

DBE Schools Bulletin

February 2023

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

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions



And He said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes

John 21:6 (KJV)

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Have your say – casting the net wide

One of the great joys of visiting our church schools is to hear the voice of our children and young people. They speak with both confidence and great passion on a whole host of issues that they care deeply about and that personally impact them and the world in which they live. The Diocese of Chester is currently undertaking a listening exercise, led by the Bishop of Chester, and as part of the vision development process for the Diocese of Chester. The grassroots consultation aims to "cast the net wide" in order to capture the views of the widest number of people in our churches, schools and communities to determine the values that will shape the strategy for how the diocese works and grows in the future.

We are keen to hear and receive responses from our schools and the people within them, both pupils and adults. For further details and to find out how your school can get involved, please refer to the information on page 2. This includes some questions to consider, discuss and debate and some creative ways in which to reflect your responses. This will culminate in a special Zoom event on the 14th March for school Ethos groups to come together to share their thoughts and ideas.

An area that our children and young people are particularly passionate about is climate change and caring for God's world. Chester Cathedral are hosting a special exhibition that is showcasing artwork from a number of our schools on the theme of 'Letters for Creation'. The exhibition commences on the 8th February and runs for four weeks. Further information can be found on page 4.

Finally, some sad news to share. We recently learnt of the death of our friend and ex-colleague, Chris Woodward. Chris worked as part of the DBE team as our Buildings Officer between 1989 and 2015. Her warmth, kindness, generosity of time and over-riding commitment to help schools to realise their capital projects will be known and remembered by colleagues and schools alike. The DBE's thoughts, condolences and prayers are with her husband, Gerald, and the family at this sad time.

Calling all Ethos Groups for Help

– Casting the Net Wide



In the Diocese of Chester (of which your school is a part) we are thinking about our vision and strategy – what we want to be like in a few years' time, and how we will get there. We are asking people from all across the Diocese for their ideas, and now we are asking for yours.

Three Questions

We would like you to answer three simple questions.

1. How could the Church be better at helping children and young people discover more about Jesus?
2. What are some big issues or problems the Church could help with?
3. What are your ideas for how the Church could be better? What would/does make you want to go to church groups or on a Sunday?

These three questions should be written inside or next to a picture of the following:

1. A fish. The fish was a symbol of the Church in the New Testament (the part of the Bible about Jesus and the first churches). Jesus said to his disciples who were fishermen, "I will make you fish for people, instead of fish."
2. An elephant. Have you ever heard the phrase "the elephant in the room"? It is used to describe big problems that we ignore or don't talk about. For example, some people and churches ignore climate change.
3. A cloud. Clouds are used in cartoons to represent thought bubbles. Here we will use them to represent your ideas.

When you've done this, we would love you to share your thoughts with us on a Zoom call on **Tuesday 14 March between 12.15 and 12.45.**

Our Youth, Children and Families' Adviser for the Diocese of Chester, Jonny Masters introduces what we want to ask in this video: [Growing Faith – Schools Ethos groups](#) (P.S. Ignore the 23 January deadline).

You can also find more information about the other Casting the Net Wide activities here: [Chester Diocese Vision - Casting the Net Wide](#)

If you have any questions or need any further information, including the Zoom link, please email [Jonny Masters & Jen McIlveen](#).

Christian Leadership Course 2023-24

“Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people.” (2 Chronicles 1:10)

Responsibility for leadership of a group of people can feel great at times. As King Solomon considered his leadership of the Israelites, he too felt the weight of this task and asked God, not for success or extra funds in his budget, or more time or more people, but wisdom. God given wisdom.

Now in its twelfth year, the North West **Christian Leadership Course: Making a difference** has been giving our leaders time and space to reflect, to seek wisdom on what it means to lead effectively, with Christian underpinning and flourishing at the heart of our schools.

With inspiring keynote speakers, quality core texts, journaling, and presentations, this year long programme of six face to face days (including school visits and a two day residential) will both challenge and encourage you as you explore your leadership calling and vision with colleagues across the 5 North West Diocese.

Whether you are primary or secondary based, a head teacher or aspiring to be in school leadership, the power of shared wisdom will have a lasting impact on your schools.



