



Schools newsletter

December 2019

Dear colleagues,

It has been another busy year, filled with change but also the joy of seeing our young people develop and grow becoming the people God means them to be. This year, over 500 teachers have been through CPD with the Joint Education Team, and another 500 have signed up for CPD in 2020 (there are more dates covering Computing; PSHCE and Science to follow!) We are delighted to be hosting HMI Lee Owston looking at Subject Leadership and the Curriculum in January – if you have not taken up your three places please make sure you fill in your booking form quickly as space is running out.

In this last week of term it is so tempting to just be more and more busy. Maybe this year, try and find moments: listen to music, go for a walk, pray, read, draw, write... you never know, you might manage to reach the holidays and not collapse in a heap!

I do hope you all manage to have a well-deserved break; switching off phones and email! We will be closing the office for two weeks but in the event of an emergency, we will be checking emails.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all again for your support this year. Your Christmas wishes have been gratefully received, and the office has filled with cards. Early next year Susie will be in touch to launch the new Christmas card for the team!

With every blessing and Happy Christmas,

Paul and the Team

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and
Happy New Year*



The Dioceses of
Durham and
Newcastle



Some important reminders...

Capital Funding Bids

A letter was emailed to all Headteachers in October along with an application form to apply for LCVAP funding in 2020. All projects will receive due consideration providing you return your completed application form to Lisa Padgett at lisa.padgett@drmnewcanglican.org by no later than **Friday 31st January 2020**.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you need the information to be sent out to you again.

Roofing works



We ask all schools before deciding to have roof repairs carried out that they make sure they don't already have a guarantee on their roof.

Getting additional repairs done may make the guarantee null and void.

If you are considering having roofing work done, please let the Diocese know in advance.

Thank you.

Caring for your school over the Christmas break

Please make sure that you have arrangements in place for someone to be able to go into schools over the Christmas break to check for burst pipes etc. during the cold weather. This will ensure that any problems or issues are spotted straight away before the new term begins.

We also ask that you see to it that any guttering and flat roofs are cleared of any litter, balls, leaves or other debris as this will help to protect the property from water ingress caused by pooled areas or overflowing pipes/gutters.

We can provide you with details of contractors who can provide cleaning services, so please do get in touch if we can help in any way.



Christmas Wishes from the Joint Education Team



December updates from TheSchoolBus

Preparing for the general election



Following the government's decision to call an election on 12 December, the DfE has issued guidance reminding schools to "avoid activity that could be construed as partisan or favouring a particular political party".

The guidance says that, while schools can use the pre-election period "to raise pupils' awareness and understanding of the political process", they must "ensure that pupils are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views".

Schools have a duty to ensure their teaching is balanced and that school resources are not used to promote a particular political party.

The guidance also says that school ICT facilities should not be used to distribute political material, "including that produced by third parties, either within the area of the school site or beyond".

Get up-to-speed with the full pre-election advice from the DfE with our [article](#) breaking down the key points.

Your guide to Ofsted inspection reports

Since the introduction of 'The education inspection framework' in September 2019, Ofsted's inspection reports have undergone some big changes.

For example, to ensure the reports are more accessible for parents, they are now half the length of the previous versions, and rather than including specific breakdowns of the evidence used to inform each judgement, the reports now include general headings and sections with simplified language.

Get an idea of what to expect from your next Ofsted report, in terms of language, layout and more, with our [article](#) providing a visual breakdown of an example Ofsted report.



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TheSchoolBus

Your December updates from RE Advisors Margaret and Caz

It was lovely to see so many colleagues at our recent Understanding Christianity training course. We do appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to contribute as we all work together to provide the best RE for our young people. It's great to hear so many examples of how using this resource has increased the challenge and interest from pupils and staff alike.

We have had a number of queries about how to access the **Diocesan RE syllabus**. All schools (both VC and VA) received a copy of the Diocesan Syllabus (2018) on a USB stick, either in person at the launch event in October 2018 or shortly afterwards in the post. Just a reminder that the PDF file can be uploaded onto your staff shared area for **internal use** in school so that all colleagues have access to the resource.

Training courses in the Spring

A busy spring term lies ahead with lots of training coming up. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there!

- **RE Subject Leadership** – 17th Jan (Durham - FULL) **or** 20th Jan (North Shields – limited places)
- **Islam and Judaism** (EYFS – KS3) – 13th March
- **Hinduism and Sikhism** (EYFS – KS3) – 20th March
- **Courageous Advocacy: Global Neighbours** (twilight session – all phases) – 26th March

Booking forms have already been sent out for the RE Subject Leadership and the World Faiths training courses. (Booking forms for the Courageous Advocacy course will be sent out closer to the time so do look out for these!)

Courageous Advocacy and Global Citizenship

Global Neighbours Award



Well done to the eight schools holding a Global Neighbours Bronze Award in the North East. We know that a number of other schools are using the Global Neighbours criteria to support their global citizenship and courageous advocacy provision across the life of the school. Do get in touch if you would like any support with this.

The British Council funds a scheme that can support schools with developing their global awareness further through free CPD and a school partnering scheme. Information from, Rich Hurst, our North East Regional Adviser for this scheme is below:

Connecting Classrooms

Connecting Classrooms Through Global Learning is a funded and flexible programme open to all schools in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will help equip teachers and pupils with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to act more thoughtfully, ethically and responsibly as active citizens. The programme funds partnerships with schools across Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa and South East Asia (29 countries in total); these can involve travel or be virtual

Continued from Page 4...

partnerships. The focus of the learning uses the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals; issues like climate change, gender equality and how to live sustainably affect us all — and connect us all — wherever we are in the world.

The programme contributes very well with schemes such as Eco-Schools; Global Neighbours; Rights Respecting Schools and the British Council International Schools Award. If you would like to know more visit: <https://connecting-classrooms.britishcouncil.org/>

The next funding rounds are: 27th January; 23rd March; 15th June; 23rd September and 2nd December 2020. You can also benefit from support from a network of Regional Advisors to help pre and post application. If you choose not to apply for funding or be part of a cluster then you and your school can still benefit from the teacher Professional Development courses available online and in person.

Thank you for your continued support this term and we're looking forward to catching up with lots of you in the new year!

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year,
Margaret and Caz

Margaret.gibson@drmnewcanglican.org

Caroline.weir@drmnewcanglican.org

Change of venue for the Newcastle Leavers' Service in June 2020



We previously advertised that the Newcastle Leavers' Service planned for June 2020 would be held at Hexham Abbey.

The venue has now changed and will instead be held at **St George's Church in Cullercoats**. The date of Thursday 25th June 2020 remains the same.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Booking forms will be issued to all schools in the New Year.

Please may we remind you that due to the revised format on the day, and capacity regulations in the Church, we ask that you do not invite parents and families to attend the services. We do appreciate that relatives may want to attend but we thank you in advance for your cooperation.





CONNECTING CLASSROOMS
through Global Learning



Developing responsible, respectful and active young citizens of Britain and the world

Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning (CCGL) is a government funded programme run by the British Council and its partners. Building on the success of existing programmes, it supports teachers and school leaders from all phases to motivate young people to develop knowledge and skills for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.



