

## Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

[www.carlislediocese.org.uk/education](http://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/education)

**Weekly Communication: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

### Reflection:

We took a moment to remind ourselves that life is short and that we ought to appreciate every moment. Make sure you take the time to enjoy some blossom on a tree this week – it will be gone again before you know it!



We were delighted to welcome a new ‘huddler’ to one of the sessions this week!

### Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week

**Time is racing on:** and there’s still so much to be squeezed in before the end of term!

**Vision and values:** we continue to hear how many of you are finding this an excellent time to refresh your school vision, reflecting on what **really** matters to you as school leaders and what you have clung to on the darkest days during the last 18 months. Many of you report finding spending time with pupils discussing and refreshing school values has been a really uplifting and positive experience.

**The joys of being part of a supportive team:** following a very difficult day, one Headteacher came into work to find a little supply of goodies waiting for her on her desk. We discussed the difference that small acts of kindness can make.

**Sometimes the correct decisions are the hardest:** We heard from one Headteacher who had to make a really tough decision with the best interests of one of her pupils at heart. She knows it’s right but it doesn’t make it any easier. Those present all related to her experience. It’s often hard doing the right thing.

**Crystal ball:** several of us are popping out to purchase ourselves a crystal ball after hearing about the sustaining, gallows humour at one school. Whenever they are berated for situations completely outside their control and which could not have been predicted, their stock response is now that they are sorry they didn’t polish their crystal ball well enough that morning!!



**Trips and residential:** the continuing theme of the exhaustion caused by uncertainty came up again this week. Just as many of you had begun to plan the ‘fun things’ again for your pupils, there is now uncertainty about 21<sup>st</sup> June allowing us as much freedom as we had hoped for.

**External data & testing:** we all expressed our disappointment at the announcement that testing will resume next year unchanged. We had all hoped that the experience of the last two summers might have engendered some trust in teaching staff’s judgement and at least have provoked a discussion about whether any changes might be appropriate.

*Diocesan Conference: **PAUSE** for school leaders (inc. governors) 1.30pm Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June*

## Hope and Joy: sharing celebratory moments

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

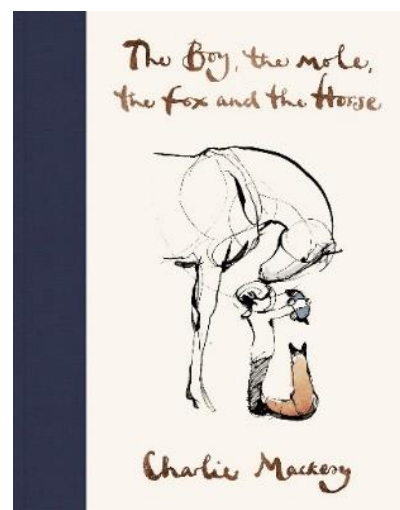


One of the things I have been struck by throughout the COVID pandemic is the unlooked for and surprising outcomes and even positive side effects. I would never had predicted that anyone would miss KS2 SATS but the Year 6 pupils at Crosscrake have ... they missed out on their school tradition of being waited on hand and foot each morning of SATS week by the Year 5 pupils.

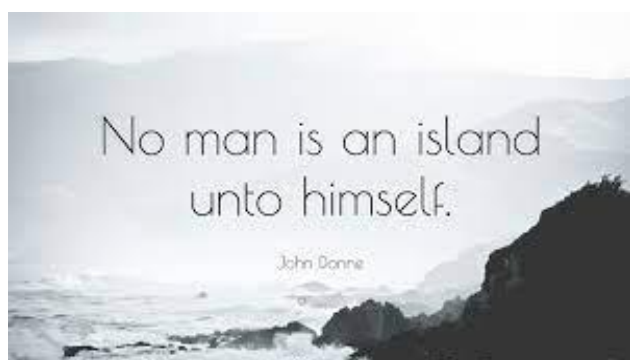
However, the Year 5 pupils rose to the occasion and took on their role as 'House Elves' to give their Year 6 friends a breakfast treat one morning last week notwithstanding there being no test papers to sit. Wonderful!



As part of Wellbeing Awareness Week last week, Joe Wicks interviewed Charlie Mackesy, author of *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* for his secrets to health and happiness. You can listen again [here](#)



## Wellbeing Corner: No Man is an Island



One consequence of the pandemic and the time spent in lockdown, cut off from family and friends, is loneliness for a great many people – both young and old. Even now as we move into a time of more social freedom and the rules are beginning to relax a little, for some, re-establishing connections has become too challenging. Many have found that friendships have changed, dynamics have shifted, some social skills have faded and everything just feels different. Some people will ease right back into life as it was whilst for others, change is uncomfortable and disorientating.

With respect to wellbeing, the need here is know what it means to rebuild webs of connection along with resilience whilst at the same time, learning to navigate a new normal. There is also a need to look honestly at what we can control, what is outside of our control, and as such, what we need to let go of and accept at

  
Click for our full  
Wellbeing Strategy

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this moment in time. The [British Red Cross](#) website has some excellent resources to use with both adults and children, all about managing loneliness and building social networks; they can be used with groups or on an individual basis. Likewise, there are some fantastic resources in relation to kindness, which are well worth exploring – I especially like the Kindness Calendar, which is a challenge for the Summer holidays!