As a mentor on the course, I never cease to be humbled and inspired by the response from past delegates:

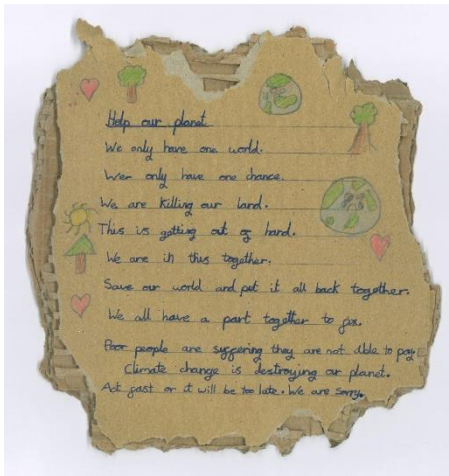
The Christian Leadership course is the best CPD I have had in my 20 years of teaching. It allowed me to reflect on my leadership from a Christian perspective and significantly improve the Christian Distinctiveness of our school. The course also had a profound impact on me: my priorities and my faith. I cannot recommend the course highly enough!

The CLC enabled me to flourish as a leader. It empowered me to believe that I have a future in headship. It took me on a powerful journey of self-reflection and has enabled me to grow as a leader and personally. A life changing journey!

If you are interested in booking one of our limited places in next year's cohort, do get in touch for further information, I promise you won't be disappointed! jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org

Letters for Creation Exhibition at Chester Cathedral

Christian Aid, Chester Cathedral and Saughton CE Primary School and Pre School have joined forces to organise a special event to showcase children's responses to Letters for Creation. Letters for Creation is an arts-based project to help school communities raise their voices on the issue of climate change. We are being invited to explore why climate change is an issue of justice and to channel the creativity of pupils into an exhibition of climate art that expresses their concern and hopes for our planet and its people.



We are delighted that a number of Chester Diocesan Primary Schools have agreed to exhibit their responses to this project at Chester Cathedral including Saughton, Bickerton, Kingsley St John's, Shocklach, Hoole, Tushingham, St George's, St Anne's and Christ Church, Ellesmere Port. The children's work will be exhibited from Wednesday 8th February until Sunday 5th March and will run alongside Gaia - Luke Jerram's spectacular artwork. There will also be an exhibition of life-sized animals made from recycled materials by artist, Jacha Potgieter. Please do come along –everyone is welcome; the aim is that visitors will leave feeling hopeful, inspired and proud of our school's exhibits.

It is not too late for your school to engage in Christian Aid's Letters for Creation - you may also wish to host your own exhibition on site or at your linked church. The initiative will inspire pupils and provide a valuable channel for expressing their thoughts about climate change; this could be through poetry, paintings, letters, music, photography and sculptures.



Christian Aid's website features inspiring lessons plans around climate justice which are designed to explore and encourage dialogue around how we can be courageous advocates for a sustainable and fair future for all. The initiative presents a unique opportunity to engage your wider community and local decision makers too, in ways that really amplify the voices of young people. Some beautiful artworks to inspire and inform pupils are also available to view on the site:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/letters-creation-school-resources>

Heartfelt thanks to the participating schools and we look forward to a wonderful exhibition.

Finola Jackson, Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Spring			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Mon 30 January 1.30pm	Hoole
Congleton/ Nantwich		Wed 1 March 1.30pm	Marton
Macclesfield		Tue 14 March 1.30pm	Macclesfield St John the Evangelist - School Hall
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Thu 2 February 1.30pm	Norley
Rural Chester		Tue 21 March 10am	Utkinton & Cotebrook
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Thu 2 February 10am	Edgeley St Matthew's
Trafford		Mon 20 March 1.30pm	Sale St Annes
Warrington/ Halton		Thu 9 March 10am	Church House
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Fri 20 January	Leasowe Castle
Secondary Heads		Wed 8 March 1:30pm	Church House

Admissions Guidance for VA schools & Academies.



Department
for Education

The DfE has issued two publications to advise on Admission appeals:

"Admission appeals for school places. Guidance to help admission authorities to advise those involved with school admission appeals to understand their roles and responsibilities".

Available here: [Admission appeals for school places](#) &

"School admission appeals code. Statutory guidance on how schools should organise and run their pupil admission appeals".