"Through CCGL we are building a partnership with a school in Tanzania. We hope this will bring benefits to both our school communities through shared learning experiences, providing us with opportunities to become global thinkers and equip our staff and pupils with the skills they need for today's world"

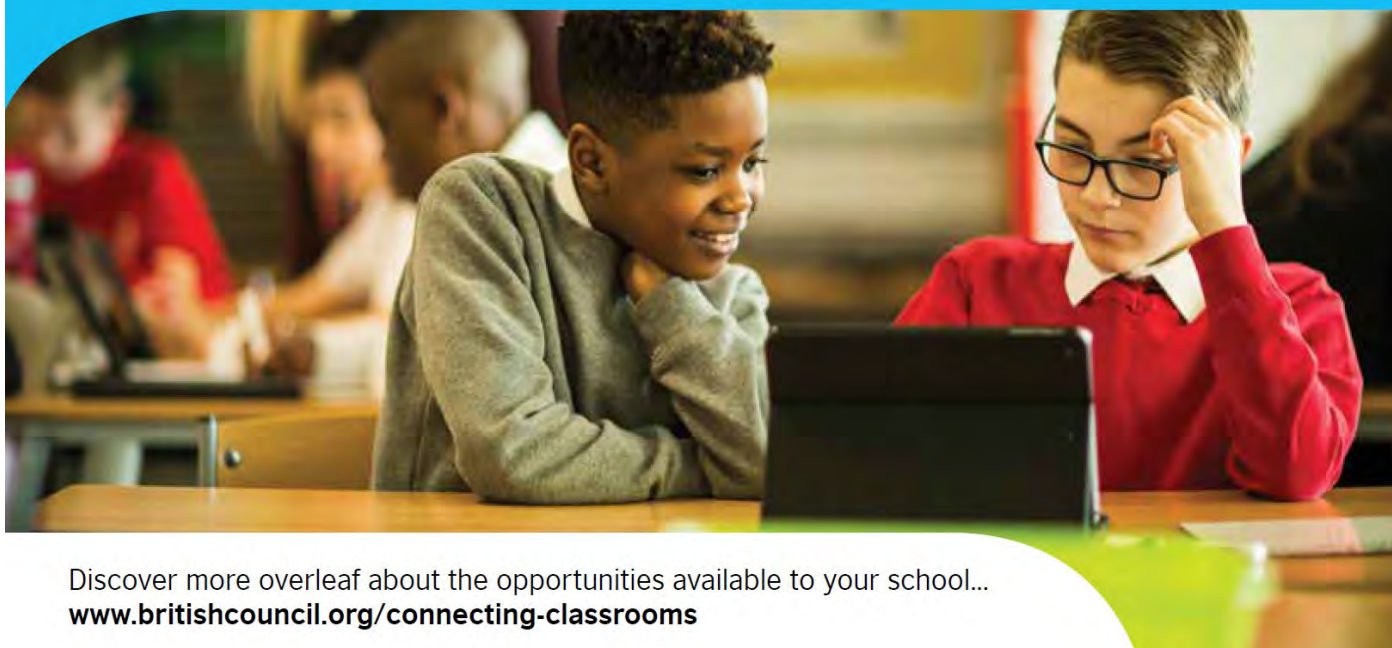
Teacher and International Co-ordinator from a school involved in the programme.



"The visit from the South African Headteachers and what they communicated about their personal experiences of apartheid was powerful and moving and helped to build a sense of moral purpose amongst both pupils and teachers."

Headteacher of London school following the hosting of a visit by international partners.

Through free professional development (CPD) for teachers, connections with other schools locally and globally and engaging learning resources, the programme helps to create a wide, rich set of experiences to develop students who can flourish in an interdependent world. Schools can receive grants of between £5,000 and £35,000 to develop their school partnerships.



Discover more overleaf about the opportunities available to your school...
www.britishcouncil.org/connecting-classrooms

Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning

provides opportunities for pupils in the UK and across the world to identify and celebrate commonalities, value differences and learn about and take action on global issues.



“What’s different about Connecting Classrooms is that it emphasises global learning as a two-way thing. It is as much about equipping British children with the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to thrive in the global economy as it is about sharing learning”

Secretary of State for Education, Sept 2018



How can my school benefit from Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning?

There are a host of learning opportunities on offer to schools and academies in England from KS1-5 (including special schools and PRUs) as part of the programme. Whether you are part of a cluster or applying for individual school opportunities, your global learning journey can be tailored to match your school’s priorities thanks to the programme’s range of flexible elements.

- Fully funded high-quality, curriculum aligned CPD to suit your school, both face-to-face and online.
- Free classroom resources to help you run a collaborative, pupil-focused programme of work related to the United Nations Global Development Goals.
- A whole school self-assessment tool and a sequenced set of learning outcomes that contribute towards a broad and rich curriculum which extends beyond the academic.
- An online partner-finding tool to help your school build international connections, as well as guidance and training to get the most from partnerships.
- Grants for reciprocal visits between partner schools in different countries, either as a cluster of schools or a one-to-one school partnership.
- Grants for lead schools to build and expand a cluster network and develop the skills of an appointed international co-ordinator.
- Funded support from a dedicated Local Advisor to help you to fully access and benefit from the programme.
- Recognition via the relevant level of the International School Award to highlight your achievements in embedding international education in your school.
- Funding to support a celebration event to share and spread the impact and a positive opportunity to engage parents and the wider community.

Imagine where financial support for partner visits, supply cover and CPD could take your school this year.

How do I find out more?

To discover more about the power of global learning and how to apply for any of the funding available, visit the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning website.

www.britishcouncil.org/connecting-classrooms

Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning is led by the British Council, the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.





Global Neighbours

An accreditation scheme for primary schools run by Christian Aid in partnership with the Church of England Education Office.

Our aim is to help schools inspire their pupils to make a difference in a challenging world. Wherever you are on the global learning journey, Christian Aid will help you to explore, strengthen and celebrate your school's potential to respond to global injustice. Global Neighbours accreditation will showcase the wonderful work you are doing to support pupils' development as courageous advocates.

Hundreds of schools have already registered for Global Neighbours - has yours?

Find out more at caid.org.uk/globalneighbours



Thrive Licensed Childhood Practitioner Course (Blended Learning)

This Thrive course is run by:

Jo Warner

Discounts may apply when booked through:

n/a

Please contact:

Jo Warner

Email:

jo.warner@drmnewcanglican.org

Phone number:

07825 877583

Course overview

Understanding what the behaviour of children is actually communicating will help you to engage children with life and learning. Ultimately, this will result in better outcomes for all children.

The Thrive Licensed Childhood Practitioner course will introduce you to the Thrive Approach, showing you how to be and what to do in response to children's varying, and often complex, social and emotional needs. The course will demonstrate how Thrive-Online, our mapping, measuring and monitoring tool, can be used to profile whole classes and individual children, and to identify strategies and action plans that will support healthy emotional and social development. You will also be presented with a raft of practical activities that will help you develop a relational stance and children that are ready to learn.

"Thrive is the whole package – a great online framework to work from, backed up scientifically and developmentally. Simple, straightforward, easy to adopt yet highly effective." – Delegate feedback

This training is ideal for anybody who comes into regular contact with children at primary school age (4 to 11 year olds). If you are passionate about developing supportive and positive relationships, enabling improved wellbeing and achievement, you are perfectly placed to implement the Thrive Approach in your setting.

Please note, you will need to bring a Wi-Fi enabled laptop or tablet to the training days along with your Thrive-Online log-in details.

Blended learning

The training will take place over six face-to-face days and three e-learning modules over approximately 14 weeks. The formal training is supported by two e-mentoring sessions.

The advantages of blended learning are:

- Fewer face-to-face days mean less time away from your pupils, plus lower cover, travel and subsistence costs
- Additional support from the trainers

Course details

Course code: PHT5234

Course cost: £1,394.00

E-learning release date: 10th March 2020

Course dates: Face-to-face training, 9.30am – 4.30pm on:
24th & 25th Mar, 14th & 15th May, 7th & 8th July 2020

E-mentoring sessions: 11th May & 30th June 2020

Course venue: Diocese of Durham and Newcastle, Church House, St Johns Terrace, NE29 6HS

with e-mentoring sessions

- Faster route to achieving your full Licensed Practitioner status
- Earlier impact from embedding the Thrive Approach in your setting.

Course content

The course will cover:

- The development and functioning of the brain and nervous system
- The six developmental stages of social and emotional development
- The principles of attachment theory
- Key strategies for building supportive relationships
- The role of the arts, play and creativity in supporting social and emotional development
- How fear, anger, loss, change, separation, bereavement and joy can interrupt learning
- Instruction and practice in using Thrive-Online to profile and create targeted action plans for whole groups and individual children, and measure progress.

By the end of the course

You should feel more confident to deal with disruptive and troubling behaviour and notice that stress levels reduce as relationships between children and staff improve.

To achieve Licensed Practitioner status, you will be required to attend all the face-to-face training days and be an authorised user of Thrive-Online with an annual Whole Setting subscription. This needs to be in place for the first day of training. If your setting is new to Thrive you may be eligible for a discounted subscription rate – please contact the Thrive Relationship Development team for more information.

