



Schools newsletter

March 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I have spoken to so many of you in the last week who are simply delighted to have your children back where they belong, this has not only been uplifting for your team but also for mine. And as we move forwards acknowledging that there is still a journey ahead I suspect the next milestone is going to be Easter, how appropriate as we edge nearer to the promise of Holy Week and resurrection. Whilst we have sadly had some schools have to close and a number of bubbles be sent home it is still early days and along with our local authorities we will continue to support those who need us.

Over the next two weeks both Board of Education are set to meet and be updated on a number of issues pertinent to our schools. Many of you will have heard the news about the new Deputy SIAMS lead, David Tait, one of our Head teachers from the Durham Diocese. David will take up his post in September and whilst sad to see him leave his post in Shincliffe we are delighted that he will help to shape the longer term future of Section 48 Inspections. We have been assured by the National Team that there will be no inspections in the Summer Term and that we will be given some idea about the planned return after the Easter Break.

Year 6 Leavers will sadly have to be virtual again this year. We have taken on the feedback from last year so please watch this space as we start to prepare how this will look for our First, Middle and Primary schools.

Please can I make a request that any of you who have not been in touch about the partnering agreement please let us know about any issues – we currently have 98% buy back and it would be brilliant if this could be 100%. As I have said previously both Diocese have struggled during the pandemic and we desperately need your support to fund the levels of support we offer.

Again looking forwards we are keen to start and plan for a conference in the Autumn Term – however that may look. If there are areas you would like us to cover please let us know. We will invite the usual partners to support us in delivery however, we would appreciate a steer from colleagues about what else we could possibly offer.

Finally, both +Paul and +Christine / +Sarah and +Mark are keen to support you all in your work. If you would like a virtual visit or a visit in person (Covid restrictions may apply) please let me know as they are keen to come and celebrate your amazing work and meet you and your children.

As ever, you know where we are if you need us. Please be assured of our prayers.

Best wishes,

Paul and the Team



The Dioceses of
Durham and
Newcastle



We are open!



The RRC is now reopen and we are welcoming members to browse, borrow and return resources from 10:00am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-5:30pm Monday to Friday.

We will still have social distancing measures in place and safety measures will be in place to protect you and our team. These include:

- Sanitising facilities at each site on entry and exit
- Social distancing – around the issue desk and the resource areas
- Protective PPE – staff will have masks and visors, all members and visitors are asked to wear a mask or visor in the RRC
- Restricted numbers at any one time which may lead to a small delay at some times
- The temporary closure of study areas at both sites
- A quarantine period for all returned stock

We hope that there will be no further restrictions to our services but we will email if any are imposed.



Easter Closure

Although our doors were shut, staff have been working throughout the Lockdown and are due staff training and some holiday! In order to accommodate these with minimum disruption we will be closed for the Easter period from 5:30pm on Wednesday 31st March until 10:00am on Wednesday 14th April.



RE Update

Thank you for all that you have been doing to support the best RE possible in such difficult circumstances again this past term. Enjoy having the pupils back in school and getting into discussion and deeper critical thinking again!

Network meetings

It was great to see many of you at the RE network meetings held in March (three dates for primary colleagues, one for secondary and middle school colleagues). Thank you for making time to prioritise RE and share ideas with one another so generously. If you still haven't taken up the opportunity to join us, please do come along in the Summer Term and be part of our RE community!

Please do **send agenda items** for our next meeting which will help these networks to support you even better.

Gathering information about RE provision

I am currently finalising a questionnaire that will go out to all of our schools to be filled in by RE leaders in conjunction with Headteachers. This will help us to know where the training needs are so that support can be provided.

Training courses

The postponed **Collective Worship** training has been rearranged for Thursday 13th May. Details will come out via email from Lisa Willcox.

I am aiming to run **Understanding Christianity** training late in the Summer Term in the hope that the 'Roadmap' will go as planned and face to face training will be possible.

Thank you and keep in touch

Thanks for all that you are doing! Please do get in touch if you have ideas for other training and support. Thanks for your feedback at the network meetings – I'll get working on the list(!) and I'll be in touch with those who are keen to be part of the EYFS working group.

May you experience the hope of the resurrection this Easter.

Take care,

Caz

Caroline.weir@drmnewcanglican.org

Updates from The SchoolBus

All pupils returned to face-to-face education from 8 March

Since 8 March schools have been open to all pupils. Early years settings have remained open to all children throughout the national lockdown – this position has not changed.

All schools should be working to resume all before- and after-school educational activities and wraparound childcare, where this provision is necessary to support parents to work, attend education and access medical care, and to support pupils' wider education and training.

Schools should encourage parents to send their children to school, particularly those who are vulnerable. Elective Home Education (EHE) does not automatically put children at greater risk of harm. Schools should consider whether a parent's decision to educate their child at home gives greater cause for concern compared to remaining in school. If there is cause for concern, schools should follow their own safeguarding procedures.

[New] If a parent is considering home education due to concerns around safety, you should discuss what safety measures have been put in place with them.

Secondary school pupils are eligible for testing

Secondary schools should have been offering pupils testing at an on-site asymptomatic testing site (ATS) during the first week back to full provision – this testing was voluntary. Secondary schools should have offered three lateral flow device (LFD) tests to pupils, three to five days apart upon their initial return to school.

Pupils should have returned to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers should have continued to attend throughout this week, unless they received a positive test or needed to self-isolate. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with the school's arrangements.

After this initial testing, pupils and staff in secondary schools are being supplied with LFD test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. This will be a change to current procedures where secondary staff are being tested on site twice weekly.

Primary school staff should continue to self-test with LFDs twice a week at home. Primary-age pupils will not be tested with LFDs. This approach will be reviewed in the light of emerging evidence.

Schools need to review and update their coronavirus risk assessments

As schools prepared for full opening, they needed to review and, where necessary, update their coronavirus risk assessments and any other affected health and safety risk assessments. These risk assessments need to be treated as 'living documents', meaning they should be regularly reviewed and updated as guidance changes.

Schools must notify staff and their health and safety representatives of the outcomes of risk assessment reviews. Schools must also communicate any changes to their procedures to parents.

Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals will no longer be required to shield from April

[New] Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) individuals are not required to shield from 1 April, in line with the government's guidance – these individuals should receive a letter with updated guidance on steps they can take to reduce their risk. CEV staff should be supported to work from home; however, where this is not possible, they should return to working on site from 1 April.

[New] All CEV pupils should return to on-site provision from 1 April, unless they have been advised otherwise by their GP or a clinician.

The Department of Health and Social Care has added a third category to the [definition of CEV](#). The definition has been expanded to include a new group of adults who have been identified through the [COVID-19 Population Risk Assessment](#) as potentially being at high risk of serious illness if they catch coronavirus. Individuals identified as CEV through this risk assessment should follow the same guidance as other clinically vulnerable individuals. Anyone newly identified as part of this group will have been notified.

Face coverings should be worn in classrooms in secondary schools unless social distancing can be maintained

It's already recommended that in schools educating pupils in Year 7 and above, pupils and adults should wear face coverings when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. The DfE also recommends that face coverings are worn in classrooms or during activities, unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, e.g. in PE lessons. These measures will be in place until Easter, when they will be reviewed.

In primary schools, face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible.



Updates from The SchoolBus cont...

Schools must provide remote education for pupils who need to stay at home

Schools will still be required to provide remote education as soon as reasonably practicable to pupils covered by the [Remote Education Temporary Continuity Direction](#) where their attendance at school would be contrary to government guidance or legislation around coronavirus, e.g. where they are self-isolating or shielding.

Schools must have contingency plans in place

In the event that restrictions in schools are needed to help contain the spread of coronavirus, schools may be asked to revise their delivery models for a short period of time. Schools need to have contingency plans in place for outbreaks in school or changes in restrictions.

What's next?

Read the DfE's guidance for schools in full [here](#). Specific guidance for early years settings can be found [here](#).

- We've been updating a number of our resources in line with the government's latest guidance. Take a look:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Risk Assessment for Schools](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Contingency Plan](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Staff Handbook](#)

TheSchoolBus

Leavers' Services update....

Due to current lockdown restrictions the services this year will not be going ahead in the Cathedrals.

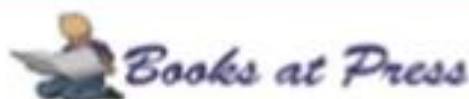
We are pleased to inform you that your leavers in 2021 will not be missing out and will be able to take part in a virtual leavers service in June.

We are working on the services making sure they will be ready for your leavers. We had some great feedback from last year and have taken it on board to ensure 2021 will be just as great.

Suzanne will be in touch shortly regarding numbers of pupils and will keep you posted in the coming weeks.

We hope to welcome you all back in 2022 to the cathedrals so we can celebrate and come together once more.





Gill Vaisey, is a specialist in RE for Early Years and Key Stage1. She offers a range of **useful curriculum planning documents** and published high-quality resources to help you ensure that young children can meaningfully and appropriately begin to understand the diverse and plural society in which they live.

