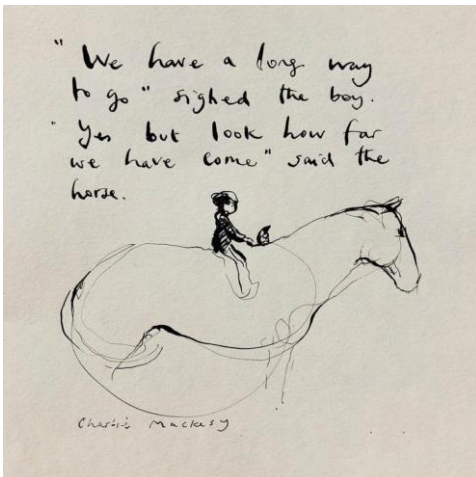


Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

www.carlislediocese.org.uk/education

Weekly Communication: 26th February 2021

Reflection:



On Tuesday, we reflected on what a long way we have all come and that although it still feels we have a long way to go, if we've got this far, we can make it!

Psalm 46: 1-3

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week

Half term break: it was great to hear that, generally, although waiting for the announcement about returning to school did hang over Headteachers, you managed to have a proper break (unlike at Christmas). We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having access to work emails on our phones, of keeping an eye on emails (and never getting a break) versus dreading what is waiting for us and having hundreds of emails to plough through. Very much a matter of personal preference but important to have thought about it and decided what is the least stressful option for each of us.

Return to school on Monday 8th March: we had very mixed feelings about the announcement that there must be a blanket return for all pupils on 8th March. From a logistics point of view (especially in the smaller schools with several year groups in one class) there is a sense of relief that the crazy juggling of having some pupils remote learning and others in the classroom will be over. Headteachers are looking forward to having the children back in school again. To quote one Headteacher, 'school isn't school without the children'!

However, we all agreed that some flexibility to allow for a staggered re-entry would have been preferable. For example, we discussed the benefits of being able to welcome back Reception pupils (who had missed much of their time in Nursery and had only had one term in school) back to school first to find their feet before the rest of the school was back. Equally, for those with SEND or additional needs, a bit of time in school before everyone is back would have been beneficial. As Headteachers, you know your school and pupils best. Where some staggering to enable a successful return to school is needed, it is appropriate to do so as long as all pupils are back to school as quickly as possible during the week beginning 8th March.

Pupils who have been in school throughout: Lots of schools are conscious that for those pupils who have been in school through the lockdown period, work will be needed to help them to adjust to a more 'normal' school routine.

For many schools, who have been juggling many years groups in school together, there has been an informal feel, in some cases more like an after school club or child care and pupils will need to transition back to the typical school day.

Mandatory attendance and remote learning: we all agreed that we were disappointed that school attendance will be mandatory (including for those families who are very anxious perhaps because they had previously been shielding but no longer have to or because their children haven't been at school for such a long time). It seems unfair to put Headteachers in the difficult position of having to follow up attendance and encourage pupils into schools (especially for those Headteachers who are sceptical about the safety of the school environment themselves such as where local incidents of COVID are high). We noted the requirement to continue to have remote learning available (for pupils who are isolating individually or as a bubble). We discussed how to manage 'closing the gap' for any pupils who were school refusers and trying to find a balance between encouraging them back into school and not therefore providing a full programme of remote learning whilst trying to ensure they weren't completely missing out on learning if their families still refuse to bring them to school.

Vaccinations: lack of vaccinations for school staff remains a cause of real concern and anxiety for Headteachers, not just for themselves but because they feel responsible for colleagues in school which is adding to the pressure on Headteachers. We all agreed to continue to raise the issue at relevant meetings. We also discussed the fact that we all had anecdotal stories of people who had managed to get a vaccination ahead of time (e.g. where a centre had left over vaccinations at the end of the day).



A lovely idea from one school: a prayer blog. The school have uploaded resources for pupils to use onto the blog – music, images etc. Pupils can post onto it, perhaps their own reflections or prayers or their requests for others' prayers. The Headteacher reported that when pupils had posted about their anxieties or worries, other pupils had responded with supportive messages. Brilliant.

We also enjoyed hearing about one school's approach to fairtrade fortnight – goody bags to families along with teddies.

Some unlooked-for positives: we are always interested to hear the positives and, in particular, those things which you might hang onto even once restrictions are lifted. This week, we heard about successful online parents evenings, TikTok dance challenge, engagement from parents online at home who would not engage at school.

Information sharing from the Diocese

HUDDLE ON TUESDAY 2ND MARCH, 3.45PM:
Mini well-being peer support network
Hosted by Ruth Houston



HUDDLES THIS HALF TERM

Tuesdays 3.45pm

Thursdays 1.30pm

Please note the new time on Thursdays

Do come along when you can

Tuesdays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821283299?pwd=UVhRZkVMeDJzTVNjZW5vaGZuaHJ6UT09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 868 2128 3299 Passcode: 391687

Thursdays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89631760793?pwd=SkVOZjE3bkZvd1EzbmdPb3htQTcyUT09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 896 3176 0793 Passcode: 148024

Summary of the 8th March announcement:

For anyone who finds a summary of the new rules helpful, this is a good one ...