Available here: [School admission appeals code](#)

RE Cluster Leader Groups

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, more details to follow. Groups and leader details below:

		Spring	
Cluster Name	RE Leads	Date & Time	Venue
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port) <i>[Chester]</i>	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE)	Wed 25 th January	Zoom Meeting
	Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)		
Cheshire East South <i>[Congleton/ Nantwich]</i>	Fiona Pulle (Brereton)	Wed 15 th February 4.15pm	Wybunbury Delves CE School.
	Liz Ward (Wybunbury Delves)		
Cheshire East North, Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich) <i>[Macclesfield]</i>	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.)	Tue 7 th March	tbc
	Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)		
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural) <i>[Rural Chester]</i>	Finola Jackson (Saughton CE)	Wed 8 th March	Saughton CE
Stockport/Tameside	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)	Thu 9 th March	St George's Hyde
Trafford	Natalie McLoughlin (St Annes Sale)	Thu 2 nd March 3.40pm	St Annes Sale
Wirral	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead)	Thu 12 th January 4pm	Bebington St Andrew's
	Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)		

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or linda.boys@chester.anglican.org for further information.

RE Leaders Annual Conference

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker for the RE Leaders Conference on Friday 26th May will be Gill Vaisey.



Gill is a nationally recognised specialist in Early Years provision specialising in children's religious education and spiritual development. Spanning twenty -five years' experience covering Early Years and up to KS2, Gill's work promotes and supports excellence of provision in schools and educational establishments, through innovative approaches and development of novel and inventive resources that make learning more enjoyable and memorable for both practitioners and pupils.

For tickets to this inspiring event please follow the link: [RE Leaders' Annual Conference tickets](#)

February, March, April & May 2023 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [courses web page](#) and our [Ticket Tailor](#) site

Date	Month	Course	Location
9 th	Feb	Deputies & Assistant Headteachers' Briefing & Networking	Church House
9 th	Feb	New Headteacher Support - 1 Year Programme - session 1	Church House
9 th	Feb	'Drop In' RE Surgery	Zoom
27 th	Feb	Effective Partnerships - 'Courageous Advocacy & Global Neighbours'	Zoom
28 th	Feb	Clergy with church schools network	Zoom
6 th	Mar	Headteacher Wellbeing for Governors	Zoom
7 th	Mar	Developing a Theologically Rooted Vision in Church Schools	Church House
23 rd	Mar	Religious Education & The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule	Church House
18 th	Apr	Chairs clinic and networking group	Zoom
20 th	Apr	SIAMS - a detailed view & SIAMS SEF Starter	Church House
25 th	Apr	New Headteacher Support - Distinctive Leadership - session 2	Church House
26 th	Apr	Being a Governor of a Church School / Academy	Zoom
26 th	Apr	Understanding the Big Picture - Walk Through the Bible*	Church House
28 th	Apr	Heads, Chairs and Incumbents briefing	Zoom
2 nd	May	Collective Worship in a Church School	Church House
4 th	May	'Drop In' RE Surgery	Zoom
18 th	May	Headteachers Surgery	Zoom
18 th	May	Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)	Zoom
23 rd	May	Collective Worship Leads network	Zoom
24 th	May	Deputies & Assistant Headteachers' Briefing & Networking	Church House
26 th	May	RE Leaders' Annual Conference*	Holiday Inn
26 th	May	Chairs clinic and networking group	Zoom
Other Courses & Events			
2 nd	Mar	Headteacher Wellbeing – Small schools	Foxhill
10 th	Mar	Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 4	Ellesmere Port Christ Church
14 th	Mar	Christian Leadership Course Day 5	
22 nd	Mar	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 2A	Church House
18 th	Apr	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 2B	Church House
24 th	Apr	Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 5	All Saints, Marple
w/c15th	May	Christian Leadership Course Presentations	
24th	May	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 3	Moreton Christ Church

Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Linda Boys](#).

Ramadan and Eid Webinars



With Ramadan starting around 22nd March, Imran Kotwal at [Muslim Learner Services](https://www.muslimlearnerservices.org) will be running two webinars to support primary schools develop their subject knowledge and confidence in teaching about Ramadan/Eid & Muslims in Britain. There is one FREE place on the Ramadan webinar, so early booking is recommended.