To maintain your Licensed Practitioner status, you will be required to show ongoing use* of Thrive-Online and attend one continuing professional development (CPD) session each subsequent year.

*There are specific Thrive-Online usage requirements for Licensed Practitioner status.

Visionary Curriculum Leadership

National Conference 2020

Thursday 6th February 2019
10.15am -3.30pm
Methodist Central Hall
Westminster SW1H 9NH

Our 4th National Conference will feature a fantastic range of keynote speakers, practical workshops, networking and collaboration across the following streams:

- School Leaders, MAT Leaders and Governors
- Diocese Teams and Church Leaders
- School Sixth Form Younger Leaders
- Chaplaincy Leaders – **NEW FOR 2020!**

Alongside our keynotes and student-led worship and creative arts, we have a wonderful line-up of inspirational speakers and workshops leaders:

Allana Gay –James Bowen –Serdar Ferit –Tom Rees –Marie Hamer –Murray Wilkinson –Mary Hawes –Dan Finn –Luke Smith –Elisabeth Howat –James Biddulph –Joe Sidders –Miranda McKearney –Leora Cruddas –Sean Harford –David Ford –Frances Ward –Maggie Everett –Becky Francis –Floyd Woodrow –Kate Middleton –Jonathan Sharples –Lyn Swaner –Liz Bewley and many more!

Keynote Speakers:



Dr Paula Gooder
Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral

Writer & lecturer in
Biblical Studies



**The Most
Reverend and
Right Honourable
Justin Welby**
The Archbishop of
Canterbury



Mary Myatt
Author & Educator

Tickets are now available at
www.cefel.org.uk/nc20
priced at £125+VAT per person



This year's theme

Visionary Curriculum Leadership

The Church of England Vision for Education is based on Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge & Skills; Hope & Aspiration; Community & Living Well Together and Dignity & Respect. Each of these areas has key implications for the development and implementation of our curriculum:

- How could our curriculum design reflect the symbiotic relationship between **knowledge and wisdom**?
- What does **hope and aspiration** really look like in practice in relation to social justice?
- How might character education be seen as fundamental to the pursuit of academic excellence as we seek **community and living well together**?
- To what extent might **dignity** be seen as a pre-cursor to learning and progress, and affect our approach to ability grouping?

Equally, the new Ofsted framework requires schools to think deeply about the 'Intent' of the education they provide, and increased opportunities for middle leaders to articulate a vision-driven approach to the implementation of the curriculum.

This conference will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on these core issues, to hear from leading national and international thinkers, and to network with colleagues from across the country – empowering us all to design, develop, implement and teach curriculum that is grounded in Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity.

Student Leaders

Developing younger leaders is at the heart of great education. This year's conference will welcome 300 Sixth Form (and Year 11) leaders from across the country. They will experience the keynotes and worship all together, and then move into their own bespoke interactive stream of leadership development, facilitated by a range of speakers, and hosted by our partners Archbishop of York Youth Trust.

We are encouraging schools to come in groups of 10 leaders for a subsidised cost of £49 + VAT per student, including one free teacher place per 10 students. This is a fantastic way of investing in the leadership development of your student leadership teams, and connecting them with other leaders from across the country.

Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P
3AZ

T: 020 7898 1000
www.cefel.org.uk

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Whittingham CofE Primary's Harvest Festival and Food Bank contributions

Belinda Athey, Headteacher of Whittingham Church of England Primary School in Northumberland, writes:

The pupils from Whittingham Church of England Primary School in Northumberland celebrated Harvest during their Harvest Festival at St Bartholomew's Church in Whittingham. Children and parents donated produce which was later donated to Alnwick Food Bank.



Bishop Paul starts the new school year at Green Lane CofE Primary

The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham was thrilled to be asked to visit Green Lane Church of England Primary School in Barnard Castle to welcome in the new school year.

Bishop Paul was met by members of the School Council and shown around the school that received 'Excellent' in its SIAMS inspection in July 2019.

During the visit, he addressed the school assembly and told stories of his own school days and his journey from school to being Bishop of Durham. He told the children that in his first school class *"There were 6 other children called Paul and that started his journey to exploring how he could be distinctive and the best that Paul Butler could be!"* He added: "We can all be the best person we can be, and your time at school is really important in helping you to achieve that."



Bishop Paul is quizzed on matters of faith, the big bang, being Bishop and travel by members of the Green Lane CE Primary School Council (Picture: Keith Blundy)

The Bishop spent time in various classrooms looking at how the school worked before spending time with the school council being asked questions on faith, life and his own interests.



Bishop Paul is greeted by members of the Green Lane CE Primary School Council (Picture: Keith Blundy)

Bishop Paul congratulated the teaching staff, school council and everyone involved in the school for achieving such high standards in their SIAMS inspection and wished them every success for the new school year.

On his way to the school, Bishop Paul tweeted: *'Looking forward to being with Green Lane Primary this morning- life in all its fullness and lots of questions to respond to.'* His tweet referring to what the school define as their ultimate purpose saying: *"We see the ultimate purpose of education as the promotion of "life in all its fullness" (St John's Gospel, chapter 10, verse 10).* Head Teacher Mr Goffee said: "Here education is about more than just academic achievement; it is about developing young people who can flourish in all areas of their lives developing the intellectual, spiritual, moral and physical attributes, becoming proud and respectful

members of our community. Our deeply Christian ethos and values are central to the experiences our children have each day as part of 'Team GL.'"

Pupils at Whittingham CofE Primary say “#iwill” make a positive difference

Belinda Athey, Headteacher of Whittingham Church of England Primary School in Northumberland, writes to tell us:

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are part of the #iwill campaign and regularly take part in voluntary activities such as litter picking around Whittingham village. This time the pupils helped tidy the Early Years garden by gathering leaves and painting the fences.



What is the #iwill Campaign?

Young people aren't just the leaders of tomorrow. They have the energy, skills and ideas to change society and the environment for the better today. Yet society often fails to listen to young people's views or recognise their ability to make a positive difference. This is particularly the case for young people from low-income communities.

All young people should be supported and empowered to be active citizens. That's why the #iwill campaign, supported by over 1,000 organisations from across the UK, aims to make participation in social action – such as volunteering, fundraising, mentoring and campaigning – the norm for young people aged 10 to 20. Whether it's protecting the environment, tackling knife crime, improving mental health, combating racism, campaigning against period poverty or something completely different, you can make a huge difference. There are lots of ways you can take action.

You can volunteer in your local hospital, help an elderly neighbour with their shopping, mentor someone younger than you, encourage local shops to use less plastic, or campaign against discrimination in your community. You don't have to try and save the world on your own. Taking small positive actions can make a big difference.

To find out more please visit: www.iwill.org.uk/young-people

Cleadon CofE pupils enjoy a special trip to York National Railway Museum

Jayn Gray, Principal at Cleadon Church of England Academy in Sunderland, writes:

On Friday 4th October, we took more than 400 children, ages ranging from 4 – 11, to the National Railway Museum in York, travelling by train.

The whole Academy is currently following a topic entitled 'All Aboard', looking at train transport over the years. The topic has extended into just about every curriculum area, including English, Maths, Science, Technology and Art. All classes are studying the classic children's book 'The Railway Children' and last Tuesday M&M Productions theatre group came to perform the play to the whole school. After the performance, the children were surprised with a giant rail ticket and told they would all be travelling by train to York on Friday! Parents had been informed several weeks ago, but many had managed to keep the secret.



On Thursday, the children were given last minute instructions about what would happen on Friday, including the importance of getting to school early – the train would not wait for anyone! As the children left school, they were met with one last surprise. Site Manager Mr Young appeared as the Fat Controller to wave them off, while Mrs Tate from the school office became the official ticket collector, punching their golden tickets before they boarded the coaches to take them to the train station.

The children spent the day in the Museum looking at a range of trains including Stephenson's Rocket which is currently being exhibited. Pupils joined in workshops, rode on the miniature train, inspected the Royal carriages and even looked underneath one of

the trains! Of course as usual, one of the highlights of the day was consuming their packed lunch!



