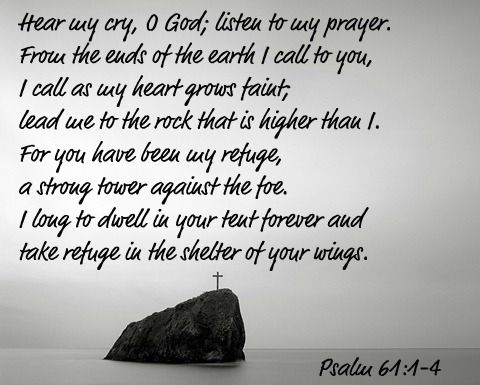


**Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education**

**Heads Huddle Notes**

**Tuesday 2nd & Thursday 4th February**

**Reflection:**



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

**Enough is enough!:** Headteachers, teachers and parents are all exhausted. Headteachers are finding it hard to keep everyone buoyed up and motivated. Communication with families demonstrates that the cracks that are appearing. Parents with whom Headteachers have previously had good and positive relationships are misconstruing letters and showing mistrust in Headteacher’s decisions. Although most familes are overwhelmingly positive, it is hard not to focus on the (very few) who are unhappy or complain.

**Long term implications:** we discussed the anecdotal accounts we had all heard of colleagues wanting to leave the profession. Headteachers are concerned about succession planning and quality Headteacher recruitment going forwards.

**Testing:** is good for the schools but another source of stress for staff waiting for test results. It’s hard for Headteachers to switch off as results come in in dribs and drabs. Some staff resent reporting negative cases online and everyone agrees that the reporting is onerous. The DfE reporting system, which until now, did not remember personal details has been causing lots of unnecessary work. It’s the logging not the doing of the tests which is causing headaches. We all hope that the tweaks to the system will make this easier going forwards.

**Mental Health Week:** we’ve loved hearing stories about what schools are doing for wellbeing and mental health during this week. There are some wonderful pictures on websites too. Well done all. Some lovely ideas include sending a teabag home for parents with a prayer encouraging them to have a cuppa; bacon butties for staff on a Friday; wellbeing days for pupils – art, mindfulness.

**Information sharing from the Diocese:**

**RE:** We are very grateful to those of you who have offered to help out with our revision of our Diocesan RE units of work. We are still looking for someone with a passion for EYFS and lower KS1 who might be happy to share their experience, wisdom and expertise. If you or someone in your school would be prepared to get involved or would like more informaiton, please contact Vanessa.

**Lent resources:** we are starting to compile resources for schools to use during lent. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please do get in touch.

**40acts: Doing Lent Generously**

40acts is a community of over 100,000 people across the globe who have decided to do Lent differently. For 10 years we have asked the question: “what if Lent could be about more than just giving stuff up?”. 40 days, 40 challenges, 40 ways to make a difference.

 Join us as we discover a world of generosity.

<https://40acts.org.uk/about/>

**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.

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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.

A PDF with more details is attached. The resources can be accessed here:

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

**Concern about Vulnerable pupils:** There is a concern nationally about whether vulnerable pupils are “falling through the cracks”. This is largely because of the DfE attendance returns data which indicate that there are sometimes twice as many critical worker pupils to vulnerable pupils in school each day. There may be very good reasons for this in any given school but it is obviously important to keep a close eye on our most vulnerable pupils. At the moment, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions because only 75% of DfE attendance returns are currently being completed. **We know how busy you are, we hate asking you to do more, but … please do prioritise completing and returning for attendance information. If you are a very small school without the capacity to do so before the 2pm deadline, please do send it in as soon as you can even if it’s late – it may not appear in that day’s figures but it will still help to create a more full and accurate picture. Thank you in advance.**

**RSCM Update:**

*“The RSCM is continuing to produce support materials during the ongoing pandemic. The latest offerings include new materials for primary schools. We are aware that the usual routines, including collective worship, are all on hold; but we also know how beneficial singing is to well-being. The RSCM’s Director, Hugh Morris, has produced two energetic, participative singing videos aimed at Key Stage 2 children, using existing material, including from Worship Workshop. The first is on our YouTube channel here :”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9D2NtEbgRx4do>



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**There is no need to book a place at our Heads Huddles, just come along whenever you want to (and feel free to join later than 3.45pm if that suits you):** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85053449378?pwd=dDBUa3NKdXozVHJoeWxnUUNab2FKQT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85053449378?pwd=dDBUa3NKdXozVHJoeWxnUUNab2FKQT09)

**We would love to hear about anything from this half term which you would like to celebrate. Please do either come along or send us any pictures, success stories or good news which you would like to share.**





**Listening as a means to restoring and building strong relationships:**

**Developing your Practical Toolkit**

**Thursday 11th February 3pm – 5.15pm**

* We’ve heard the statistics about the surge in mental health issues since the beginning of the pandemic.
* We know what good mental health looks like, but what do we DO when children, young people and colleagues show signs of stress, anxiety, or depressed mood?
* How can we make a difference when we do not have a magic wand, or degrees in psychology or counselling?

***This is where good listening comes in.***

*Good listening enables the speaker to address their problems.  It builds understanding and trust in relationships and renews hope. This training session gives you an opportunity to begin to learn, practice and embed the core skills of a good listener.*

*Developed specifically with the school context in mind and for the online environment, with the principles of Acorn Listening at its heart.*

**Trainer:** Northern Inter Schools Christian Union

**Cost:** £35.00 per person, or *free* as part of the enhanced Partnership Agreement

To reserve a space please contact [education@carlislediocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlislediocese.org.uk)