The new EYF5 Reforms Framework for 2020/2021 strengthens the place of religious education through its explicit reference to 'religious communities'.

The September 2020 Development Matters document reiterates the importance of enabling children to understand and appreciate the significance of religion and worldviews within our society.

The Commission on RE Report states that "in an increasingly diverse society, understanding religious and non-religious worldviews has never been more essential than it is now."

This is all great news for the education of our children and supporting them to live in an ever increasing diverse and plural world.

For your FREE Planning Support Documents simply click on the document title

[Development Matters 2020: Linking EYF 5 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 EYF5 2017 and EYF5 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.

See also the page on [Schemes of Work](#) and the [PLAN+3](#) detailed planning and pupil activities

Belonging and Believing:



More good news is that the new [Belonging and Believing](#) series of books and resources will help you enable young children to engage with the lives of a five/six year old child from eight different religions and worldviews.

In line with the CoRE's recommendations, the books focus on the lived experience of children their families and communities, bringing real lives into the classroom.

The Belonging and Believing resources aim to inform, inspire, engage and excite children, teachers, and everyone interested in understanding and respecting diversity of religion and worldviews.

You can now [pre-order](#) your copies [here](#) – using either this years' budget before end of March or for payment in the next financial year.

For more information on any of the above or more, contact Gill Vaisey, gill@booksatpress.co.uk or visit www.booksatpress.co.uk

Gainford celebrate Candlemas

As further lockdown measures were set in place in January the return to school was not as parents, staff or pupils had anticipated, with school only open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Just like during the previous lockdown, church and school looked at ways that they could work together and 'unite' those both in school and at home. A whole school community effort led to a wonderful, virtual collective worship focusing on the Christian celebration of Candlemas.



Our foundation governor from St Mary's Church, Gainford, Reverend Eileen Harrop shared the idea and led the service, our Open the Book Team gifted us with a wonderful retelling of the story of Anna and Simeon, past and present pupils took acting parts, and a local family baked a fabulous Candlemas cake that not only looked like a giant candle, could be lit like a giant candle but could also be eaten too!



This wonderful service was shared with children in school and with families at home and even inspired some children to work with their parents to make their own Candlemas cakes.

Mrs Riley, Headteacher said, "This was a really successful venture where home, school, church and the wider community worked together, helping to grow faith in our community."



The full service can be viewed by clicking on the link <https://youtu.be/EUxATDVqwDM>

Early Years Provision grows in Warkworth

Construction on a new modular early years provision has begun at NCEA Warkworth CE Primary School.

Based in the picturesque village of Warkworth, the new building will house two large classrooms as well as toilet facilities and a dedicated entrance hall for use by the school's nursery and reception classes. Due for completion by Easter 2021, the opening of the expanded early years provision will create more spaces for nursery and two year olds, providing both 15 and 30-hour care packages.

Mrs Laura Ritson, Head Teacher at NCEA Warkworth Primary School, commented: "As a village school, we have always prided ourselves on being actively involved in the local community and doing what we can to support the needs of parents and residents.

"For working parents in particular, finding suitable childcare which also supports their child's educational needs can be challenging, which is why we're delighted to be expanding our offer. We hope to offer lots of exciting new classes and experiences such as baby massage and sensory toddler sessions for the whole community to enjoy."

While the increased restrictions introduced as part of the national coronavirus lockdown mean that the majority of pupils at NCEA Warkworth Primary School are currently learning remotely through live teaching, the children who have been in school (key worker and vulnerable children) have been enjoying having the construction team from Transform Building Solutions onsite.

After paying a visit to meet the builders, reception pupils, Flynn and Rudy, both aged 4, said:

"It's going to be so cool! Look at him digging all that mud." "That's going to be our new classroom!"

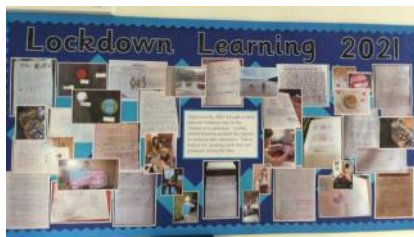
"Our pupils are very excited about the build!" Laura added. "Our reception class in particular is very much looking forward to moving into their new purpose-built classroom."



Lockdown Learning

Easington show off their beautiful 'Lockdown Learning' displays in school which show the wide range of amazing work that their children produced during the enforced Remote Learning period.

Children were welcomed back to these displays on Monday 8th March. As staff, we really wanted to show the children how much we valued all of their amazing hard work. Well done children, you simply are the best!' John Appleby Headteacher



Celebrating Science at Whittingham

The re-opening of schools to all pupils also coincided with British Science week where pupils across the UK are encouraged to develop their scientific understanding and celebrate the importance of Science. The children at Whittingham have been developing their scientific enquiry their first week back.

In Year 1 they have been trying to create the most efficient paper aeroplane.

In Reception they have been developing their writing skills in an exciting way - making their own invisible ink!



The pupils in Years 3 - 6 will be taking part in a virtual event called Mars Day next week where they will have the chance to hear about the experiences of Dallas Campbell and Dr Susie Imber with their vast experience in space discussions and exploration as well as take part in a Q and A session with Tim Peake!

Supporting Mental Health Week at St Mark's

Pupils and staff at St Mark's participated in an online Mental Health assembly. They thought about different ways to express themselves creatively; some classes made hats, created their own inventions and they had lots of discussions about things that they are grateful for and hope for. As a whole school, they took part in a thumb print challenge. Children and staff created their own thumb print which included words/phrases of things that were important to them, things they enjoyed doing and things that meant something to them. They created a collage to show that even though they are all unique, they can all come together as one.



We want to hear from you!



We like to celebrate the achievements of each and every one of our schools.

If you have recently held a special event in school, if any of your pupils or staff have received an award, or if there are any other events that you think we should mention, please do let us know as we'd love to share your good news.

Please email any of your good news stories or suggestions to: suzannekeen@drnnewcanglican.org and we will endeavour to include them in our next newsletter.

We also kindly ask all schools to inform us of any changes to your school contact details, such as new telephone numbers or email addresses, or if you notice that

any of your contact details on the Joint Education Team website are incorrect or need updated. This will allow us to keep our school contact list up-to-date and ensure that you don't miss out on any important news from the Diocese.

If any of your details have changed, please email Susie Taylor at: susie.taylor@drnnewcanglican.org



Ian Ramsey Holocaust Beacon School



Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy is one of only a few Holocaust Beacon Schools in the U.K.

On Tuesday 26th January, every pupil in years 9, 10 and 11 watched a live webcast from Holocaust survivor, Eve Kugler BEM, who was 7 years old on the day of Kristallnacht in 1938. Her webcast was truly engaging and pupils were grateful for this special occasion.

"Both T and J spoke about this over lunch-both had found it extremely interesting. I think they were struck by the fact that they have heard the story direct from a survivor. It somehow made it all very 'real' for them and what they have learnt and read about this became less of words and fact, and became the truth in a way. We have added a trip to Auschwitz to our 'list' for things we want to do after the pandemic. Thank you for providing them with this opportunity."

In the meantime, pupils in Years 7 and 8 took part in live lessons completing a number of tasks linked to Holocaust Memorial Day. This included them starting out on their Foundation Stones.



Wednesday 27th January was the official Holocaust Memorial Day where we focused on all those victims of genocide from the last century and nowadays. The whole school was led in worship by Mr Burt from the Humanities Department which focused on many aspects of genocide and the need for forgiveness. Our Christian values lie at the heart of everything we do at Ian Ramsey Joy, Hope, Forgiveness, Wisdom and Perseverance and pupils frequently tell us in surveys that they feel a need to show respect for others, no matter their race, creed or colour.

As the theme year this was 'Light in the Darkness', the staff and pupils took part in a candlelit vigil at 8.00 pm that day. Let us hope that our candles can be a true beacon of light and hope for the generations to come and never lose sight of what has been.

Our sincere thanks to Ms Dodd for organising all of the above. Her hard work has been truly rewarded and recognised by staff and pupils alike.

"It ran so smoothly! It was a well worthwhile presentation; the theme was perfect 'be a light in the darkness'. We all understood how we could/needed to do this today! Year 7 loved the fact they could go away, paint their pebble, design a picture or paint wood/tiles . . . We then returned and used the time to help each other to share what we'd produced in google classroom so I could see pupils presenting on their screens to help others." – Mrs Watson (Maths Dept.)



We say together
 Let us commit to seek a more peaceful world,
 where all are valued and none are excluded,
 Where justice and mercy flow like rivers
 Where relationships are built on love and acceptance, not fear and intolerance
 And where we all recognise our part in bringing that peace. Amen

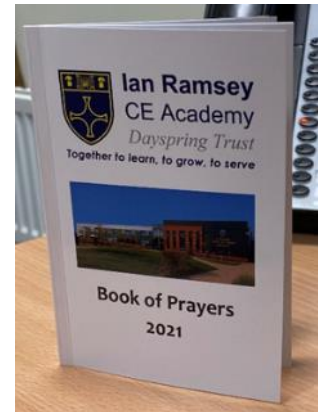


Ian Ramsey Book of Prayers

During the autumn term, we decided that we should write prayers reflecting on the current pandemic but focussing particularly on our Christian values as an academy. The prayers were collated and form our first ever Ian Ramsey Book of Prayers.