Teaching and Learning about Ramadan & Eid - Purpose and Rules of Fasting, Teachings from Qur'an & Hadeeth, key Ramadan vocabulary & pronunciation, how Eid is celebrated and Q&A session. **Date:** Wed 22nd March 2023 **Time:** 4.00-5.00 pm

Cost: One **FREE** place per school then **£45** for each additional place

Can't attend the live session: Video Recording & Training materials: **£45**.

What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? - Census 2021, History of Muslims in Britain, 5 Pillars & challenges, diet, dress, funerals, Islamophobia and 30 minutes Q&A.

Date: Mon 27th February 2023 **Time:** 4.00-5.30 pm

Cost: **£45** per staff member or **£200** for 5 or more staff. Full PPT & Resources included.

Can't attend the live session: Video Recording & Training materials: **£45**.

To book your place: Complete the booking form [here](#) or email CPD@Muslimlearnerservices.org

Contact the team.

DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

chris.penn@chester.anglican.org	Director of Education	07540 722667
sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
linda.boys@chester.anglican.org	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

Children's Mental Health Week Toolkit



Children's Mental Health Week started on Monday 5th February and this year the theme is 'let's connect', looking at the importance that connections with others have on our mental health.

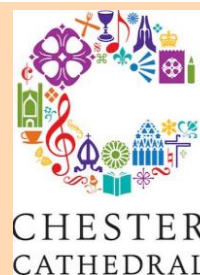
Healthy relationships with family, friends and school staff are vital for children's wellbeing, offering a strong protective factor against poor mental health.

In this toolkit, we're sharing free resources to help you explore the theme of connections with your pupils and celebrate the week in your school.

The Mentally Healthy Schools team at the Anna Freud Centre

[Download the toolkit now](#)

Chester Cathedral – Science and Faith workshops



Discover, discuss and debate the
compatibility of science and faith



Chester Cathedral
13th February 2023
10.00-2.30

A day of interactive workshops for Year 6 to
explore topics including creation, climate
change and innovation with scientists of faith
under the Gaia Earth exhibit

Students are equipped with the tools to form
their own opinions and consider some of life's
biggest questions

Tickets are £10 per student
To find out more and book your places email
sarah.moring@durham.ac.uk



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New free music and RE resources

Inspire your pupils with eight new Fischy songs and lesson ideas for primary RE



Free webinar on **Mon 20th February, 3.30-4.30**: using music for learning with Stephen Fischbacher and Lat Blaylock. This one hour zoom session will introduce a project we have created to help you use music well in RE. It connects neatly to significant Christian concepts (EG from Understanding Christianity) and is useful in all primary schools wherever you want to enable spiritual reflection with superb music. The lesson ideas show how to use the songs for great RE. Complete with tasks and copiable resources. Creative and thoughtful, just like SIAMS wants. Thanks to the Westhill Trust, you will get free access to these resources. Contact Lat Blaylock (RE Today editor, National RE Adviser & NATRE projects officer) for more details at lat@retoday.org.uk

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86195676890?pwd=Q01XQXhoQ3lTcWpaUmlJaTBKdURqQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 9567 6890

Passcode: 138210

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award- Look IN, Look OUT

Lent resource 2023

With 6 weeks of content, **Look IN, Look OUT** explores how we can Look IN and Look OUT at the world around us. The 6 sessions focus on different aspect of community: family, friends, school, the local community, our country and the world.

Look IN, Look OUT challenges pupils to 'Look In' at themselves and then to 'Look OUT' at their communities, identifying how they can make a difference and improve the lives of others.

Each week includes:

- Introductions
- Bible links
- A video
- Questions and Challenges
- A prayer



This resource can be used in the classroom or in collective worship. Challenges can be done individually or as a group or class.

Sign up here to download the resources: www.abyyt.com/lent.

News from Schools

Bishop's Blue Coat High

Our school successfully applied for the Religious Education Quality Mark (REQM), achieving it at the highest 'Gold' level.

The REQM is an externally assessed award that aims to recognise and celebrate excellence in RE. Applying for the Quality Mark is a rigorous process in which the quality of teaching and learning, the curriculum, subject leadership, and contribution to the wider life of the school are all evaluated by an external assessor.