The children returned to school early evening, tired but still full of excitement about their big adventure. We wanted to provide the children with a memorable experience, one they would not forget. The day really made the curriculum come alive (we now have so many train experts) and we are sure they will talk about the day for a long time to come.



Bishop Christine presents Warkworth CofE Primary with Green Flag Award

Schoolchildren at a Northumberland primary school have been recognised for their work protecting their local environment.



The Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Reverend Christine Hardman presented the children at Warkworth Church of England Aided Primary School with their Green Flag Award on Monday 1st July.

The award is internationally recognised for excellence in environmental action and learning.

Headteacher Laura Ritson said: "Our children are all absolutely thrilled to be getting the Green Flag Award – it's recognition for the commitment

they've shown over the last year to improving the environment around them. Through the hard work of our Eco-Club, we are now a recycling centre for the community collecting crisp packets, ink cartridges, plastic bags for the homeless to make mats and non-branded uniform for churches.

"We have led a number of community projects from making re-usable bags with the WI, creating a giant octopus made of plastic which we paraded through Amble, to making a recipe of hope for the future with the Great North Museum which you can go and see when you visit Dippy the Dinosaur!

"We also work closely with Litterbugs and regularly attend community litter picks."

Bishop Christine commented: "The commitment the children have shown in Warkworth to enhance their environment is wonderful and I am truly honoured to be presenting them with their Green Flag Award, which is richly deserved. Caring for creation is an integral part of being a Christian and we are committed to raising awareness of environmental issues, encouraging environmental sustainability and good practice right across our Diocese."

Laura Ritson added: "We are very lucky to have Bishop Christine come and present us with the Green Flag. Our Eco-Club felt she was perfect as part of her recent pilgrimage walk along St Oswald's Way to Holy Island, focused on the Diocese's commitment to the Five Marks of Mission: one of which is to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth."

Original article published on the Diocese of Newcastle's website:
www.newcastle.anglican.org

Eco-Schools 

Planting trees for the future at Ian Ramsey CofE Academy in Stockton

Thirty-two tutor groups planted a tree in Ian Ramsey grounds on a damp morning on Tuesday 26th November.

This was all organised by Mrs Almack who applied to the Woodland Trust's free trees for schools' programme. They sent us a selection of silver birch, rowan, and wild cherry trees, with each tutor getting to choose which tree they were going to plant. Along with planting the trees, the tutor groups also had to create a time capsule with their views on environmental issues facing the world in 2019 and their hopes for the environment in the future. These would also go into the ground at the time of planting.



Mrs Almack had done some of the hard work and pre dug the thirty-two holes before the pupils arrived with their trowels ready to plant their chosen tree and time capsule. After planting their tree it was supported by a bamboo pole, and surrounded by a protective tube, to help it grow.

All of the tutor groups were given a photograph of their tree so they can watch it grow over the time they are at Ian Ramsey.

Mrs Almack commented that, "the idea is that every pupil can leave something positive behind at Ian Ramsey that future generations can go on to enjoy and see grow."

One of the pupils involved in planting the trees said, "I've had lots of fun planting our tree and really enjoyed getting muddy. Our tutor group made a time capsule saying how much we are worried about plastic in the sea and how animals die if they eat it. If someone opens our time capsule in 100 years there might not be any animals in the sea anymore if people keep throwing away plastic."



News stories from Harbottle CofE First School in Northumberland

Year 3 & 4 Trip to Lordenshaws



In Years 3 and 4 we have been really enjoying our Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age topic. We enjoyed a great afternoon out exploring the hillfort settlement at Lordenshaws.

We were joined by local historian and member of the local archaeology society, Mrs Butterworth, who guided us around the site. She showed us the different entrances to the hillfort, the storehouse locations, where the roundhouse

would have been, a Bronze Age cist and of course the famous rock art!

The children asked some thoughtful questions and made some interesting observations about the site. They all agreed that the bracken would have made very comfy bedding!

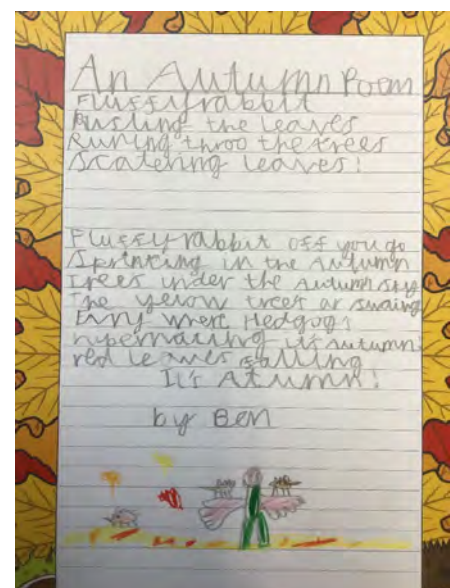
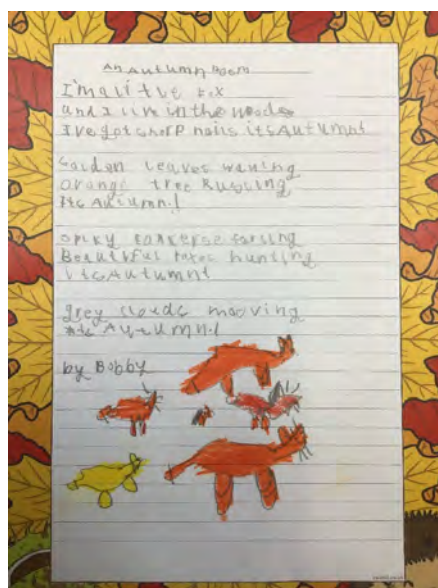


Autumn Poems

As part of our poetry unit the children have written some fabulous Autumn poems that were so good we had to share them! We started by having an Autumn walk around school.

We were looking for inspiration for exciting adjectives and verbs that we could use to make our writing really descriptive. We have talked about using repetition in our poems and as a challenge the children were asked to see if they could use rhyme.

We are really impressed and hope they give you a wonderful sense of Autumn.



Pupils at Ian Ramsey CofE Academy take part in highlighting road safety

Staff at Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy in Stockton write to tell us:

A unique road safety film was launched by Road Peace North East at this year's Annual Service of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims at Durham Cathedral last month. And Ian Ramsey pupils were lucky enough to be involved.

It wasn't just Ian Ramsey pupils that helped to make the video; Teesside University filmed and edited the video, Cleveland Police Specials, North East Ambulance Service, Cliff Theatre, Teesside Park and Thompson's Solicitors were also involved. They worked together to create a moving film that shows pupils walking home from school, distracted on their mobile phones. One of the pupils is hit and we see emergency services dealing with the incident, and her in hospital. The live action is inter cut with interviews of real families that have been affected by a road collision. All making for a hard hitting warning for others.



Milly who played the lead part said "Whilst I have always been aware of the risks around roads. I had not really stopped to think in any detail about them. Being involved in this film has made me vividly appreciate the catastrophic consequences that can happen to families, and I hope others will too."

All those who took part in the film were at the launch at Durham Cathedral on the 26th October. Ian Ramsey pupils got to watch the film through virtual reality goggles, making it a truly immersive experience. They were praised by Mr Robinson, who was also involved in the making of the film, "Your pupils were a credit to the school today in attending the service of remembrance and launch of the road safety film (and they were brilliant in starring in the film too)"

Head Teacher, Mr Janes, said, "I'm very proud of the part Ian Ramsey pupils have played in the making of and launch of this video. I will be discussing with the pupils how best to use this realistic film to help prevent any future victims of a road collisions."

Excerpt from the RoadPeace website:

Today (26 October 2019) was the launch of our first Road Safety Film following our Annual Service of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims.

Members of Cliffe Theatre, Ian Ramsey CE Academy and Cleveland Police Special Constabulary, all of who took part in the film, were at the launch; the photographs below show some of the pupils from Ian Ramsey CE Academy testing out the 360 degrees "Virtual Reality" goggles which immerses the viewer in the film to bring home the aftermath of a serious collision - and are pictured alongside Deputy Lord Lieutenant Miss Harte.