Each year group is featured, with a prayer from each tutor group relating to their Christian value. Year 7 wrote prayers about 'Joy', Year 8 focussed on 'Hope', Year 9 covered 'Forgiveness', Year 10 looked at 'Wisdom' and finally, Year 11 wrote about 'Perseverance'.

These pocket-sized treasures contain prayers written by the entire school. The books are available from Ian Ramsey and any donation, whether large or small, would be gratefully appreciated. All proceeds will go towards our academy hardship fund to support those less fortunate than ourselves.



Please contact Peter Snowden, Deputy Head, at the following email address: snowdenp@ianramsey.org.uk or call the academy on 01642 585205 and we can arrange for

Local business helps resource home learners at Whittingham

Miss Dick, one of the Early Years teachers at Whittingham C of E has had a fun time creating wonderful packs for the Nursery children who are home learning. A local business in Rothbury donated a significant sum of money to enable one of the EY teachers, Miss Dick to buy the resources and create wonderful packs. She then arranged for them to be dropped off safely to the families at their homes.

The feedback has been great so far and the EY team are now able to plan even more practical home learning tasks for Nursery because families now have the resources!



NCEA Bishop's selected to take part in pioneering diversity

seven stories
National Centre for Children's Books

As part of a drive to readdress the balance and increase the cultural diversity of the reading material available to its pupils, Bishop's Primary School has been accepted to take part in a pioneering project with Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement of 2020, the diversity project and fundraising campaign aims to give visibility to works by authors from BAME communities, which feature more diverse characters to help increase understanding and provide a stepping stone for teachers to encourage discussions around race and equality.

Bishop's Primary School was one of 33 North East primary schools to benefit from the project. Since December, packs containing a range of diverse storybooks suitable for young readers have been delivered to all five of the school's campuses in South East Northumberland in time for National Storytelling Week (30 Jan – 6 Feb), to the delight of the staff and pupils.

Mr Jack Christophers, Director of Literacy at Bishop's Primary School, commented: "At Bishop's



Primary School, we believe that our pupils learn so much through the stories they interact with and this is reflected in the fact that all of our pupils enjoy story time as part of their daily timetable. We also believe that education on matters such as diversity, equality, race and religion should start from a young age. "Through the project with Seven Stories, we are delighted to be able to combine these two beliefs. By ensuring that we have a culturally diverse supply of stories to share with our children, we can actively support their cultural understanding and personal development.

"On behalf of all of the staff and pupils I'd like to thank Seven Stories for all of their hard work in putting this project together. Our campus libraries are now much truer reflections of the world around us and will benefit our pupils for years to come."

John Coburn, Creative Director at Seven Stories, commented:

"At Seven Stories we believe that children's books are a powerful way to open up conversations with children about a range of topics, including diversity, equality and racism. By supporting this fundraiser, we're helping North East primary schools - including Bishop's Primary School - to grow the diversity of their book collections and in turn, inspire young minds with new voices and experiences that might otherwise be missing from their bookshelves."

seven stories
National Centre for Children's Books

Literature Works

Supporting outstanding outcomes in reading, speaking and listening, writing, within English and across the curriculum.



What is 'Literature Works'?

Literature Works, established in 2005, provides a practical and supportive framework for the development of language comprehension that benefits the whole primary school. Held in high regard by school leaders, Literature Works is tailored to the needs of your school for your learners. A programme of teacher CPD and school events support senior leaders and teachers to develop strategies for the progression and continuity of 'greater depth' learning, across each key-stage and within each year group. Teachers work creatively, using texts to sequence lessons and contextualise learning helping all children to make connections and develop independence. Pupils are enthused, are encouraged to express and share their views and feelings on what they have read, develop the ability to compare texts, and think critically and creatively. In writing, pupils are motivated, are able to write with a clear purpose, viewpoint and audience, applying grammar and vocabulary appropriately to their writing across the curriculum. Teachers assess and teach to gaps in pupil learning, are able to reduce unnecessary 'scaffold' and consequently pupils achieve more. We work with schools to make a profound difference to pupils' lives and progress in reading and writing.

Aims of Literature Works is to:

- secure continuity and progression in language comprehension, including, vocabulary, contextualised grammar and dialogic talk, from EYFS to Year Six
- secure the development of greater depth reading and writing
- provide coherence to pupil learning;
- provide teachers with practical, relevant teaching and learning strategies, including a sequence to teacher questions to ensure high quality discussion
- share approaches to diagnostic assessment
- establish a vibrant reading and writing culture that benefits the whole school
- provide high quality CPD
- share successful practice and knowledge
- maintain a strong team of lead teachers
- facilitate relationships with libraries and other partners; access resources
- ensure our website provides a platform for teachers to share planning, classroom resources, ideas and knowledge

In Response to COVID-19:

- Virtual CPD across all aspects of English and English across the curriculum is available throughout the academic year
- Tailored school support is available in response to your school development priorities and staffing needs



Subscription

New Schools

- Introductory school audit
- SLT / English strategic action planning
- Staff meeting: introductory launch
- Head teacher meetings
- English subject leader meetings
- Literature Works- lead teachers, half termly meetings
- CPD (see below)
- Author events, termly opportunities with teacher CPD
- Northumbria University, student placement opportunities
- Access to resources and website

Existing Schools

- This includes the offer outlined above (apart from introductory audit and staff launch)

Head teacher and subject leader meetings

Regular meetings throughout the year providing: OfSTED updates, school to school discussions, knowledge and sharing of highly effective practice

Access to Website

- Information and guidance. Including:
- text based units from EYFS to Year Six. (Fiction, Non-fiction and Poetry)
 - ideas-rich teacher case studies
 - resources; such as 'booked grammar', reading 'activities', e-books
 - related research and information

Lead Teachers

A strong team of highly skilled and motivated teachers of Primary English. Leads' focus upon English priorities, shaped and commissioned by head teachers. They also support teacher CPD enquiry groups.



Does it really work?

"Through Literature Works, schools and libraries identify the best and most enjoyable reading opportunities for children and young people."

Tony Durcan OBE, Director of Culture, Libraries and Lifelong Learning

"I believe Literature Works contributes to the development of good and outstanding teaching."

Michael Ewing, Headteacher, St Catherine's RC Primary School, Newcastle

"Literature Works is tangible within our learning environment. It acts as a cornerstone of our curriculum and teacher planning. Pupils are keen to explore the key ideas within a text through high quality discussion, text related activities, including drama and writing. Indeed, pupils see writing as purposeful and relevant. Planning for reading has led to an improved writing process that we believe enhances the standard of writing across our school."

Mark Outterside, Headteacher, Westerhope Primary, Newcastle

"Being a large school with an 88% EAL population Literature Works has had a huge impact on learning and teaching in our school. The whole approach has become an integral part of what we do with the creative curriculum based upon high quality, challenging texts. The children love reading and embrace the approach with gusto! The pupils love the author visits"

Jane Mullarkey, Headteacher, Wingrove Primary School, Newcastle

"Literature Works has reinvigorated our curriculum and created a new love for books and reading. It has really helped to focus teacher planning onto reading while also promoting reading for enjoyment and pleasure."

Andrew Miller, Headteacher, Mowbray Primary School, Northumberland

"Literature Works has had a considerable impact on our curriculum this year; by delivering lessons using a book based approach the children's engagement and enjoyment has soared. Author visits have been fantastic, the whole profile of reading has been raised. I look forward to building on these strategies into the second year and beyond."

Barbara Brown, Headteacher, Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Newcastle

"Literature Works has brought literature to life! Staff return from CPD events excited and keen to get started in the classroom. CPD is delivered with expertise and inspiration. Literature Works is having such a positive impact on the children's love of books"

Lynn Boulton, Headteacher, Timothy Hackworth Primary School, Co Durham

100% of Head teachers agreed that LW represents good value for money and that involvement led to improved pupil outcomes and addressed objectives in school improvement plans. (Independent Evaluation Report, commissioned by Newcastle City Council)



Continuing Professional Development

High quality CPD tailored to year group expectations. All sessions are aligned to 'reading into writing' processes, alongside key teaching and learning strategies. For further details please see 'calendar of events' for 2021-22. Schools can also access bespoke in-house support. (There is an additional charge to access CPD events or in-school support)

Library Partnership

Library representation at termly meetings and supported partnership with the local library network; opportunities to discuss and access resources.

Annual Regional Conference

'Literature Works/LoveBooks' held in partnership with Newcastle City Library service and held at the City Library. Keynote speakers and CPD workshops. Reduced cost for Literature Works schools

Author and reading offers

Access to Literature Works author and library events.