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## Collective Worship Resources:

For those of you who haven't seen it yet, the Church of England has just published a Statement of Entitlement for Collective Worship (similarly to the existing Statement of Entitlement for RE).

The document sets out minimum expectations which all pupils in all Church of England schools can expect to enjoy.

It also provides guidance relating to training for staff (and ministers) and the need to have a named person responsible for Collective Worship for example.

We will be leading some training during the Autumn Term – look out for our new Events Schedule with all our diary dates for 2021-2022.

You can read the full Statement of Entitlement [here](#)

If you have developed or found collective worship resources which you would be happy to share with colleagues in other schools, please do get in touch. We know that high quality collective worship materials and inspiration for how to find awe and wonder whilst COVID restrictions remain in place is something many of you are grateful to receive.

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## Other information and resources:

### Academisation of schools

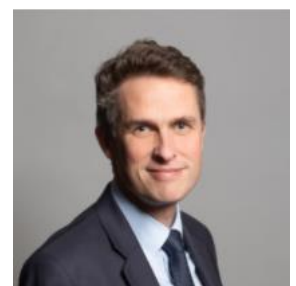
Many of you are beginning to reflect on the implications of Gavin Williamson's recent confirmation of his renewed vision for all schools to be part of a multi-academy trust.

We fully appreciate that the responsibility of making a decision which will commit your school to a new structure and way of working, way beyond your period of tenure, is daunting and not something you would want to do hastily (or at all if you didn't feel it was the right move for your school).

Working with the Board of Education, our Church of England clergy colleagues and the Regional Schools Commissioner, we are currently taking advice and exploring options to enable us to support you and ensure that you feel confident about taking decisions with the long term interests of your school at heart.

We are aiming to be ready to hold some briefing sessions, at which you can ask all your questions, next half term.

You can read the full speech [here](#).



## Let's think about friendships:

### A new guide for children in Church of England primary schools

The Children's Society and the Diocese of Sheffield have produced a new resource aimed at children in Church of England primary schools, especially in Key Stage 2.



The  
Children's  
Society

The resource, *Let's think about friendships*, draws on The Children's Society's work in listening to what young people say about their well-being and factors that influence that, such as having good friendships. This resource has been adapted from a guide for older children by Huw Thomas, Diocesan Director of Education for Sheffield Diocese, and includes new quotes from children across Sheffield, Christian content and activities. There is also an accompanying teachers' guide.

Both resources can be viewed at and downloaded from these links:

### Friendship guide

[https://www.flipsnack.com/CA7CFEBBDC9/2021109a-chu-friendship-guide-a5\\_v3.html](https://www.flipsnack.com/CA7CFEBBDC9/2021109a-chu-friendship-guide-a5_v3.html)

### Teachers leaflet

[https://www.flipsnack.com/CA7CFEBBDC9/2021109b-chu-teachers-leaflet-a5\\_v3.html](https://www.flipsnack.com/CA7CFEBBDC9/2021109b-chu-teachers-leaflet-a5_v3.html)

Picture News are running a free of charge webinar for all Church of England schools to explain how their resources can be used effectively to support collective worship, Christian values and SIAMS. The 1hr session will be led by SIAMS Inspector and Blackburn Diocesan Adviser, Lisa Fenton and Assistant Headteacher and English Lead, James Young.



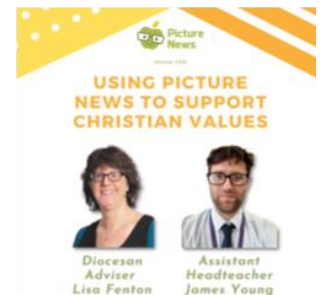
Picture  
News

### Using Picture News to Support Christian Values

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 4-5pm

Book your place [here](#)

The session is free of charge and open to all schools. If you are unable to attend on the day, they will be sending across the recording for all those who have registered.



### The Carlisle Cathedral team write:

We want to develop the Carlisle Cathedral educational programme to suit the learning needs of teachers.

We are asking teachers in Cumbria working in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to complete a short survey to help us inform our programme.

Survey closes 30th June, use this link to complete the survey  
<https://s.surveypal.com/j-YBmv7l4>

As a thank you for taking part in the survey, teachers can opt-in to be part of a prize draw to win a free workshop at Carlisle Cathedral for their class in the academic year 2021-2022.

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## 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.

### Training, Courses and Events:

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

Further information is available [here](#)



**Massive thanks to those who have been part of a working party to review our RE scheme of work. It won't be a quick job as there's lots to do but it is wonderful to have begun this process. If anyone else had thoughts or material to share, please do get in touch.**



## HUDDLES THIS HALF TERM



Tuesdays 3.45pm  
Thursdays 1.30pm

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

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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

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