Mrs Robinson, Chair of RoadPeace North East, said: "It is hoped that the film will be used by schools across the region, and beyond, to help raise awareness and improve education around road safety and the reduction of road dangers".

The film is readily available on the Resources section of our website.



To find out more about RoadPeace and to watch the safety video, please visit:
<http://roadpeacenortheast.org.uk/campaigns/>

Henshaw and Greenhead children share the love this festive season

Sarah Hutchinson, Headteacher of both Henshaw and Greenhead Church of England Primary Schools in Northumberland, tells us:



As their 'Random Act of Kindness'- Henshaw CE Primary School went to Bardon Mill Village Hall to sing carols to the community while they were having their Community Christmas Lunch.

They handed out heart shaped biscuits to share the love at Christmas time.



Greenhead CE Primary went from Haltwhistle to Hexham, handing out heart shaped biscuits to train passengers as their 'Random Act of Kindness' and then walked to the Christmas Tree at Hexham Abbey to sing carols to the community to raise money for the Hexham Food Bank.



Continued from Page 20...



Since the children carried out their initiative on Tuesday and Thursday last week the Food Bank have had further donations and our total has surpassed £200!

Members of the community have been inspired by the kindness our children have displayed and have donated food hamper raffle prizes to our collection box for the Food Bank which we have in school.

Our children are very humble and they don't realise that their kind actions, genuine smiles and positive attitudes have had such an amazing impact on others.



Newcastle United Foundation
@NU_Foundation

Replying to @sarahlewcakes @BishopNewcastle and @NcdDiocese

Amazing! Well done, everyone! A lovely gesture ❤️

#BuildingAUnitedFuture

15:27 · 05/12/2019 · Twitter Web App

I was one of the grateful lucky passengers to be on the same train as your lovely children and teachers today. I wanted to say how well behaved the children were and what superb singers it was delightful. To be given a beautiful Christmas biscuit was such a thoughtful and kind gesture. I think your school is very special and the teachers outstanding., Thank you and Happy Christmas



Anna Dillon
@Anna_Dillon

Replying to @sarahlewcakes @BishopNewcastle and 2 others

You made my husband and I smile today. It was our first time visiting Hexham & we've just enjoyed one of the lovely biscuits with a hot cuppa. Perfect. Happy Christmas to all the pupils at Greenhead School.



15:40 · 05/12/2019 from Humshaugh, England · Twitter for Android

Cycling for charity at Ian Ramsey CofE Academy's fantastic Bikeathon event

Staff at Ian Ramsey Church of England Academy in Stockton tell us:

On Friday 29th of November Ian Ramsey came together and succeeded in cycling 146 miles over 12 hours to raise money for CLIC Sargent, a children's cancer charity.

Throughout the day members of staff took time out to cycle, whether they had on trainers, shoes or work boots, they all did their bit to chip away at the 146 miles.

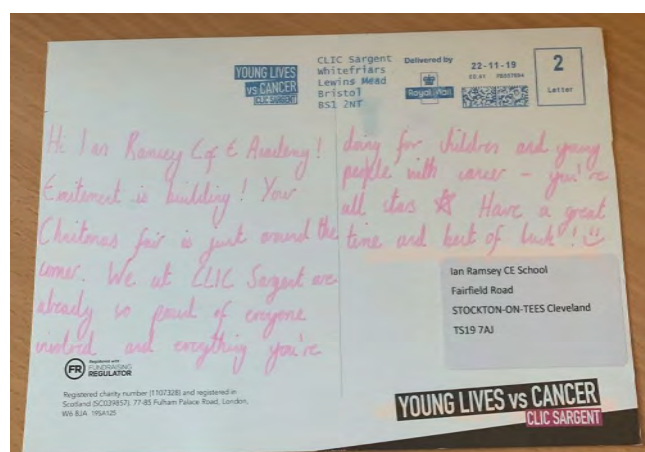
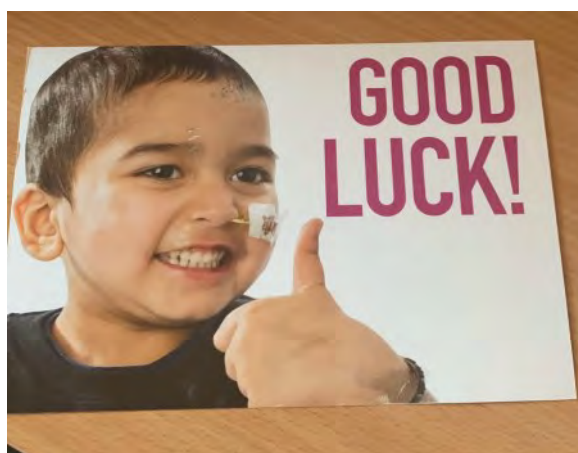
There wasn't a time in the 12 hours that there wasn't somebody sat on the bike peddling away.

The last mile was peddled during the Christmas Fayre by a Year 11 student, with a golden confetti canon being released by Mrs Proudman to mark the end of the ride.

Other stalls at the Christmas Fayre were also raising money for CLIC Sargent, with Mrs Feathersone's sweetbola and bottlebola stall raising over £250. People were also donating via a Just Giving page, and in collection buckets throughout the day and evening. In total we raised £1,478.00 for CLIC Sargent, and we are so pleased that we could achieve this!

CLIC Sargent wasn't the only charity that Ian Ramsey pupils were raising money for; one group were raising money for Dementia UK, and another for Liv's Trust, a local charity helping young people in the Creative Arts.

We are very proud of our young people and staff who all gave up their time to help others.



News stories from St Hild's Church of England School in Hartlepool

Ellie-Mae dances her way to World Championships



Ellie-Mae Rennie represented Great Britain in the recent World Cheerleading Championships in Japan.

In the competition that had talented athletes and dancers from all over the world competing, Ellie-Mae placed 2nd in the Junior Cheerleading and 4th in the Junior Cheerdance.

Her talent, dedication and hard work are absolutely astonishing. Despite being in Year 11, Ellie-Mae has balanced her training and competing with her GCSE studies with real maturity.

The School is incredibly proud of her - Well done.

To keep up-to-date with all PE news follow the PE department on Twitter [@StHildsPE](https://twitter.com/StHildsPE)

Remembrance Day at St Hild's

St Hild's held a moving Remembrance day service for the whole school on Monday 11th November.

The community of St Hild's gathered to honour the fallen; to pay respect and to give thanks for the sacrifices that men and women who serve in the armed forces have made and continue to make for our freedom.

Joined by the Ceremonial Mayor of Hartlepool, governors and veterans pupils led a powerful service that invited deep reflection.



Pupils who are in the cadets and staff who have served wore their uniforms with pride; students witnessed veteran's parade with their Standards and The Last Post signalled the 2 minute silence.

Mr Rob Taylor, Founding member of the Hartlepool Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club said: "From the smartly dressed cadets and fantastic presentation to the speeches, the school showed great respect for all of our fallen and serving forces today. All the veterans agreed it was an absolute honour and privilege to be part of your school's Remembrance Day assembly."

St Michael's Alnwick CofE Primary take part in Cathedral Art Workshop.

On Tuesday, our Red Squirrels and Ocelot class went to an Art Workshop at Newcastle Cathedral. Our Year 6 children spent the day working with their Year 1 and 2 partners and were ably assisted by the Year 5 children. Everyone was in a very creative mood learning about John and Jane Hancock as well as Ant and Dec and they all were able to produce some art which will be used for display at the cathedral during its renovation in the New Year. To visit our school website and view the pictures from the day, please click [HERE](#).

Originally posted on the Facebook page of St Michael's Church of England Primary School in Alnwick.



St Oswald's Durham schoolchildren put to the test on TV quiz show

Clever youngsters from County Durham will appear on a popular CBBC quiz show this month.

A team of Year 6 pupils from St Oswald's Church of England Aided Primary and Nursery School in Durham was selected to compete in the latest series of Top Class earlier this year.

The show will be broadcast on CBBC at 9.30am on Sunday 10 November and television viewers are encouraged to tune in to see how the children get on.