For more information contact:

Erio Ferguson

Email: erio@literatureworks.co.uk
Website: www.literatureworks.co.uk
Mobile: 07531017140



Follow us on Twitter @LWWorks_NE

St Hild's Hartlepool Annual Celebration

November is the time we host our Annual Celebration of Achievement Event. This important celebration acknowledges the many and varied achievements of our pupils. Despite the fact that this event could not go ahead as planned due to Covid restrictions, we were still able to hold a scaled down version of the event for those pupils who were in school. Amongst the winners were some of our new Year 7 pupils who were presented with Transition Awards for making a successful transition from Primary School and having a positive start to their education at St. Hild's.



Kidus Enyew Kidus was our most successful pupil in Year 8, gaining the No Way Trust Ltd. Young Citizen of the Year Award presented for outstanding contribution to the school life in Year 7 as well as the Modern Foreign Languages Award Key Stage 3, presented for excellence in Modern Foreign Languages at Key Stage 3.

Emily Morrell Emily in Year 9 was presented with four awards, which included the King Oswy Cup, presented for academic achievement at Key Stage 3 and the English Award presented for excellence in English at Key Stage 3.

Billy Littlewood Billy was another one of our award winners in Year 9. He was presented with three awards which included the Holy Trinity and St. Mark Award, presented for significant contribution to the Christian ethos of the school.

Jessica Prasad Our most successful pupil this year was Jessica Prasad who gained a total of six awards. One of her awards was the Elliot Conway Cup presented for creative writing. Her other awards included the Bishop of Jarrow Award for outstanding academic achievement and bringing credit to the school and the Gus Robinson Award for academic achievement at GCSE.

A full list of all our award winners can be found on the school website:

<https://www.sthilds.org.uk/page/Celebration-of-Achievement-Awards-2020>

Beginning Lent



The Senior Leadership Team made pancakes for the staff and pupils that were in school on Friday 12th February. This is to mark Shrove Tuesday, that this year falls in the half-term. Leaders took orders and made pancakes for over 100 staff and pupils. Pupils especially enjoyed Mrs Gibson's golden syrup topping and Mr Oren's American Blue Berry Pancakes.



Head of RE Miss Murray took the opportunity to remind our school community of the upcoming Lenten Celebrations and preparation that we have in place for Easter.

Our Inclusion lead Miss Hornsby made sure all pupils had their orders and also provided some with second helpings. She also made sure our Year 7 pupils took home the ingredients and recipe to make pancakes on Tuesday 16th, as is traditional to start Lent on Ash Wednesday.



St Hild's Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

On the 27th January, the school community came together to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on January 27th every year, as this was the day in 1945 that Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, was liberated by the Soviets. It also remembers the genocides that took place after WW2 in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.



The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was "Be the light in the darkness" and pupils both at home and in school took part in an act of commemoration during tutor time. Pupils reflected on how, during the Holocaust, people helped others and how we today can be the light in the darkness for those around us. Staff and pupils also took part in a national act of remembrance at 8pm by lighting a candle and placing it in their window.



Reflecting on the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day, Mrs Gibson said "In the darkness, even the smallest of lights makes the biggest difference. In St. Hild's we have eight hundred small lights, which means that our wonderful school shines brightly. We stand up for those who are suffering; and we confront fear, prejudice and hate. We join with the rest of the country in lighting candles to ensure the Holocaust will never be forgotten".



SEND Award Design Competition

Arabella Banks in Year 11 designed a trophy for a SEND award in memory of the late Alan Chapman, Headteacher of Catcote Academy, as part of a town-wide competition. The competition was launched to design an award and all pupils in all Hartlepool were invited to take part.

A Key Stage 4 SEND Award trophy of the winning design will be presented on an annual basis to a child, young person or adult in recognition of their contribution to improving outcomes for pupils with SEND. Arabella's striking design was judged by Alan's wife and daughter who are thrilled to be able to honour his memory in such a fitting way. Head of Creative Industries Mr Crannage said *"I couldn't be more proud of the winner... Arabella is one of the departments hardest working pupils."*



Pilgrim Pathways

abyyt.com/pilgrim



New and Free Lent Resource for 2021!

This Lent, the Youth Trust is challenging your Young Leaders to reflect on journeys, or pilgrimages, with our free resource 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.

View and Download the Resources >>>

Pilgrim Pathways will help pupils explore how these items symbolise ideas that can help them when facing challenges in their personal life journey. They are designed to encourage reflection and practical actions that can support pupils' wellbeing and happiness.



The resource can be used for collective worship in school or church settings, as well as individually or as a family at home. Activities and challenges are suitable for KS2 and KS3, but can be adjusted for use with KS1 and KS4 pupils.

Downloadable resources include a PowerPoint, video files and printable sheets.

View and Download the Resources >>>

Please get in touch if you have any questions.
- The Archbishop of York Youth Trust Team



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
YOUTH TRUST
Do the things you need to see

abyyt.com

JACK IN THE BOX

BIG BIBLE STORY

VOLUMES ONE AND TWO

WRITTEN BY:

BELINDA STOWE EARLY YEARS SPECIALIST &
SHAHNE VICKERY AUTHOR OF ROOTS & FRUITS

EXCITING NEW CLASSROOM
WORSHIP RESOURCE
FOR EARLY YEARS



A firm favourite in a wide range of Early Years settings, Jack the loveable Labrador puppet returns in the amazing **BIG BIBLE STORY**.

Children travel through the whole Bible, along with Jack, to meet all the Big Bible heroes and learn about the life of Jesus and his love for our world.

Volumes One and Two are each stand-alone resources but together, provide over 80 classroom 'Worship Times' especially written by Early Years practitioners.

All material will be available to download once purchased.

HELLO
TIME
SING-A-LONG
SONGS WITH
ACTIONS

STORY
TIME
BIBLE STORIES
TO INVOLVE
EVERYONE

THINKING
TIME
'I WONDER'
REFLECTIONS

HOME
LINKS
JACK'S TAKE
AWAY

PRAYING
TIME
SIMPLE PRAYERS
& CRAFT IDEAS

IMAGINOR



Warkworth scoop up Mental Health Award



A Northumberland primary school has achieved the School Mental Health Award which is delivered by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools. NCEA Warkworth C of E Primary School has become one of just five schools across the UK to be awarded a Gold standard for its outstanding mental health and wellbeing provision. Warkworth Primary School has embedded a wide range of strategies and approaches to support the mental health and wellbeing of pupils, staff and parents, including mindfulness clubs, yoga, a therapy dog, mental health and wellbeing areas in each classroom and daily opportunities to talk about how everyone is feeling. The school has also made mental health and wellbeing awareness central to its PSHE and RSE curriculum and all staff have mental health training as well as access to dedicated Mental Health First Aiders - an offer which extends to pupils and parents.

However, it was Warkworth Primary School's work to not only support its staff and pupils, but the local community too during lockdown that commended the school to the independent assessor from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence to receive the Gold standard award. "The implementation of the third national lockdown has affected everybody's mental health and wellbeing in a big way," said Laura Ritson, Head Teacher at NCEA Warkworth C of E Primary School. "While our school remained open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers, the majority of our pupils have been taking part in live daily lessons from home. To help maintain a sense of 'togetherness' while we had to stay apart, we organised a community heart campaign where our children designed and delivered a series of paper hearts to residents for them to display in their windows. As part of Children's Mental Health Week in February, we then completed a 'walk to wellbeing' around the village to see how many of our hearts we could find.

"We also sent wellbeing bags containing activities and resources home with pupils to help support pupils and their families, as well as organising weekly live wellbeing sessions to provide a safe space for pupils and their parents to discuss their thoughts and feelings during lockdown. We really do # strive together as one in all that we do at NCEA Warkworth Primary."

"I am extremely proud of everything our staff, pupils and parents have achieved and to see their hard work rewarded through the School Mental Health Award scheme is absolutely fantastic. We're now working with all schools within the Trust to really celebrate the great work that is happening across Northumberland Church of England Academy and develop an inclusive wellbeing strategy to support everyone." The School Mental Health Award was established in 2017 by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools – part of Leeds Beckett University – and social enterprise Minds Ahead.

The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools aims to strengthen pupils' mental health by supporting schools to make a positive change at all levels of the UK's education system, improving students' outcomes and life chances. Professor Damien Page, Dean of Leeds Beckett's Carnegie School of Education, said: "Achieving this award is not just recognition of a whole-school approach to mental health, it's a recognition of the school's commitment to improving the life chances of children. "We're truly proud to have worked with Warkworth Primary School in this vital work and look forward to further collaboration." Nationally, more than 800 schools have signed up to take part in the mental health award.



Dean Johnstone, founder and CEO of Minds Ahead said: "This award shines a light on the excellent work schools are doing to promote mental health for their community of children and adults. "It is thrilling and humbling to learn about Warkworth Primary School and the many other schools engaged in the quality award process. I'd like to offer my congratulations on this deserved recognition."



