

Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

www.carlislediocese.org.uk/education

Weekly Communication: 26th March 2021

Reflection:



On Tuesday, we reflected on the need as headteachers to walk towards what a lot of people will choose to walk away from.

“Who will give me wings,” I ask—
“wings like a dove?”

Get me out of here on dove wings;
I want some peace and quiet.
I want a walk in the country,
I want a cabin in the woods.
I’m desperate for a change
from rage and stormy weather.

Psalm 55: 6-8 (The Message Translation)

Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week

National day of reflection: It was lovely to hear the many and varied ways you have marked the day and the powerful reflections from pupils.

Vaccinations: It was noted that in several schools time off to either have or recover from the vaccines is causing a logistical headache.

Spatial awareness: lots of headteachers commented in children’s spatial awareness having suffered during time at home: accidents, bumping into things, difficulty lining up and swallowing a marble were all given as examples of consequences.

Personal hygiene: some pupils who were toilet trained have regressed to have regular accidents at school. For some, the ability to use a knife and fork has deteriorated.

Staff: Having children back in is tiring for them but energising for many staff who are beginning to enjoy looking forwards. Almost everyone spoke about tiredness for staff and the need for a proper break at Easter. Some staff who are missing the banter in the staffroom, the ability to ‘offload’ when they’ve had a hard day and are spending an awful lot of time with the same one or two colleagues are finding their working life difficult.

Finding our way: re-establishing rhythms and routines for pupils, staff and families will take time. It’s early days. We agreed that it will feel more ‘real’ after Easter, finding feet has happened and working out how to plug gaps and plan curriculum is the difficult next step.

Well-being: Tree of wellbeing; pamper packs for staff; and parental ‘shout out’ to the staff to tell them they are all amazing were some wonderful examples of planned activities to help promote wellbeing.

Vision refresh: lots of schools are taking the opportunity to examine and consider their vision in light of COVID. Several headteachers spoke about what a refreshing exercise it has been to remind themselves about their hopes and dreams for their school, what they want for pupils and colleagues and measures in place to facilitate this.

Wellbeing Corner:

Wellbeing Corner The Therapeutic Value in Story Telling and Story Telling Cubes



Storytelling is as old as time. It has long been a means through which wisdom has been handed down through generations; likewise, stories teach us about the resilience of human spirit – listening to how others have adapted and coped with challenge can inspire and provide a window into how to tackle our own difficulties. Stories of fiction - full of great imagery and portrayals of adventure, heroism, hardship and victory – show us how to find daring, friendship and courage in our own dark times.

Through storytelling, it is possible to gain insights into how to begin a process of behavioural change and as such, improve quality of life. On a deeper level, storytelling can act as an incredibly powerful therapeutic tool that empowers individuals to see another point of view, fuel their imagination and consider other possibilities. Storytelling can help promote problem solving skills and solutions focused thinking; they stir the mind, the body and ultimately, affect us on a deeply subconscious level, all of which can have a positive impact on wellbeing.

The attached link is for a storytelling cube resource from Beacon House, an organisation dedicated to building knowledge around trauma and childhood as well as providing a range of treatments and therapeutic services. The website has a rich range of resources from those that inform to those that provide practical activities. The storytelling cubes resource included here contains three templates, which can be made into story telling cubes; there is also clear instructions on how to use them along with sample questions. Whilst it is a theory resource, it is highly applicable in the classroom.

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Story-Cubes.pdf>

You can find our Wellbeing Strategy [here](#)

Hope and Joy:

We love hearing what you have been doing to bring Hope and Joy to your school and wider community.



You may remember hearing about a wonderful initiative at Crosscrake School to deliver Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea hampers. Look how great they were! Well done to all involved.



Information sharing from the Diocese

School Sparsity Funding Consultation (closes 9th April 2021):



If you haven't already, please do participate in the consultation (link below) which could make a huge difference to funding in Cumbria where road distances can often be significantly longer than 'as the crow flies' distances.

From 2022-2023 the DfE proposes to use road distances instead of 'as the crow flies' and increase the maximum amount available from £45,000 to £55,000 for primary schools

Sparsity funding is allocated for schools below a certain size and whose pupils live more than three miles from their second nearest secondary school or two miles from their second nearest primary. Currently, these distances are calculated "as the crow flies".

The DfE is proposing that the distances be calculated based on road journeys from 2022-23, after finding that 1,123 schools are "no more than two-tenths of a mile below their respective sparsity distance thresholds in the 2021-22 NFF".

The consultation document states that, had the road distance change been applied this year, it would have seen "approximately 900 more schools become eligible for sparsity funding", which means 54 per cent of small schools would have been eligible, up from 30 per cent under the current measure.