Presented by Scottish comedian Susan Calman, Top Class sees teams from across the country battle it out in a series of knockout rounds to earn the title of the UK's smartest school.

The St Oswald's team was made up of pupils Elijah Cann, Hector Sequera, Emily Joyes, Cecilia Kapsali and Jacky Robertson plus their teacher Helen Ribchester. Jacky was team reserve so did not appear on the show but he enjoyed cheering his classmates on from the side lines in the Glasgow studio.

The children were quizzed on topics from the National Curriculum, as well as a special category of their choice in the Pet Subject round. Mrs Ribchester, meanwhile, answered questions on pop culture in the Test the Teacher section.

Elijah, team captain, said: "It was exhilarating. My heart was racing for the whole programme."

Prior to appearing on the show, the pupils completed a general knowledge quiz and an online audition. They revised for months leading up to the competition, including on the train ride up to the Glasgow studio from Durham.

Mrs Ribchester said: "This has been such an exciting and rewarding experience for the children. Visiting the studio, competing in a quiz in front of a live audience and appearing on television is something they will never forget. I am incredibly proud of them all. They really are top class."

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet member for children and young people's services at Durham County Council, said: "It's good to see these children representing County Durham on a national television show. I know it celebrates the joy of learning and I will be cheering them on."



Above: Oswald's CE Primary School teacher Helen Ribchester, back left, with Top Class host Susan Calman, and pupils, from left, Celia Kapsali, Hector Sequera, Elijah Cann and Emily Joyes.

'Christmas in a Day' with PopUK at Whittingham CofE Primary School

Belinda Athey, Headteacher of Whittingham Church of England Primary School in Northumberland, writes:

The older pupils from Whittingham CofE Primary School tried something new for Christmas this year; their performance was practised and performed in just one day!



Working with Andy Silver and the charity PopUK the children learnt 5 new contemporary Christmas songs and dance moves as well as learning reading parts which were interspersed throughout the concert about the important story of Christmas.

The whole community were welcomed to an evening performance and even joined in with a Christmas medley of Christmas favourites such as *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* and Slade's *Here it is Merry Christmas* at the end!





**The latest from
PopUK**

News | Updates | Offers

“Will you ‘like’ me?”

A one-day social media project for KS2

Book now to help your children be better equipped to navigate the opportunities and challenges of living in the digital age.

Let us help you reinforce the message of **Safer Internet Day** next term with our **SPECIAL OFFER of £325** (normally £390) if booked in January.

Some of the outcomes from the day

- Children sing, record and perform 3 carefully crafted pop songs.
- A creative learning session considering the effect social media has on our well being and emotions.
- End of day assembly to invite parents and carers and to share with them the days activities.
- Reflection on topics such as online dangers, recognising the fake and phoney, friendship and positive uses.

A few comments from teachers who have experienced our very popular one-day Social Media workshop "Will you 'like' me?".

“A well crafted day which includes a sense of fun with powerful messages.”

“I know of no other social media project that engages every KS2 child with their parents with such a vital subject.”

***'Inspiring'
'Energising'
'Cool and Vibey'
'Leaves a lasting legacy'***

For more details or to book send an email to andysilver@popuk.org

Andy Silver
t: 07980 692688
e: andysilver@me.com
web: www.popuk.org

St Hild's CofE School's Celebration of Achievement 2019



Pupils, families, governors, staff, Primary Heads, Diocesan representatives and alumni gathered on November 20th 2019 to mark the 18th annual Celebration of Achievement.

The evening offered a wonderful opportunity to share the enormous talent in St Hild's.

Pupils were applauded for their hard work, effort, achievement and contribution to the school and wider community.

Guest Warrant Officer, Bob Ratcliffe, said: "I was most impressed with everything I saw,

from the beautiful building to the welcoming I received... The work of the Head Boy and Head Girl, along with their predecessors, and of all your wonderful children and young adults was inspirational."

Deputy Head, Chris Seymour, said: "It was fantastic to see so many pupils smiling with pride as they received their awards. Congratulations to all pupils who were involved."

Certificates and trophies were awarded by the Ceremonial Mayor of Hartlepool, Councillor Brenda Loynes. The Junior leadership team and the Head Boy and Head Girl spoke with real passion about the school and encouraged the achievements of others.

Mrs Gibson commented: "We are so proud of all of the pupils who received awards; they truly are inspirational and St Hild's through and through."



Holy Trinity Rosehill's amazing Children's Fundraising Committee

Andrea Swift, Headteacher of Holy Trinity Rosehill Church of England Primary School in Stockton, writes to tell us:

In October 2018 a group of our then Y6 children came to see me. "Mrs Swift, you know we are always fundraising for others and for children in our school, we were wondering if it would be possible for us to help?" they asked. Well you don't get an offer like that every day and from there our Children's Fundraising Committee was formed.

With support from Mrs Currie (our School Business Manager) and Mrs McGee (a Teaching Assistant in school) and I, we arranged our first committee meeting. At this meeting we outlined the roles required for a committee to function which include chairperson, secretary and treasurer and these roles were nominated and duly elected by the group of Y6 children. And then to business.....

Following a suggestion it was decided that the first event was to be a "pop up" apple sale at the end of the school day. We are lucky to have a number of apple trees in our school grounds and Mrs McGee and the committee dutifully picked the apples, bagged them and sold them on Friday after school. They had surplus stock and decided to hold another "pop up" sale the following day on our other school site. From then on the committee met on a monthly basis planning their next events. It was explained how to budget and that profit from events could then be used to purchase items for the next event. A Winter Warmer soup event was planned but wasn't as popular as expected so we reviewed how we could improve marketing and the committee made plans for their next event – a stall at our Friends of Holy Trinity Rosehill Christmas Fair.



It was at our November 2018 committee meeting that our children decided that they would like their fundraising to purchase much needed iPads for children in our school. Once we shared this fundraising goal the support for our Children's Fundraising Committee soared! At the Christmas Fair members of the committee prepared and sold reindeer dust and other decorations and made so much profit that it was decided that we would put up a display - in the style of thermometer – with the aim of fundraising £1,000 by July 2019 which I said would be match funded by Special Fund to enable us to purchase 6 iPADS.

And from there the committee flourished! With a hugely successful Book Sale during World Book day (advertised in school by committee members and advertised on our school Facebook page) and a hugely successful Sponsored Silence during Lent, the committee then went on to plan "Fun Day Friday" which took place on a sunny afternoon in July 2019. By the end of this event the children had raised over £2,000! I invited members of the committee to present their work to the Resources committee of our Governing Body. Our Governors were so impressed by their skills and determination that they voted on using some of our Devolved Formula Capital funding to support their work.



And so just before most of the children left our school to start their journey to secondary school it was my pleasure to meet with them to share the news that not only had they raised enough money to purchase 6 iPads but indeed their fundraising was going to be used to enable school to purchase 60 - 10 times their original target - iPads for school. 30 iPads for each site. As you can imagine they were overjoyed. And their work didn't stop there. Days before they left our school they invited some of our then Y5 children to learn from their experiences and to plan for future events. So we continue to have an amazing Children's Fundraising Committee. So from apples to iPads – due to the amazing commitment of our children we now have 60 iPads which we can use. We are truly blessed.



**The latest from
PopUK**

News | Updates | Offers

‘Easter in a Day’

An enjoyable and enriching one day workshop telling the story of Easter through our inspiring songs.

‘Easter in a Day’ has been devised specifically for KS2 with pupils learning three specially written songs, each focussing on an episode of the Easter story. The songs are easy to learn with a catchy, contemporary feel and memorable lyrics that unpack the Easter story.

The day is vibrant and pacey, combining the seriousness of the Easter story with a sense of joy and excitement. It includes:

- a creative teaching session supporting the RE curriculum
- a fun recording session in which the children record 3 songs
- a scripted assembly to finish the day with parents and carers invited
- free downloadable mp3s for each child
- schools left with singing resources and our life affirming songs

The cost of the day is just £375. We also offer longer Easter projects over 2-5 days.

Get in touch to find out how you can take part in ‘Easter in a Day’ and book now.

Phone: 0161 789 6043

[For more details, see the flyer attached & download here](#)

We can't wait to work with you on this enlightening project!