St Hild's Hartlepool Therapy Dog Hilda

Hilda is now 10 months old and is still very inquisitive. She loves playing with her toys and perhaps the odd door wedge or two.

Did you know that Giant Schnauzers are known for their high intelligence? Hilda is no exception and she is a very clever dog.

Hilda can follow many instructions on command and is constantly learning more. One of Hilda's favourite things is walking through our school and visiting our pupils working hard in their lessons. Hilda has also been very lucky and had the chance to listen to some of our fantastic pupils read, her favourite genre is adventure books.

Sometimes, she is so relaxed listening to the beautiful reading she falls asleep! Hilda is missing our pupils who are working so hard at home very much and can't wait to welcome all pupils back to school.

Hilda's handlers Mrs Wilson, Miss Wooldridge and Mrs Porritt are helping Hilda with her training. Hilda is working very hard on 'dropping' on command. She is meeting her milestones and we are all very proud of the progress she is making to become St. Hild's Church of England School's very first therapy dog.



Some of the benefits of having a fully trained therapy dog in school are;

For many students there is a greater enjoyment of being in the school environment, improved attendance and a greater willingness to learn and participate.

Improved behaviour, social interaction and sense of responsibility in the classroom.

Increased knowledge of dogs and how to behave safely and appropriately around them.

The pupils gain a better understanding of how to take responsibility for another living being. This, potentially, gives them better recognition of their own responsibilities.



New (and redesigned) Judaism boxes

Over the last few months, the RRC's Creative Designer Rachel has been redesigning and updating our Judaism Topic Boxes and Bags. Here she shares with us what she did, and the rationale behind it. "Judaism is such a family orientated faith. Some of our boxes had general Jewish artefacts but my new focus was to create - or change - resources to how they are actually used in everyday life.

To show how God is pivotal in everything Jewish people do.



I started with an audit of our resources and compared these to the regions RE Syllabuses to see if our resources covered all the required topics. Where there were gaps I created new resources for example, 'Celebrating the Torah' Topic Box and the 'Purim' Topic Bag. Perhaps most importantly Teacher's Notes were developed for each resource - to help teacher's professional development, their own understanding and to provide information and ideas that can be used when teaching. This has been a real learning curve for me. I had to gain a real understanding of the Jewish faith - I did a lot of research and honed that knowledge to produce faithful resources that are presented from a Jewish point of view.

For RE Co-ordinators, Heads and anyone interested in curriculum development and design here are some of the principles I was working with:

- Is the faith/worldview shown from a perspective that a child of that faith/worldview would recognise? Are the objects/literature, descriptions, activities, teachers notes, specific enough for that particular denomination/group but invitational so that diverse expressions of that faith may be acknowledged, noted or researched?
- Does the resource give an indication of how a child of that faith/worldview might connect to the sacred/other/the spiritual dimension of life?
- Does the resource invite engagement from the user but leave space for some element of mystery or wonder?"

The Judaism Topic Boxes and Bags we have to offer are
 Hannukah
 Pesach
 Shabbat
 Worship at home
 Celebrating the Torah
 Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
 Places of Worship: Synagogue
 Purim

I really hope that you, and your children, enjoy using them!

You can view these on our [online catalogue](#). To make a booking, contact the RRC: 0191 375 0586 or enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk



“Let’s Talk Covid” Course

COVID has had a huge impact on all of us; from lockdowns and social distancing to schools closing and life feeling slower-than-ever - it's been draining and difficult. 'Let's Talk Covid' is a package of 12 fully-planned sessions that includes a Leader's Guide and Young Person's Booklet, full visuals, games, discussion questions and reflective activities. Interwoven through each session are activities and tools to build resilience in our young people. 'Let's Talk Covid' has been designed to give young people a place to pause and reflect, to notice the pain, celebrate the wins and process the 'new normal' we're living in.

The course has been written by Abi and Jonny Hedges and David Latham. Abi and Jonny are the founders of Blank Canvas and have years of experience of working with young people in churches, schools and the community, as well as leading youth and children's programs at Christian events throughout the UK. David is the director of Indigo English: an online English school for everyone, anywhere and a designer. Written by youth workers for youth workers, the sessions are engaging in content and design and are ready for you to pick up and run with.

There's also a video explaining the course [here](#) and you can also look at the [work book](#) and [leader's book](#) for session 9 of the course. To purchase the course see [here](#).

Let's Talk Covid *Leader's Book*

Session 9
Still Mourning

BLANK
CANVAS

Explorer Felicity Aston helps out with blended learning at Whittingham!



The children in Year 1 and 2 at Whittingham C of E Primary have been learning all about explorers.

They had a really exciting history lesson where they were learning about explorers past and present. The children particularly loved learning about Felicity Aston, who was the first woman to ski alone across Antarctica which took 59 days. Hearing about her adventures transported the children to a different place, which was a real treat after months of going nowhere!

Octavia, one of our Year 2 pupils and her family then wanted to learn more about her and found themselves on her website watching videos from her travels. Octavia felt inspired to make her own video to Felicity asking questions about her expedition. Felicity very kindly said she would be happy to answer questions to help with Octavia's home learning and they have been in communication since. Felicity even opened up her Q and A session to the whole class.

We were fortunate to have some well timed snow and our inspired pupil, Octavia has been enjoying being out with her sledge in the snow pretending to be an explorer just like Felicity! Maybe one day she will be!

Whittingham celebrate first day back

Just before Whittingham CofE Primary School re-opened fully Headteacher Belinda Athey asked her pupils what they would like to do on their first day back. The overwhelming response was to have a party in their class bubbles. The children had a Silent Disco where headphones were worn which played music through them and the children had a good dance. Photos of some of the children in their class bubbles,





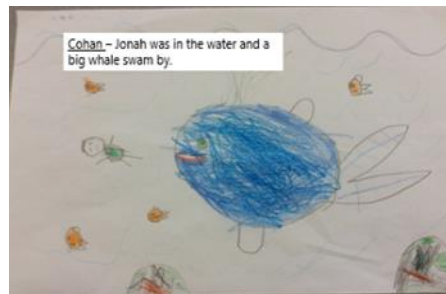
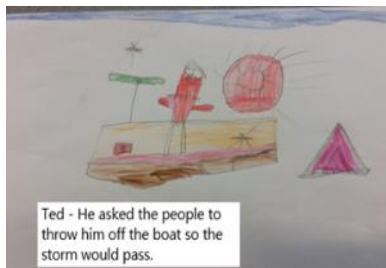
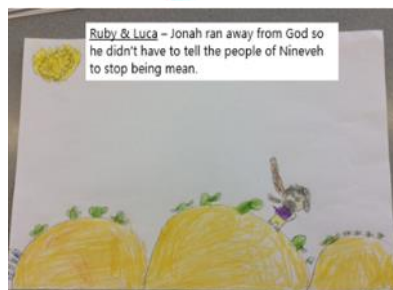
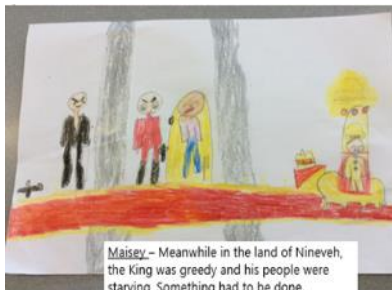
Holy Trinity Rosehill news update

Jonah and the whale Collective Worship – led by our Y2 bubble

Some of our younger children recently led Collective Worship via Zoom.



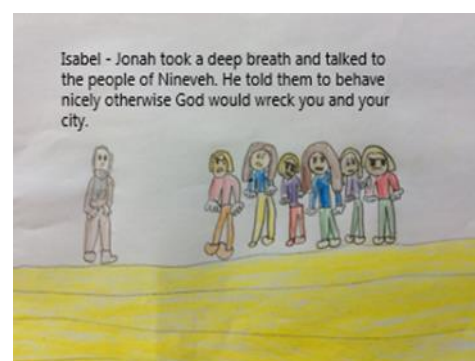
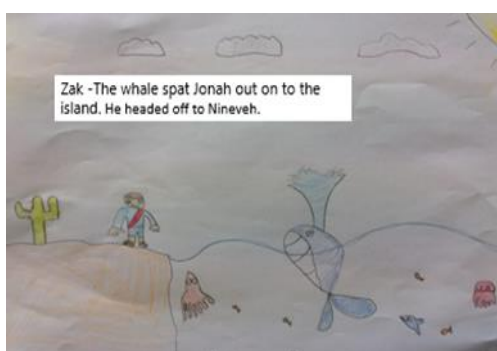
Today's message is that telling the truth can be scary but it is the right thing to do.



Dear God We should remember to tell the truth even though it can be hard. We must remember it is the right thing to do

Help me God with the thoughts that I think
Help me God with the words that I speak
Help me God to put my hands to good use.
Help me God to walk where you choose.