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/march-8-school-reopening-guidance-13-things-we-learned/>

RE Update:

We are delighted to welcome Laura Watson to our consultant team. Laura will be working with Vanessa and Charlotte to support schools to deliver high quality RE. Laura will also be working with a team of Headteachers to begin to review and update our units of work. Thank you to those Headteachers who have volunteered. We are aware that Headteachers' highest priority must be ensuring the safe return of pupils to school from 8th March and would ask you for your forbearance whilst work to review the units is on hold.

However, once schools have settled back into their routines, we will schedule our first working party meeting and will keep you updated with progress and timelines in our weekly communications. If you have any thoughts, ideas, suggestions or examples of good practice that you would like to feed into the working party for consideration, it isn't too late. Please email Vanessa or Charlotte anytime.

Training, Courses and Events:

Our up-to-date Events Programme is attached. For further information or to book onto any of our courses, please contact: education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk



5	PILLARS OF ISLAM	
	SHAHADAH	Testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah & Muhammad is His Messenger.
	SALAH	Offering Salah (prayer) five times a day.
	ZAKAT	Paying the Zakat (giving alms or charity).
	HAJJ	Going to pilgrimage to the House of Allah at Makkah.
	FASTING	Fasting in the month of the Ramadan.

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Imran Kotwal from Muslim Learner Services is offering a (virtual) Teaching & Learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam CPD course for Primary RE Teachers. It's An excellent opportunity to develop Islam subject knowledge and teach Islam with confidence.

For more information about the course content, dates, times, fee and to book a place, please click [HERE](#)

Imran can be contacted directly by email for any questions/queries at Imran@muslimlearnerservices.org

Oak Academy Collective Worship:

If you have never tried them, and are ever looking for a ready-made quick fix collective worship video, we would definitely recommend having a look at [these](#).

Oak Academy Library:

Welcome to the Virtual School Library, brought you by Oak National Academy in partnership with the National Literacy Trust.

Every week a popular children's author or illustrator will provide you with free books, exclusive videos and their top three recommended reads. Find our more [here](#).



Headrest:

with thanks to Lynnsey @ Shankhill for sharing this



Former headteachers, Ros McMullen and Andrew Morrish are the co-founders of a new, free wellbeing service for headteachers.

Headrest offers a free daily wellbeing telephone support service for headteachers and CEOs. As experienced ex-heads themselves, they understand how challenging it is right now. Ros and Andrew provide a sympathetic and confidential listening ear at the end of the phone. Whether you feel stressed, anxious or overwhelmed, we are here to listen. We've got your back.

The service is available to talk every Monday - Thursday from 7pm - 8pm. At all other times, we'll try and get back to you as soon as we can. You can also call free on 0800 862 0110 and leave a message.

For more information visit the website here: <https://www.headrestuk.co.uk/>

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust: Young Leaders Award



Free Twilight Webinars this March

Introduction to Character Education
With input from the Jubilee Centre for Character & Virtues

Wed 10th March & Tues 16th March 2021 4.00pm-4.40pm

Introduction to the Young Leaders Award, YLA

Primary KS1 & KS2

Tues 23rd March East Anglia 4.00pm-5.00pm

Wed 24th March All Regions 4.00pm-4.45pm

Thurs 25th March West Midlands 4.00pm-5.30pm

Secondary KS3

Tues 9th March & Thurs 18th March 4.00pm-4.40pm

Secondary KS4/+16

Thursday 11th March & Wed 17th March 4.00pm-4.40pm

To book a place visit abyyt.com/conferences
Queries? Contact us on ytevents@abyyt.com



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European Conference on Christian Education:

ECCE is a tri-annual gathering of Christian Educators across Europe. This year we should have been gathering for a week in Hungary – but for some reason that's been postponed. However, it does mean that there will be a free online taster for the event on 22nd April. Registration details are here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wellsprings-of-hope-registration-138244632417?ref=elink>

Those of us who have attended ECCE in the past have found it hugely enriching as we meet with colleagues across Europe and share our similar (and often quite different) experiences. Even though this is just a 2 hour taster, I'd encourage you to attend.

Mary Hawes - National Children & Youth Adviser

The Education Office, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ, 07967 701891

Easter resources



Hot on the heels of *In Search of Christmas*, we are delighted to introduce you to our brand new (and free!) interactive Easter trail resource, [*In Search of Easter!*](#)

Find and scan QR codes to uncover video clues and crack the final code to discover that Jesus is the reason for the season! This new resource, complete with instructions, posters and loads of ideas, will undoubtedly help you in your outreach this Easter!

You can run the trail in a variety of ways (around your community, as a class activity, for a few families over ZOOM – the list goes on), making it an effective way to connect and have some fun, whatever restrictions are in

your area then. [*In Search of Easter*](#) is to be released at the end of February.



Big Start Easter Assemblies:

A PDF document is attached containing information about and links to the Big Start Assemblies Easter related resources.

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