The assessor was hugely impressed by the quality of the evidence provided in every area, especially the brilliant work of our students. On the day of her visit, she was even treated to a fantastic performance by 3 Year 7 students of a song they had written about the real meaning of Christmas.

The school are very grateful to all the staff, parents and students who contributed to their successful application.

Song writers and performers: Joshua Ellis-McConville (left), Max Brown (right) and Joshua Anderton (not pictured)

Bollington St John's

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, we explored all the traditions of this festival. We opened a Chinese restaurant and practiced our chopstick skills, whilst discovering lots about the food.

We made lanterns and dragon masks and attempted writing the Chinese symbols for numbers and the zodiac animals.

We learnt all about the Emperor and the story behind the zodiac, linking this to maths and ordinal numbers.



Everyone made a lucky red envelope to give to a loved one at home.



Brereton



This half term, Lunar New Year celebrations have inspired much of our learning in Reception. The children were thoroughly enthused and were eager to learn all about the importance and symbolism of Lunar New Year traditions, with a particular focus on how the new year is celebrated in China. The class were fascinated to discover they were born in either the Year of the Rooster (2017) or the Year of the Dog (2018).

Through continuous provision activities EYFS learnt how to use chopsticks and enjoyed using them to transfer corresponding amounts of pom poms to pots numbered with Mandarin numbers, which were familiar as we had practised writing them. The domestic role play was cleaned in order to sweep away any bad luck before the new year and the classroom was filled with red decorations as red is thought to be a lucky colour. On the last day of school before Lunar New Year, all of the children were given a red envelope containing a chocolate coin as well as a fortune cookie. Finally, EYFS made lanterns, dancing dragons, rattle drums and Chinese fans. All of these creations were a fabulous contribution to an outdoor celebration full of noise, colour and dragon dancing!

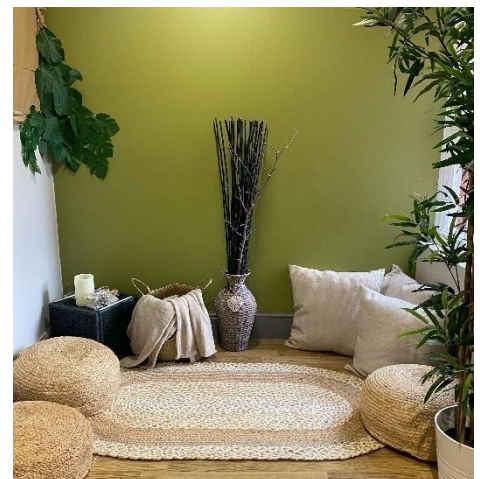


As a school we have been exploring Forgiveness in RE this half term. Year 4 have focused on the key question 'What did Jesus teach us about forgiveness?' and have explored the parables of the Unforgiving servant and the Lost Son. They have acknowledged that it is not always easy to forgive and have developed a tool box of ways to keep calm and take time so healing and reconciliation can happen. Rev Sandi has helped the class understand the effects on their bodies if they bottle up

resentment and how forgiveness can free people from resentment: forgiveness from friends, family and God.

Grosvenor Park

The Ethos Ambassadors at our school have worked hard to create a beautiful new reflection space for the children across the school to enjoy and take time out. Children wanted a calm and relaxing space to reflect on themselves and an area to pray quietly. We are very proud of them and think it looks wonderful.



Guilden Sutton

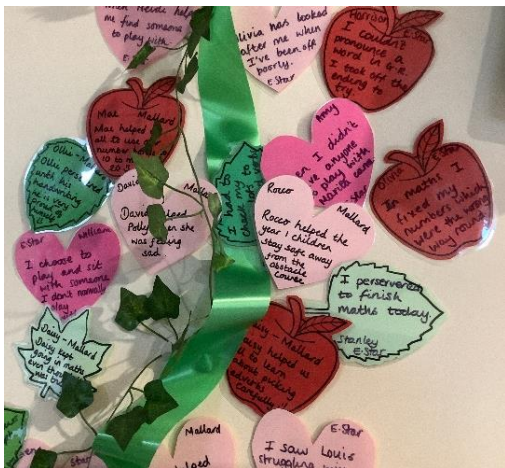


Some pupils in Year 4 held a cake sale after school one Friday to raise money for The Hospice of the Good Shepherd. They worked so hard to bake a range of goodies and there was a fantastic turn-out on the day. They raised £158.50. Congratulations to the children for their super entrepreneurial skills, they are rightly very proud of themselves.