Amen



Holy Trinity Continued



Cranmer Hall 'Growing Faith' session



Recently some of our children along with Mrs Green and Mrs Swift were invited to speak 'virtually' with students at Cranmer Hall by Rev Emma Parker Deputy Warden as part of their 'Growing Faith session'. This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to share the vision for our school community and to encourage the students to continue with their studies to be Children's Workers and Priests.



The children shared so many wonderful things about our school. Follow the link to our website to learn more about our school through the film we have had made www.holytrinityrosehill.org.uk

Fundraising for MIND

As one of our three chosen charities for the year, we recently took part in a fundraising activity for Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind.

On Friday 26th February we asked everyone to have a 'screen free' day (or for as much of the day as possible) and to enjoy some mindfulness activities. We shared mindful colouring sheets with our remote learning and children in school spent time completing mindfulness activities during the day.



We were lucky to have the opportunity to talk via zoom to Lorna (our local Fundraising Officer) who explained a little more about the work of the local charity. We also heard from Derek, a champion fundraiser who was very inspiring!

Thanks to the generosity of our families and community we raised an incredible **£433** which will make a huge difference to many in our local area



Holy Trinity continued....

Castlegate Centre and Wellington Square Competition

In the autumn term, our children were invited to enter a local competition to design a mask for the Castlegate Centre and Wellington Square shopping centres. The winning design would be made and worn by all of the staff working there to keep them safe at this time. We are delighted to say that Heidi, Y6, was named as one of the two winners of the competition. Heidi's design is currently in print and will be worn by staff very soon. Well done, we are so proud of you and your design!

We asked Heidi her thoughts about winning the competition: *I am absolutely over the moon knowing that the workers at the Castlegate Centre and Wellington Square will be wearing my design on their mask. I really hope it will help spread positivity throughout our community and help us through this hard time. Thank you so much.*



Heidi also received a letter from our MP Matt Vickers congratulating her on her success.



Garden of Hope

Rev Paul and members of the congregation at Holy Trinity with St Mark's church made our Garden of Hope which can be found outside of Trinity site.



Updates from St Michaels Durham

Home Learning

During the transition to online learning, we made a conscious effort to make learning available to all children. One of the key roles we took on straight away, was educating the parents on our systems. To do this, we provided video tutorials breaking down how to use Teams. Mr Hindmarsh, our Computing Lead, created the videos to ensure that all elements of teams were covered. We gave ongoing support to parents and children over the phone, via video calls or with more tutorials. The impact of this was smooth transition with parents being as aware as the children of our systems. By empowering parents and children with support we made a seamless transition to online learning.

All our tutorial videos can be found on our You Tube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdunCOzjEihiGroiqtysiNw>

Mental Health Awareness Week

Mrs Cannings planned a whole school event for Mental Health Awareness Week. Although we could not be together, she planned a number of activities which allowed all children to take part. As a whole school, we aimed to complete activities where we could express ourselves and talk about our feelings or emotions. We started the week by completing some amazing Jellyfish. In class and at home, we have been building dens, baking as a family, reading on Teams, drawing and colouring. We've loved seeing all of your pictures.



Following Mental Health Awareness Week, Mrs Cannings put together some fun tasks and quizzes to complete over the half term as a family. The quizzes included guess the teachers baby picture, guess the name of the book, chocolate bar and so many more! The community had great fun and loved doing them as a family.



Picture News Impact Award

The children of St Michael's C of E in Bishop Middleham were awarded a Picture News Impact Award as the self-less act of one child, sparked a whole-school project to support local agencies through a Hamper Appeal.

Picture News is an online programme which informs St Michael's Oracy and SMSC curriculum with weekly, relevant class and school discussions that are prompted through pictures of current events and matters.

Daisy (a child in Year 5/6) discussed with her class teacher how she would like to do something to support a Women's Refuge – she took this request to St Michael's Pupil Parliament and together they came up with the 'Hamper Appeal' and they made a list of potential worthy causes that this could support. Each class representative then had an in-class vote for their own cause. In order to generate interest and inform the local community each class made posters and posted them on all of St Michael's social media platforms. This inspired a collection from the St Michael's community where they came together to collect and prepare the vast amount of donations in hampers (as pictured) ready for delivery. In this project St Michael's children supported a Women's Refuge, a Local Care Home, the local St Michael's church and a NHS hospital.

In completion of the project, the Pupil Parliament came back together to complete the Picture News Impact Award application to highlight the work of the school community. The school are delighted to announce that they were awarded the Picture News Impact Award and the children are even more motivated to continue to make a difference.



English Hub

As an English Hub, we have continued throughout the pandemic to support schools across the North East. This has allowed us to support schools to continue their learning, develop their home learning offer and organise interventions. One of our schools commented, "The English Hub support has been an invaluable addition to our school improvement journey. The work of the literacy specialists – and online training - has both challenged and deepened our leadership knowledge – and developed our NQTs teaching skills and confidence to a depth that we would not have achieved without them. The level of specialist advice which they have afforded our school is unparalleled; we could not be more thankful for their support and rigour!"

Since September, we have led training focused on the three areas of the hub (phonics, reading for pleasure, early language) and Covid recovery. The bespoke training, based on the needs of the schools, has allowed us to led training nationally. From the training, we have supported schools to move forward in their learning. Feedback from the Covid Catch up training stated, "Your passion has shone through! This has been such a useful session, thank you so much!" We have had 2086 people attend training since the start of the year.

Collective Worship in Lockdown at St Oswald's, Hebburn

Greetings to you all from everyone here at St Oswald's, Hebburn! We hope you're all settling back into the "new normal". We just wanted to share a little about our worship over lockdown and hopefully encourage you at this unusual time.

Like many other schools, we conducted live lessons across the curriculum throughout the latest lockdown using Google Meet. For worship, we weren't sure this would be feasible at first, so initially utilised the Church of England's excellent Faith at Home videos. Whilst this was going well, we felt that some key elements were missing: engagement, themes specific to *our* children at the time and - perhaps most importantly - a true sense of community (the "collective" element of collective worship).

Using themes that addressed a pupil voice survey around lockdown struggles, we began meeting together on Google Meet as a whole school community for worship every Monday and Wednesday. Siblings would log in on the same device, whilst parents, staff and governors working from home joined in too so that the whole school family could be reunited. The comments box was a particular hit as children were able to give their thoughts and reflections throughout sessions; one child even stated worship was "more interesting online because everyone gets to participate through the comments box".

These sessions were great fun and fantastic for boosting morale at a really challenging time. Through close vetting and monitoring of who enters our Google Meet calls, it's even been possible since our return to school to allow parents and governors to continue to log in to these worship sessions. One staff member noted, "In a time where pupils have faced unprecedented challenges and 'new normals', [online worship sessions] have facilitated a sense of normality whilst also allowing us to engage our families, which has also been a pivotal part of our worship provision".

We hope you're encouraged by what God has been doing in our school community through the toughest of times and we look forward to hearing your worship stories! Remember, throughout this whole storm, God has had a plan (Jeremiah 29:11). At St Oswald's, we find this reality a hugely encouraging reminder that we will come through this whole experience stronger than ever as a school community, and we trust you will all, too.

Take care and God bless,

All at St Oswald's CE VA Primary, Hebburn.

For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11



Dukes Secondary share pupils lockdown artwork

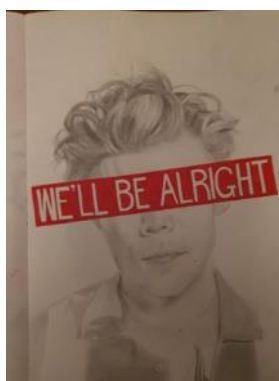
As we begin to welcome pupils back into classrooms across the region, at Duke's Secondary School in Ashington, staff have been reflecting on the success of its move to digital-based learning through lockdown, supplying over 800 Chromebooks and repurposed laptops to staff and pupils to enable everyone to participate fully in remote learning. Learning from their experience of the previous national lockdown, staff worked incredibly hard to provide a varied and engaging remote learning programme which combined independent study activities with live lessons and one-to-one tutor check-ins; as well as a comprehensive enrichment programme, which included weekly challenges and incentive-based competitions to help keep pupils engaged while learning at home.

"Lockdown 3.0 was undeniably challenging, but we're incredibly proud of what our pupils achieved," said Andy Blight, Assistant Principal at Duke's Secondary School

"We managed to keep students motivated with feedback online and positive encouragement through weekly student nominations for positive work and a 'Terrific 3' Amazon voucher prize draw. We also issued commendation certificates and entered students who made tangible improvements to their behaviour and attendance according to our Class Charts system data into a special prize draw for a Friday family 'pizza prize' or fish and chips."

Commenting on how pupils have managed to integrate back into everyday school life since their return on 8 March, Andy said: "Our time in lockdown provided a number of positive lessons which have undoubtedly benefitted students on their return to the classroom, including the importance of organisation, time management and self-discipline and the importance of networking with teaching staff for support. We've found that many of our students have also returned with a renewed sense of self and appreciation of time having used lockdown as an opportunity to reflect and acknowledge personal growth."

