

**Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education**

**Heads Huddle Notes**

**Tuesday 1st December**

**Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week**

We discussed the tiredness (again!) and the importance of looking after ourselves, including finding a bit of time to feel a bit more on top of things (e.g. working from home to catch up once in a while).

**Christmas Hope:**

It was lovely to hear how schools are having fun beginning to prepare for Christmas – great to see smiling faces (in spite of the tiredness)

Online Advent/Christmas/Christingle services

**Working with the local church/es and community:**

We discussed the benefit of the support from the local church can make to the school. The church can be a good link between the school and the local community.

We discussed how hard it can be to find time to get involved with everything in the local community but also how beneficial it is in terms of what you get back – volunteers, feeling part of the community, fundraising, links, promotion etc.

**Information sharing from the Diocese:**

**Guidelines for Nativity:** look out for communication from the local authority on **Thursday** to help you prepare for a COVID secure Christmas.

In March, St Paul’s Cathedral had the pleasure of working with Diocesan Boards for schools and individual head teachers in creating a ‘hymn flashmob’, designed to share videos of children singing their favourite hymns and songs as gifts for those who were anxious lonely or unwell. Over 70 schools and Cathedrals across the UK took part, and this initiative reached over 200,000 people across the world.

We are inviting schools once again to take part in our **St Paul’s Cathedral Christmas Hymnflashmob**, to share comfort and joy with people in their communities – and we are writing to ask whether you could please share the attached invitation with the schools in your Diocese?

This is part of the Church of England’s **‘Comfort & Joy’ campaign**, and we would like to flood the digital sphere with videos of children singing Christmas carols in the final full week of term, beginning Monday 14th December.

Details are in the attached document.

**Heads Huddles will continue**

**every Tuesday afternoon at 3.45pm**

**Please join us when you can.**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85053449378?pwd=dDBUa3NKdXozVHJoeWxnUUNab2FKQT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85053449378?pwd=dDBUa3NKdXozVHJoeWxnUUNab2FKQT09)

**Courses & Training Programme 2021**

Our new courses & training programme will be available shortly.

**Save the Date: Annual Conference 23rd June 2021**



**Tuesday 15th December, 3.45pm**

**Final Huddle of the Term**

We would love you to join us for a celebratory huddle. Please do bring along some pictures to share so we can see how you have been celebrating this term. We can’t wait to see and hear how you have been staying positive and enjoying your time in school. Hang in there!



**iSingPOP Christmas Watch Party**

iSingPOP wants to help bring Christmas cheer during these unusual times and have recently launched a FREE online Christmas resource for schools - an iSingPOP Watch Party.  The school is provided with a template with 4 iSingPOP Christmas songs, some animation of the Christmas story with opportunities for the school to add in readings and contributions from the Head and, if appropriate, the local Vicar or a member of the local church.

All this can then be made available to the school community for parents and children to enjoy together at home**.  We’re running two webinars on Thursday 19th December at 11am and 3.30pm.**  The link to sign up is <https://www.isingpop.org/christmas-the-gift>.  We’ve had so many schools contacting us about whether we could do anything for Christmas that we felt we had to provide this ***FREE*** resource for all to be able to access and enjoy.

To book a place on any of our courses, or for more information, please email **education@carlislediocese.org.uk**