, Moreton have been able to send pre-recorded worship sessions that are linked to the school's themes and values. These include Bible passages and Bible stories to exemplify the key messages that everyone at school reflects upon.

Each week they link to the clergy led collective worship by pre-recording weekly assemblies for children working remotely and those on site in school to access. These have

also included a daily follow-on task/reflection idea that children can respond to, so they strengthen their understanding of the concept and messages. The worship videos are then saved on the school website for families and staff to revisit throughout the week.

Following one service about 'Staying connected' the children displayed their understanding in various ways. One Y5 pupil found scripture in Joshua 1:9, that gave her strength knowing that God was always with her and she was never alone.

Our Y1 children in school, worked collaboratively to create a poster demonstrating that all the children are part of the body of Christ. Some children used craft to show all the people that they love and care for in the community. Pupils have demonstrated an understanding of God's love and their responses reflect that they are aware of God's love, guidance and compassion which can shine light through their darkest times. Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.



## Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E Primary School

**For there is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it.**

Christian value planned for this half term was 'Courage'. Through the use of a mixture of online resources and the Roots and Fruits resources, particularly the home school value cards, children have been encouraged to engage with their families in Collective Worship at home. In order to think deeply about what courage means they explored how characters in the bible have shown courage, and most recently the older children have looked at the courage shown (and powerful words spoken) by Amanda Gorman at the Presidential Inauguration. 'Courage is stepping out of your comfort Zone and never looking back' was a response from one year 2 pupil.

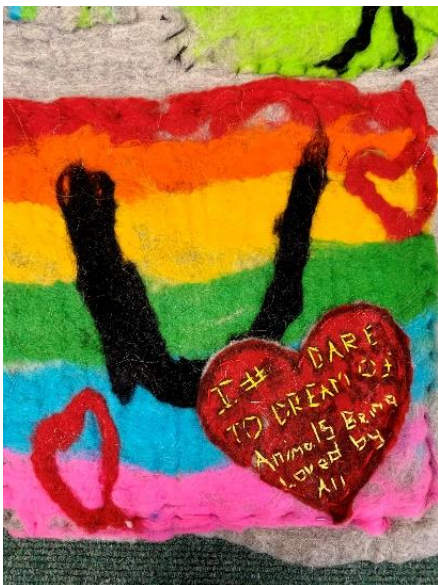
## Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School



Closing schools to all, except for vulnerable and critical workers, has been especially heart-breaking after all that had been achieved together last term. The very last thing anyone had envisaged for the start of 2021, but it is the right thing to do given this unprecedented public health crisis. Although times are incredibly strange and worrying, the privilege of teaching remains. Optimism, kindness, and hope are contagious too and we will get through this.

Last term, Shocklach welcomed Ticky Lowe who ran a wonderful felting workshop. After making felt squares,

the children stitched their own Dare to Dream statements including not failing to love, respecting diversity, buzzy bees, and kindness to animals.



I Corinthians 7 says:

"Brother our time is growing short...and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away". The pandemic is an excellent opportunity to take stock and evaluate a few things in our lives and the children's daring to dream statements are appropriate, thought provoking and inspirational.

This term, Shocklach has enjoyed special times of togetherness with whole school Zoom Worship. The children have produced some incredible responses and reflections to their values, themes, and books.

One foot in front of the other until we feel that sunshine.