Dedicated to supporting pupils to 'let their lights shine' and achieve their personal and career goals, Duke's Secondary School has also just recently launched its new-look Sixth Form provision. Complete with a new name, logo, prospectus and promotional video, Duke's Sixth Form (formerly known as JBVI) offers a range of academic and vocational qualifications for post-16 study, "We're very excited about the rebrand of Duke's Sixth Form. We've got some fantastic new courses launching to bolster our existing curriculum of academic and vocational qualifications and we look forward to our current Year 11's



Examples of artwork completed as part of remote learning by pupils from Duke's Secondary School.

Benedict Biscop - Teaching School Hub

Benedict Biscop CE Academy, as part of Northern Lights Learning Trust, have been designated as the Teaching School Hub for Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside as the centre of excellence for teacher and leadership training and development. We are delighted and are really looking forward to contributing to the success of this new system that replaces teaching schools and teaching school alliances which come to an end in July this year. The Teaching School Hubs will have responsibility for Teacher Professional Development from ITT through to Executive Leadership for all phases and school types, as well as acting as providers of the Early Career Framework and the newly reformed NPQs. The Hub will also act as an appropriate body for newly qualified teachers. The idea of the Hub is that we are available as the one contact point for our region to ensure that all schools know where to contact if they are looking for professional development and training. We will be working with lots of partners in the region and will signpost schools to all the training and development available.

We are looking forward to working in real partnership with excellent providers across our region and would encourage any schools, MATS, existing teaching schools and alliances within the designated region to get in touch with us if they would like to know more or to share any CPD that they currently run that they would like to be part of the regional offer. We are currently setting up our Hub and will be operational for September this year.

We will share more information as we move forward – we feel privileged to have been given this role and see this as a fantastic opportunity to work together to really develop school led teacher development and are excited to organise and provide the professional development that schools need.

If anyone would like to contact us about the Hub please email us on info@nllt.co.uk

OBE awarded to Jo Heaton



We at Northern Lights Learning Trust are delighted to share that our CEO, Jo Heaton, has been given an OBE in the 2021 Queen's List for services to Education in the North East. Jo has been Executive Headteacher of St. Peter's Elwick CofE and Hart Primary Schools since 2014 and led the schools through their rapid improvement journey and has been CEO of Northern Lights since 2019.

In addition, Jo holds a number of positions nationally and locally. She works alongside the DfE and Ministers in her roles as Vice Chair of the DfE's Primary Headteacher Reference Group and as a member of the Expert Advisory Group for Recruitment and Retention. Jo is also a National Leader of Education (NLE), supporting a number of schools across the North East. Other roles include sitting on various boards, including the Durham Diocese Education Board.

Jo commented: "I am completely humbled and grateful to be given this OBE. I am just one part of a fantastic system of brilliant people in education across Hartlepool, Sunderland, the North East and nationally, who all work tirelessly to give young people the best education and life chances they can have.

I feel very lucky and privileged to have been given the opportunity to make a difference to education for our fantastic young people in the region and beyond, and am proud to accept this OBE as part of Northern Lights Learning Trust and as part of the education profession in our country. I am grateful to have been able to work with the most amazing children, families, governors and professionals both in the region and also on a national level in the DfE and I share this award with every single one of them. I thank them all for their passion, commitment and enthusiasm when working with me. I am blown away that people took the time to nominate me and judge me worthy of this award."



Mark Stouph, Chair of Northern Lights Learning Trust added: "We are delighted that Jo has been recognised in this year's Queens Honours List for her dedication to education. This is a dedication that is not only to schools in our trust but also within other local schools whom she has provided outstanding support to as a National Leader of Education and, nationally, with her membership on several DfE groups. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jo on her award and thank her for her continued commitment."

Harbottle first week back at school



On our first week back after lockdown, as a whole school we spent a week taking part in Commando Joe's activities.



We learnt about the Queen, finding out about her early life, her coronation, her residences, Garden parties and the Tower of London. We had many missions throughout the week, including taking care of one of the Queen's grandchildren for a day, building a 3D map of London, designing and making a channel for water to go through to reach the fire at Windsor Castle and baking cupcakes as Royal chefs. The children learnt many skills, including teamwork, resilience and compromise.



During January and February, while the schools were closed, the Year 3 and 4 children were studying traditional poetry in English. They looked at a number of different poets, learning grammar as well as style from them. At the end of the topic they wrote these poems, inspired by what they had learnt and their love of their homes - places they have been prisoners in for some time over the past year! We are so very proud of the energy and enthusiasm with which they approached their learning from home, and the obvious enjoyment they got from it.

Northumberland, no land to hate
It is nothing that is simple and straight
The grass and trees don't look dead
And beautiful lawns get inside your head
There are lots of beaches next to the sea
There's probably no better place to be

By Louie

Broad, fun, sandy beaches that go on forever,
Vast areas of green grass and wide open space,
Snow, ice, rain, sun – unpredictable weather,
The Coquet Valley, Northumberland, is my place
Streams and rivers to play and swim through,
Tall hills to clamber up,
Amazing wildlife to watch and learn too,
You can even take the pup.

By Ben

Winding long roads cutting through the humpy lush hills,
Jumper super high on my trampoline gives me thrills,
Splashing and playing in the crystal clear river,
Summer sun beating on my cold face gives me a shiver,
Helping new life being born at lambing time,
Having so many big hills to climb,
The miles of open, clear space to run free
Makes me feel very lucky

By Bobby

I live in the valley,
With sheep we have to tally,
The fish swim in the stream,
I wonder what they dream.
The hills that are green
Are not often seen.
The wind blows through the trees
Which can be home to bees

By River

The lush green fields swaying in the summer
The cute white lambs playing in the spring
The beautiful coloured leaves

By Betsy

I like to see the birds sing in the trees
And the green grass and the lambs skipping in it

By Imogen

The people around me down at the shops,
Sometimes little children who have lollipops,
The blue skies in the summer,
Winter snow is soft,
And at Christmas getting things from the loft,
I like that, I like that I like that a lot.

By Amelie

From everyone at Harbottle School we would like to wish you all very Happy Easter!

NCEA in New Partnership



As part of a new project to improve access to high-quality careers guidance, Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust (NCEAT) has teamed up with not-for-profit organisation, Smart Works Newcastle, to provide one-to-one support for the parents and carers of its pupils.

The free to access service, which will initially be delivered by the in-house careers team at Duke's Secondary School (part of NCEAT), will be available to parents and carers of children across the Trust who might be looking to change career, retrain or get back into work following an extended period of absence.

Following an initial consultation with a careers advisor, service users can be signposted to a number of different outlets, including Smart Works Newcastle, where they can explore routes back into education, the workplace or even a new market sector.

An exclusive service for women, Smart Works is a national organisation which supports women of all ages and backgrounds to build their confidence and skills to help them secure work.

Offering a wide range of services including CV writing, interview coaching and general careers advice as well as providing free work appropriate clothing to those who have confirmed job interviews. Smart Works has supported thousands of women across the UK into successful employment.

In becoming a referral partner to Smart Works' Employment Support service, NCEAT will be able to signpost mums, sisters, aunties and carers to the service, where they can receive additional support.

Helen Boyd, Service Delivery Lead at Smart Works Newcastle, commented:

"One of the few benefits of the pandemic is taking our Smart Works Newcastle service virtual, meaning we can support more women across the North East. We want to help as many women as we can to build confidence in their skills and abilities and gain sustainable employment.

"Our amazing coaches can support at any stage of the job search from first roles out of school to those returning to the workplace. We are really looking forward to working with the Trust and their families."

The partnership announcement comes as NCEA Trust schools have been celebrating National Careers Week (1-6 March).

The annual event, which celebrates careers guidance and free resources in education to help young people make informed choices about their futures has been a little different this year in light of the ongoing pandemic, with the majority of sessions for learners being held remotely. Within the campaign messaging however, there has also been an embedded sense of urgency to ensure that young people leaving school or college at the end of this academic year are as prepared as they can be for the world of work amidst a backdrop of high unemployment and labour market shifts.

While it is imperative that we support our young people to make sure they don't fall through the gap between leaving full-time education and entering the workplace, we feel that it is just as important to provide the same level of support to parents and carers.





Natalie Cain, Careers Advisor at NCEAT, commented:

"We're really excited about the launch of our new careers service. There is more emphasis on careers education in schools than there has ever been, and while it's wonderful to see our pupils benefitting from this, we strongly felt that this could have a wider impact in the local community if we were to roll it out to parents and carers – especially in the current economic climate with so many people being furloughed or made redundant.

"Working together with Smart Works Newcastle on the project is really exciting – the work they do with women across the country is incredible and I look forward to seeing some of our own parents and carers across the Trust benefit from their expertise.

"While Smart Works Newcastle is exclusively a service for women, that doesn't mean we've forgotten the gentlemen out there who might also need some additional support! Our in-house careers service is available to all and we hope to expand our range of partnerships as the project progresses."