'Messy Church' was held in our school hall on Sunday 22nd January. Heather Carty led the service and there was a great turn out of our Guilden Sutton community. There was a lovely feeling of 'togetherness'. We thought about the importance of having a strong foundation just like the wise man who built his house upon the rock.



Hoole



To promote kindness in our school, we asked our children to report any acts of kindness, compassion and forgiveness on our display in our school hall. Each year group has a potted vine displayed on the wall and throughout our campaign, children and adults have been recognised for showing acts of kindness (written onto a pink heart to show compassion), perseverance and determination (written onto a green leaf to show growth) and celebrating our mistakes (written onto a red apple that links to Adam and Eve in the garden). Our children have thrived from spotting one another being kind, compassionate friends and

motivated, reflective and resilient learners.

We have and will continue to spot others who persevere when faced with challenges and who celebrate their achievements and those of their friends along with those who show respect, who are able to work with others, forgive, trust, support and communicate with others. Our wonderful vines truly are blossoming!

Kingsley St John's

We have our Silver Accreditation for the Rights Respecting Schools Award on the 13th February. . We are also taking part in a No Outsiders project to write poems called This is Me – one child will be invited to The StoryHouse in Chester to read their poem.



Marton & District



We launched our Birthday Club during our Celebration Assembly this week.

The children and staff who have had birthdays since 1st Jan were presented with a gift-wrapped book as part of celebrating their very special day. We are hoping that by the time children leave school, they will have the start of their own home libraries and a reminder of their school time here. We will present these books (all of which will be carefully chosen) each Friday. We hope families will enjoy these at home as much as we have

in giving these gifts. In the words of Dr Seuss:

'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go! Remember kids: reading gives you the power to be whoever you want!'

Mollington St Oswald's

Fruit of the Spirit Day

On Friday 27 January Bishop Wilson, Capenhurst, Christchurch Ellesmere Port and St Oswald's Mollington came together again to take part in a joint Fruit of the Spirit Day. We started with an online worship led by Mrs Friend where we looked at the fruits of the spirit and what they mean to us. Then all the classes worked on a variety of creative activities based on one or two of the Fruits. We shared our work on a central padlet page so we were able to see what different classes and schools were doing. Then to finish the day we all came together on zoom once again to share and celebrate the work we had done.



You can see the padlet page with all the work and resources here: <https://padlet.com/stoswaldsipads/hxl09wwouenqe5o5>

Feel free to leave a comment or download the resources and use it as a basis for planning your own Fruit of the Spirit day.

Reflection Spaces

Earlier in January we brought all our staff together for another joint professional development meeting led by Jen McIlveen, this time looking at reflective spaces in schools and how we can maximise the use of these. These activities form part of an annual schedule of collaboration activities at all levels that we plan out at the beginning of a school year. Schools are definitely stronger when they work together.

Saighton



We are delighted to be a pilot school for a special project with CEFAP - the Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare. This is headed up by Professor David Clough, Chair in Theology and Applied Sciences at the University of Aberdeen. Professor David introduced us to the idea of 'creaturely flourishing' and we were immediately intrigued as this links so well with our own school vision.



As Christians, we believe all animals are fellow creatures of God. God made them – just like he made us - with a hope that they would flourish. We should all be able to live alongside creatures responsibly and we all have a responsibility to care for God's creatures with compassion and love. We have recently welcomed four rescue hens to the Saughton School

family and despite the snow and cold conditions, Elizabeth, Henrietta, Blossom and Hope are settling in beautifully. They are keeping warm in special knitted vests in our school colours and are being well looked after by an enthusiastic team of Hen Pals - this is fast becoming one of the most coveted leadership positions at Saughton!