For more details or to book send an email to andysilver@popuk.org

Andy Silver
t: 07980 692688
e: andysilver@me.com
web: www.popuk.org

MUSIC AND SINGING PROJECTS THAT HELP ACHIEVE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE OUTCOMES FOR EVERY CHILD

Introducing our 1 day workshop

Easter in a Day!

A one day enrichment workshop to help children understand the Easter story through learning 3 specially written songs. Working with whole schools or chosen year groups, the day is a good way to engage parents through an end of school assembly and to engage with the local church.

Costs £375

The day includes:

- Creative session teaching the story of Easter using our own songs which supports the RE curriculum
- Recording session in which the children will record their own mini album
- The day will finish with a scripted assembly for parents to attend
- Free downloadable mp3s of the songs for every child involved
- Schools resourced with new Easter songs
- We also offer 2, 3 or 5 day Easter projects



www.popuk.org

Contact andysilver@popuk.org Mobile 07980 692688

PopUK is part of Music Plus Trust - a registered charity with Ltd company guarantee.
Charity No.1148601

'Teaching Christianity as a World Faith' Training at the RRC

Church schools will be aware that the SIAMS inspection framework (April 2018) Strand 7 asks:



- In developing effective religious education..... How well does RE help pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith through the exploration of core theological concepts using an approach that critically engages with text?
- How well does RE help pupils consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide?

Teaching about Christianity as a World Faith in RE is a course led by Chris Hudson that covers:

- * Current data about the global spread and diverse character of World Christianity
- * Key World Christian beliefs
- * Teaching ideas using examples from the World Church to help you explain how Christians understand and live out their faith today, including church buildings, symbols, festivals, artwork and relevant texts from the Bible.

Although course content is designed for primary school staff, senior schools may also find this useful.

All those attending will receive free related teaching resources, accredited for use with the Understanding Christianity programme.

The course will run at the RRC, Church House, Percy Main on 17th March 2020 from 4:30-6:00 pm and at the RRC, Cuthbert House, Durham on 6th October 2020 from 4:30-6:00 pm and is **FREE** for RRC members (each person attending must be a member); £50 for non-members.

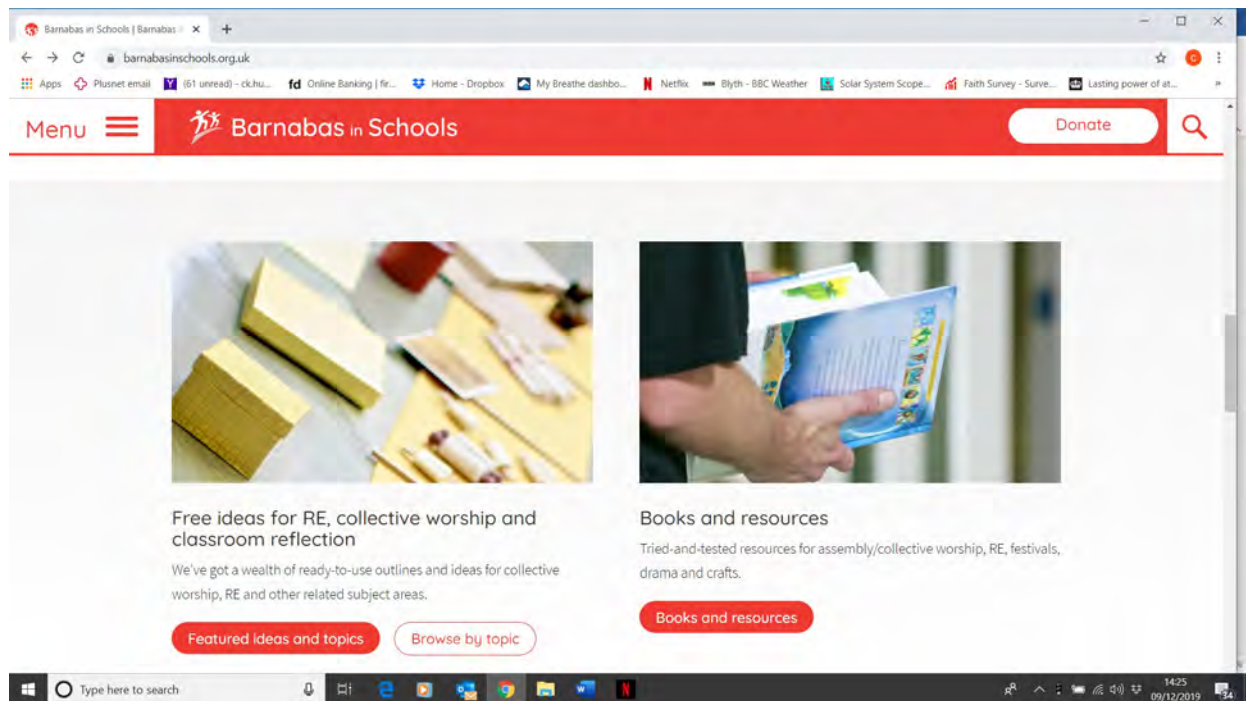
Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

To book, contact the RRC on 0191 375 0586 or email enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk

Chris Hudson works for Barnabas in Schools (part of the work of BRF, a Christian charity) He represents the Diocese of Newcastle on Northumberland and North Tyneside SACREs and has provided INSET/CPD both for these and other teaching networks, individual schools and academies. He also serves as a Foundation Governor in a local school.

Fresh ideas for Collective Worship, classroom reflection and RE

Take a walk around the Barnabas in Schools website! <https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/>



100s of downloadable articles and Ideas on a vast range of themes including....

Advent and Christmas, Saints, Bible characters, the Life of Jesus, Christianity as a world faith, the Cross as a symbol, Lent and Easter, Christian values (eg: Compassion, Respect, Resilience and Responsibility...), Sport, War and Peace, Thinking about Money, Handling personal feelings, Creation stories and caring for our world, Pilgrimage, the Narnia books of CS Lewis, Churches around the world, Halloween fears, Overcoming Prejudice, the Holy Spirit...

All designed to **enable primary schools to explore Christianity creatively and confidently.**

Sign up for our newsletter to receive regular news of updates and teaching tips!

<https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/keep-touch-barnabas-schools>

Follow us on Facebook too.

<https://www.facebook.com/Barnabas-in-Schools-714825645540620/>



Teaching about the Northern Saints?

We are delighted JET have gifted a copy of our new Northern Saints book to every church school – hopefully you've had a chance to look at yours!

For practical activities to accompany the book, the RRC now has in stock Eggsplorers with activity notes.

These are **FREE** to borrow by RRC members and are bookable in advance!

To find out more, contact the RRC on 0191 375 0586 or email enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk



For links between RE and Art you can find an interview with Illustrator Amy Warmington on how her work connects to her faith by clicking **HERE**

Whole class storytelling resources!

R.E Tell Stories *David & Goliath* and *Zacchaeus*



R.E Tell stories contain A5 story posters with the story on the back, additional props, activities and teacher's notes.

These resources are **FREE** to borrow by RRC members and bookable in advance!

To find out more, contact the RRC on 0191 375 0586 or email enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk





Seahouses Hostel



Bursary Fund Now Available!

We are delighted to announce that Seahouses Hostel has been given two generous awards; one from the Johnnie & Trisha Smith and Family Fund and the other from the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust. Both grants allow us to continue with the much-needed Bursary Fund which is made available to all visiting schools and youth groups in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and further afield.

Launched in 2017, the Bursary fund has proven to be a great asset; enabling many children from disadvantaged backgrounds to benefit from financial support and thus enjoy a residential visit here – providing the perfect opportunity for a holiday, and to experience the beautiful countryside and stunning Northumberland coastline.

We are extremely grateful to both the Johnnie & Trisha Smith and Family Fund and the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust for the grants, as are the groups we support; time and time again Leaders have commented that the children helped would simply not have been able to join in with residential visits – not just missing out on a lovely, lovely holiday but being deprived of an important part of their education and the opportunity to take part in activities and teambuilding with their peers, developing independence and life skills, building confidence – and most importantly creating very happy memories which they will always treasure.