Careers guidance appointments for parents and carers of NCEAT pupils are available every Friday afternoon between 2-4pm. To make an appointment, email careers@dukes.ncea.org.uk.

For more information about Smart Works Newcastle, visit: <https://smartworks.org.uk/newcastle-smart-works/>.

Media enquiries: Leanne Tonks, Marketing and Communications Coordinator at NCEAT. Tel: 01670 816111 ext. 393 or Email: Leanne.tonks@ncea.org.uk.





Pupil Well-being Day at Ven Bede

Children's social and emotional needs are at the forefront of teachers' minds as society experiences a rise in awareness of mental health and well-being. Coronavirus has disrupted significant aspects of children's lives, threatening their sense of structure, predictability and security. Some pupils will return to school having experienced some level of stress, anxiety or isolation, following the nation's third lockdown in the last twelve months.

Our online Pupil well-being day, held on the 3rd of March, aimed to tackle some of these issues by encouraging pupils to take time away from online devices and engage in a series of mindfulness activities. The day began with an introduction from the tutor looking at the 5 ways to well-being, published by the NHS. Pupils were then given the option to choose activities throughout the day which promote wellbeing, these included 'thanking a member of staff' for support, engaging in yoga or physical activity and creating games that can be enjoyed with friends and family. One anonymous pupil sent a card thanking the whole school community, "**Thank you for always supporting me in my learning, and being such a lovely school to be a part of.**" Pupils also had the option to enter a picture competition to showcase their efforts throughout the day. The online well-being day was a precursor to a series of activities that pupils participated in upon their return to school on the 10th of March, including a motivational talk from Gram Seed. The aim is to maintain a thread of activities throughout the half term which promote a positive sense of social and emotional wellbeing.

David Airey, Headteacher, commented, "With the pressures on us all currently, everyone needs to be mindful of their own well-being as well as that of others. Anything we can do to support our pupils, our staff and their families must be of benefit."



Ward Jackson open new STEM Space

We are all very excited at Ward Jackson C of E primary school to announce the opening of our brand new area in school. We have recently developed a fantastic new STEM space and Art studio. Our STEM space will be used for teaching all Science lessons in school. The brand new classroom has been equipped with all the vital resources that the children will need in school to have the most engaging and practical lessons possible. The space also has a designated Design and Technology area. This includes areas for textiles, woodworking, gardening and crafting.

At Ward Jackson, we work hard to ensure that the children's learning is as impactful and engaging as possible and that the children know there is a purpose to their learning. This is why we choose a STEM approach when teaching Science lessons. This means that these lessons not only incorporate Science, but also Technology, Engineering and Maths. The children learn Science in a way that shows them different ways this knowledge can be applied.

We have also been very lucky to be able to create our very own Art studio in school. This is a fun and creative space where the children can come and let their creativity run wild during their Art lessons. We want the children to be able to have independence and freedom in their learning. All of the equipment is out for the children to go to when they need it and they have lots of fun areas within the space to use when carrying out any work.



SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY

New for the Summer term is Springs' combined dance performance and workshop experience for schools, delivered with Covid safety at the forefront. Encounter, influence and reflect as we bring the parables to life and go deeper into RE. Further details available soon, but in the meantime please visit <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/parable/>

To book and to find out more please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call **07876 752 910**.



SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY

PARABLE

INTERACTIVE Performance Workshop

An immersive dance, theatre and integrated workshop experience, delivered with Covid safety at the forefront.

PARABLE provides primary schools with visually exciting and imaginative ways to boost children's engagement with RE.

Adventurous, interactive and exciting, children will encounter and overcome creative challenges, accomplish tasks and influence the outcome of the performance, whilst absorbed in a vibrant world of professional movement, dance and theatre.

PARABLE is a curriculum-based interactive performance and workshop that reimagines religious stories, based on the parables that Jesus told.

Whilst social distancing, children will:

- Take part, watch and learn together.
- Accomplish tasks together by working cooperatively
- Be part of something and make a difference
- Overcome challenges
- Encounter and consider moral quandary

PARABLE covers a core part of the Religious Education Syllabus and is designed to help schools join the dots in pupil's knowledge of Christianity and an important part of its sacred text.

"To some young children, their understanding of Jesus is confused – he is born at Christmas and dies three months later at Easter. Some children have little or no knowledge of Jesus' life and teachings."

Jane Brooke, RE Advisor

The performance workshop helps children experience some of the parables that Jesus told, enabling children to engage and reflect on a source of wisdom and sacred text.

PARABLE is a great way to ensure depth in the Religious Education curriculum, in line with the new Ofsted criteria.

"From the first few minutes (of the) workshop I knew that Springs had something special about them. They just had a way of engaging every child with enthusiasm, passion and hard work. It was faultless."

Teacher, St Andrew's, Streatham

PARABLE interactive performance workshop can be delivered several times throughout a school day for small bubbles of children to be Covid-safe.



To book or for a friendly chat about what we can do for your school, call us on: 07876 752 910 or email: touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk www.springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/parable



SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY delivers RE, PSHE and Citizenship through dance, creative exploration and discussion. Our curriculum linked workshops support children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

*** Our workshops are a great way to utilise your Sports Premium Funding. ***

Other popular workshops available include: A Christmas Story, Refugee, Stepping Out (for big changes), The Selfish Giant, PARABLE, You Are Special and Get Fit Go Green.

"PROBABLY THE BEST DANCE I'VE SEEN IN ANY SCHOOL, EVER!"

School Inspector referring to a children's performance as part of a six-week project by Springs Dance Company.

www.springsdancecompany.org.uk

Poverty Proofing the School Day: COVID-19 res

"Excellent training that provided real food for thought. I'm looking forward to reflecting on everything that was

Poverty Proofing the School Day is an impactful and powerful tool which identifies the barriers for children living in poverty in engaging with school life through utilising the voice of children and young people.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic 4.2 million children were caught in the grip of poverty, and with thousands more struggling with loss of income, the impact of poverty will be felt by many more children and families.

This will be most acutely felt in schools, so for a limited period we are offering a Poverty Proofing programme in response to the pandemic to identify strategies and support that schools can employ to best aid children living in poverty. This will cover the following key areas:

- One day training course for a member of SLT on poverty, the impact of poverty and the poverty proofing ethos and approach; this trained individual will return to school with a reflection to undertake with other Senior Leaders.
- An experienced Children North East Poverty Proofing researcher will come and spend a day in school to carry out the following tasks:
 - Consultation with students on the new challenges they are facing;
 - Consultation with SLT following the completion of the assessment document; and
 - Staff briefing including training on the impact of poverty and the poverty proofing ethos.

The work will be carried out remotely, and will be reviewed as lockdown measures ease over the coming months.

Cost £500

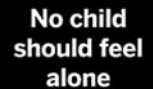


Keep Church Music Alive for the Younger Generation

Become a Friend of the RSCM. For more information click [here](#).

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>

The Children's SocietyNo child
should feel
alone

New TCS Project in the North East

The Children's Society (TCS) is delighted to announce a new project in Newcastle and Gateshead. In mid-February TCS took over the delivery of the RISE Mental Health in Schools service across the regions. Transferring from the Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust, the TCS team will be working with young people in schools across Newcastle and Gateshead to help support their emotional and mental wellbeing.

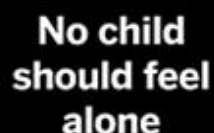
School is full of positive and negative experiences and can be especially difficult when people experience added pressures, whether school related, in their personal life, or in the aftermath of the pandemic. The RISE team of 12 Educational Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPS) will support young people to manage emotional and mental wellbeing at an early stage which can help prevent problems becoming more serious. The team will work on a one to one basis with young people, in group settings, and on a holistic level with the whole school. The team will support the environments young people are in and empower young people to build resilience to be able to look after their own mental health with coping strategies, awareness and confidence. Areas of work include managing difficult relationships, loneliness, transitions and life changes, problems with life at home and supporting parents and teachers.

As well as offering physical support the RISE website www.rise-ne.co.uk/ offers resources and guided self-help tools on a range of issues.

We know young people have been hit hard by the pandemic and will be facing more challenges as they return to school, with potential impact on mental health and well-being as they adjust to the new normal. This continues to be a big area of focus for TCS work and over the last year we have produced a range of new resources to support young people and adults to navigate the challenges. These include the [Young People Guide to Stressful Situations](#), the [Friendship Guide for Young People](#) and [Friendship Guide for Adults](#), and [Trauma and Young People](#). The charity also offers its [Church Youth Group resources](#) and guides for [How to Support Young Peoples Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

So the launch of the RISE project is a timely arrival.

Currently in the early stages of delivery, the hope is to extend the reach of the project over the coming years. The project has been operating virtually and physically over the last year and plans to be fully back in schools as the return continues. Look out for more information as the project develops or visit the website (currently being refreshed) for more details.

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