The children have been learning about, and witnessing for themselves, the enormous benefits of free range life for hens and so they approached our catering company to request a switch to free range eggs. They used craftivism, incorporating both craft and activism, to gently protest and bring about a change (the brainchild of Sarah Corbett and to find out more visit craftivist-collective.com). Our school chef was delighted with his gift of a handstitched hen with the wording



'love hens – use free range eggs' and agreed to make the change straight away. Giving a gift really leaves power-holders with something to reflect on. Nobody wants to be shouted at, but just to be gently nudged is wonderful. The beauty of craftivism is that it lets people think I'm in this privileged position, I can act on that and use my power to be a force for good in the world. Craftivism activity is brilliant. It works! This isn't weak



or idealistic, it is something that's got real power to make a difference.

Sale St Anne's

On Friday 6th January, the whole school took part in the 'Big Story' launch day. This was an important day for our school community as we dived deeper into the bible.

In school we now use 'Understanding Christianity'



materials and activities that explore Christian responses to the bible, as well as the pupils' own responses, whether they are Christian, atheist, agnostic, or from a faith tradition other than Christianity. The day started with the children learning about the entire bible through props, retelling and videos!

Classes then explored in detail one of the eight concepts and designed artwork to reflect their concepts. This artwork was then judged and winners selected worked with The Fairy Godmother to create a whole school, large-scale version of the 'Big Story'. Our Ethos Committee also helped to decorate a large cross to be displayed in our worship space. I think you will agree, the display and learning resource (each panel can be removed for lessons or worship) looks stunning!



Sir Thomas Boteler High

On Tuesday 24th January, Year 9 students at our school had the excellent opportunity to listen to the story of a Holocaust survivor, Ziggy Landschaft, through a presentation delivered by his daughter Leah Burman. The presentation walked students through Ziggy's terrifying journey of survival using primary evidence, maps and voice recordings from Ziggy, now aged 97, to help understand the human impact of the Holocaust. This complimented students' current studies of the Holocaust in their history lessons this term. It also served as a harrowing reminder of why Holocaust Memorial Day is so important.



Tilston Parochial

Worship Leaders

We are very proud to see our worship leaders developing their roles and helping to promote the Christian ethos of our school. Last term they led a whole school worship to introduce advent, shared a beautiful Bible verse advent calendar and reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

They regularly set up craft activities for the whole school to enjoy and to explore our value.



Winsford St Chad's



For our INSET day, we were delighted to have Steve from Happy Lunchtimes to come and work with our lunchtime team to explore ways to improve our provision. Steve had lots of great ideas alongside our team and we were able to launch really quickly. We set up zones on our playground which included a football zone, quiet chill zone, play zone with a game organised by the lunchtime staff, a play zone run by the play leaders and an indoor craft zone, alongside general play areas with equipment.

During lunchtime children can earn pom poms for showing the school values in their play,

dining and moving around school. These add a big bonus to our House team scores during Celebration worship. Each week some of the lunchtime staff are chosen as secret spies to choose some children who have displayed our values particularly well and their parents are invited to worship to see them receive awards. At the end of each half term, a table of awesomeness is set up in the dining hall and children who have shown the values consistently are invited to join one of the lunchtime team for a special meal.

The children are loving the new zone, with the chill zone being really popular, especially the snuggle blankets. Many of our older children have really focused on being role models for the values in school and have supported the younger children brilliantly.

Witton Church Walk

During the Autumn term The Young Leaders at Witton were set a challenge to consider the importance of serving others. They decided to be the change they want to see by helping a local charity The Share Shop, which supports refugees many of whom have children their age.



They continued their campaign to raise awareness by delivering worships to their peers, wrote letters and newspaper articles, sent emails and made phone calls to local businesses to raise awareness. They called on the local school community to donate toiletries which were made into hampers and taken to The Share Shop. The leaders planned and hosted their own coffee morning, where they sold tea, coffee and cake. Leading up to the coffee morning the children created a giving tree, which encouraged people to donate money to buy a leaf where they could write a monetary donation and a message of kindness to someone in need. These leaves were sent to The Share Shop, allowing those in need to take a leaf from the tree and exchange it in the Share Shop for essential items.

Throughout this practical challenge the children showed effective communication, creative thinking, emotional intelligence, resilience, humility and above all compassion. Above all demonstrating that young people have the power to change the world!