The Bursary Fund is available now and will continue on into 2020!

For further information, please call 07531 305206 or e-mail seahouseshostel@outlook.com

Prayer Spaces in Schools resources from Christian Aid



Considering setting up a prayer space in your school? Download free activities from Christian Aid created in partnership with Prayer Spaces in Schools.

Christian Aid have partnered with the [Prayer Spaces in School](#) team to create six free, interactive prayer activities.

The activity themes are based around some of Christian Aid's projects, and focus on issues of injustice.

Why prayer spaces are useful

They provide creative ways for pupils to reflect on, and - if they want to - pray about their identity, their relationships with others, and issues of injustice around the world.

How to set up a prayer space in your school

Prayer spaces are usually set up in a classroom, a hall or some other space in the school for a few days. Volunteers from local churches host them, in partnership with the school community.

Prayer activity themes:

Christian Aid – Women

Christian Aid – House Building

Christian Aid – Rising Sea

Christian Aid – Peace Making

Christian Aid – Children Alone

Christian Aid – Clean Water

[View and download the prayer activities](#)

Find out more at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools>



Top Ten prayer activity ideas from Prayer Spaces in Schools

If you're planning towards your first prayer space, we would strongly recommend that you make use of some/all of the following Top Ten prayer themes and activities. These are all themes and prayer activities that have been tried-and-tested in a wide range of school settings, and so we have confidence that they will almost certainly work in your school setting too.

1. **Please**, e.g. [Prayer Wall](#) or [Bubble Tube](#)
2. **The World**, e.g. [Pray For The World](#)
3. **Questions**, e.g. [Big Questions](#)
4. **Thankfulness**, e.g. [Thankful Play Dough](#)
5. **Peace**, e.g. [Be Still](#)
6. **Sorry**, e.g. [Sorry Strings](#) or [Fizzy Forgiveness](#)
7. **Forgiveness**, e.g. [Forgiveness Stones](#)
8. **Worry**, e.g. [Letting Go](#) or [Name That Feeling](#)
9. **Self Identity**, e.g. [Mirrors](#) or [Masks](#)
10. **Injustice**, e.g. [Christian Aid](#) or [Cardboard Home](#)



Every prayer space should feature at least one prayer activity that focuses on an issue of injustice, local or global.

It could be a prayer activity about homelessness, with links to Crisis or Centrepont, or a prayer activity about global poverty with links to Tear Fund, or a prayer activity about abandoned children with links to World Vision.

If your school has an adopted charity then maybe you could create a prayer activity around that charity/theme.

We would also recommend that you try to select a combination of prayer activities that are directed:

- **upwards** (towards God, e.g. Big Questions, Prayer Wall),
- **outwards** (towards the world around us, e.g. Pray The News, Stop The Traffik),
- **inwards** (reflective, towards the self, e.g. Fizzy Forgiveness)

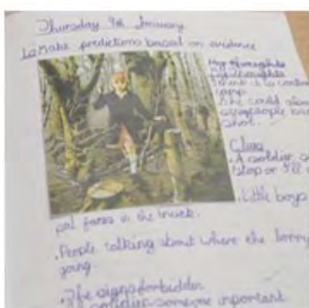
For more on choosing your prayer activities [click here](#).

Find out more at: <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/>



Literature Works

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

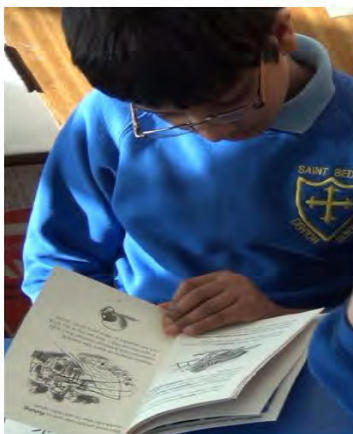


What is 'Literature Works'?

Literature Works, established in 2005, provides a practical and supportive framework for the development of language comprehension that benefits the whole primary school. It also acts as a cornerstone to a rich and balanced curriculum. Literature Works, held in high regard by school leaders, is tailored to the needs of each school. A programme of teacher CPD and school events support senior leaders and teachers to develop strategies for the progression and continuity of 'mastery' learning in literacy and English across the curriculum. Teachers use texts to sequence lessons and contextualise learning. Schools are able to make a profound difference to pupils' progress in reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, inferential thinking and writing. Pupils are enthused, are encouraged to share their views on what they have read, develop the ability to compare texts, express opinions and think critically. In writing, pupils are motivated, are able to write with a clear purpose and apply grammar and vocabulary appropriately to different writing purposes. Teachers teach to gaps in pupil learning, are able to reduce unnecessary 'scaffold' and consequently pupils achieve more.

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; including a clear reading to writing planning process, key strategies, the sequencing of teacher questions and 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 knowledge and resources
- ensure our website provides a platform for teacher's to access and share resources, ideas and knowledge



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 86% 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)



Enhanced delivery—available and accessible to all schools engaged

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; e.g 'termly' blocked grammar and vocabulary, reading 'activities' resource booklet and much more.
- 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.

Continuing Professional Development

High quality, full day, termly CPD for teacher's tailored to year group expectations. All sessions are aligned to process and key pedagogy. *For further details please see calendar of events for 2020-21.* Schools can also access bespoke in-house support. *(There is an additional charge to attend termly CPD events or access in-school support)*

Library Partnership

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

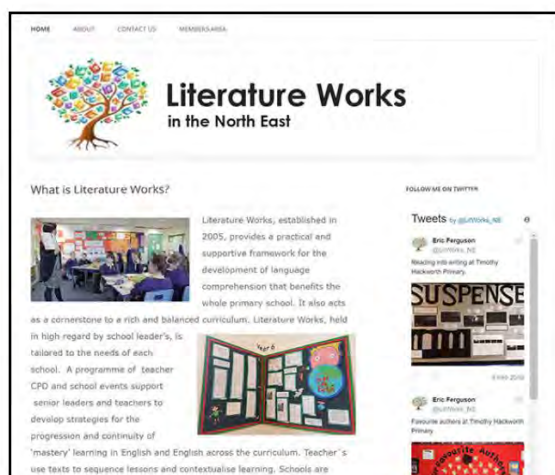
Annual Regional Conference

'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 termly author offers and library events.



For more information contact:

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Mobile: 07531017140



Follow us on Twitter @LitWorks_NE

SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY

Easter Project

Springs Dance Company specialises in RE through dance and helps young people learn about and learn from the Christian faith.



The Springs Easter Project leads pupils through a series of dance workshops that help them engage with the Easter story.

Children will learn and create movement in response to the story. There is opportunity for spiritual development and the children will use their imaginations and creativity, growing empathy, self knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. The workshops also link Jesus' relationship with his disciples to the Christian teaching of Jesus' presence today.

The workshops can culminate in an informal sharing or performance of the Easter story by the pupils, which can be shown to the school and parents.



"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"

*Head Teacher, Easter Project 2019 at
St Andrews School, Streatham.*



The project can be anything from one to six days, and can be split into workshops looking at the following sections of the Easter story:

- Palm Sunday
- Washing of the feet
- Last supper
- Garden of Gethsemane
- Trial
- Crucifixion
- Rolling away of the stone
- Mary weeping
- Resurrection

The project can be adapted to suit the school.



We are flexible as to how our workshops can fit into the school timetable.

Many schools choose to use the company one day a week leading up to Easter. Some schools prefer to fit the workshops into an intensive week or another format.

Please call us to discuss the best option for your school.

To book for 2020 or for a friendly chat about our work, please call us on 07876 752 910 or email: touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk



Other popular workshop themes include:

Parable, Exploring Values, A Christmas Story: Refugee, Get Fit Go Green, Stepping Out (for big changes) and *The Magic Paintbrush*.

Springs can also bring magical dance theatre to you, transforming your school into a theatre. To find out more about our literature linked, professional productions, get in touch.

“Probably the best dance I’ve seen in any school, ever!”

School Inspector talking about a children’s performance as part of a six week project by Springs Dance Company.



www.springsdancecompany.org.uk