The government is not proposing a change to the distance thresholds themselves, or the threshold for the definition of a small school.

Link to consultation:

https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-nff-changes-to-sparsity-factor-2022-23/?es_c=EBD9BA64FCA0088FD8373D25CA0E315A&es_cl=5E5473C69946D2DD8E0EF758D6353E81&es_id=9d%c2%a303

Islam Training:



Imran Kotwal from Muslim Learner Services www.muslimlearnerservices.org is offering Primary Schools Virtual and Face-to-Face Islam assemblies, pupil workshops and Islam staff meetings. With Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Hajj and Eid ul-Adha all taking place during the summer term, the timing is perfect.

To discuss a possible visit - please complete the enquiry form [HERE](#) or copy the link this into your browser:

<https://zfrmz.com/aJbKiqynJIHAK9stSRYO>

RE Survey:

NICER is running a Templeton funded large scale survey for teachers and would really like you to encourage teachers in your schools to participate. The survey is about science education and religious education.



The survey is for secondary RE teachers and secondary science teachers, as well as primary teachers. They are especially interested in people in their early career phase (including student teachers) but anyone can do it. If they get a sufficiently strong response from the Church school sector, then they can draw out sector specific data and use this to develop resources to help students, new teachers and early career teachers.

It takes 15-20 minutes and is at this [link](#)

CPAS Recovering Well Resources:

Schools have been through a tumultuous year, adapting at extremely short notice to a completely new way of delivering education, and managing to offer families huge levels of support. Now that we are returning to face-to-face teaching, we must consider the impact of this year and help our school communities to recover well. CPAS, a Church of England charity, has produced a set of free online resources to support this journey of recovery. They are available at:



www.cpas.org.uk/browse-everything/leading-through-recovery-resources-schools

Recovery is important after an illness, a traumatic event or an unexpected challenge in life. It takes time, often longer than expected, and involves a process of engaging with our emotions, integrating our losses, and embracing our new reality. Healthy recovery includes:

- Remembering.
- Reflecting.
- Recuperating.

The resources give a range of ideas of how to support these three stages in a variety of ways across the school community (with ideas for PHSE, Collective Worship, Prayer/Reflection spaces, a Staff meeting and sheets to support at home).

Supporting Belonging and Believing in EYFS:



The Books at Press team has produced some free resources to support the requirements of the new EYFS Development Matters relating to RE.

[Development Matters 2020: Linking EYFS 2017 and 2020/21 Understanding the World to Religion and Worldviews Education \(England\)](#)

This document highlights the most relevant ELGs for Religious Education from both the EYFS 2017 and EYFS Early Adopter Framework. It then provides advice on implementing RE at the various stages of development in line with the Development Matters 2020 document.

[Curriculum Map for RE from Nursery to Year 2](#)

This map illustrates how the Books at Press and other resources can be used alongside a wealth of popular topics from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

[Using the Accredited Puddles Resources with Understanding Christianity](#)

This detailed document shows how each of the Puddles books support the relevant units within Understanding Christianity.

Resources to support Community and Living Well Together:

“We have produced a series of resources for primary and secondary schools to help with this – through our ‘Faith at Home’ Series 2 which is entitled ‘Flourishing Together’, with collective worship/tutor programme films for all ages focusing on:

- *Why do we belong together? (Community and Interdependence)*
- *How do we know we are loved? (Self-Esteem and Security)*
- *How do we get back on track? (Character and Renewal)*
- *How do we make sense of our feelings? (Mental Health and Wellbeing)*
- *How do we face our fears? (Anxiety and Failure)*
- *How can we have hope for tomorrow? (Faith and Confidence)*



They're all available at [I am a School Leader | The Church of England](#) and we'd commend them to you to support this work.” **Andy Wolfe**, Deputy Chief Education Officer.

Lent and Easter resources:



GROWING FAITH

The Diocese of Coventry have produced a range of suggested activities for homes, schools and churches which you can access [here](#)

They have also produced a Lent in a Bag or Box pack which is attached.

Outdoor based Easter reflections resource

Celebrate life

Our colleague Paul Rose has produced a resource to help to you use the outdoors for Easter reflections. The pdf document is attached.



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

Training, Courses and Events:

Please contact: education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk to book a place on any of our courses or events.

Further information is available [here](#)



HUDDLES THIS HALF TERM



Tuesdays 3.45pm
Thursdays 1.30pm

Do come along when you can

Tuesdays: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821283299?pwd=UVhRZkVMdJZTVNjZW5vaGZuaHJ6UT09&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

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this week's communication, don't hesitate to get in touch:

Charlotte Tudway

Deputy Director of Education

charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education

07917 993659

