

# DBE Schools Bulletin

April/May 2021

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



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This latest edition of the DBE Schools Bulletin covers both April and May, as it is published at the start of the summer term. The return to school following the Easter break has also coincided with the relaxation of some of the co-vid restrictions and the wider re-opening of services, with further restrictions due to be lifted on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. These steps hopefully will see local communities re-awakening and providing opportunities to return to some activities and limited social gatherings that have been temporarily suspended during lockdown.

Schools rightly remain cautious and extra-vigilant, with continued social distancing measures still in place, but hopefully as the term progresses there will be greater flexibility in being able to undertake some of the activities and events that usually occur in schools during the summer term. I am hopeful that this will also mean that DBE officers will be able to provide direct support, including visits to schools at the invitation of headteachers, as the term progresses, as well as continuing our support remotely. Such visits will be in line with our own strict protocol and following schools' own risk assessments.

As we look further ahead, our Year 6 Leavers' Service, like last year and due to the pandemic, will take place on-line. Whilst it is disappointing not to be able to provide a 'dynamic' experience for pupils at Chester Cathedral and St Mary's Church, Astbury, it does mean that all of our schools and Year 6 pupils will be able to join and share in the service. It is scheduled to take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July, so do make a note of the date. Further details can be found on page 6.

## Admissions

### Important Information for Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies Regarding Admissions

We have been informed that a new admissions code is due to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. The code is due to be laid before parliament in late April with guidance and further information due in late May or early June to support it. Once it is laid before parliament and we can see what the code includes we will start to amend our admissions guidance ready for the final publication of the code. During the autumn term we will then be asking schools to make changes and return policies to us for checking. In an added complication as the code comes into force immediately on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 there will be a need to amend both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 policies that have already been published as it will impact waiting lists for 2021/22. Unlike last summer these changes do not need to be agreed by the school's adjudicator as they will be a legal requirement and so the changes just need to be made by the school once the code is published.

The main changes that are proposed in the code are:

- The inclusion in the required first criteria for Looked After Children to include those that were previously Looked After overseas.
- Fair access protocol changes to make it quicker to place children out of education. It will set out a list of children eligible to be considered under the FAP rather than leaving it to LAs to determine. There will also be a clearer definition of what is meant by "challenging behaviour".
- In-year admissions may be co-ordinated by the LA and information on the process placed on LA websites. Schools will be asked to inform the LA by the 1<sup>st</sup> August if they wish to take part in the in-year co-ordinated scheme.

In addition to the new code the DfE are also supporting a private members bill that will require the DfE to issue statutory guidance on the cost and procurement of school uniform.

We will update our guidance and inform schools as soon as we have any more information.

### Issues raised from the determination process in summer 2020

As you know all schools with faith criteria had to go through a process last summer to amend policies in-year to cover the closure of places of worship. Although the OSA did not look at full policies they did identify areas that needed amending as they were not fully compliant with the code and some schools were required to add further clarification to their policies. In addition to this the C of E central team reviewed the report and findings of the process and identified the following areas that we would urge schools to look at as you prepare your policy for 2023. In it you will see that they are suggesting a new frame of wording for identifying Christian Churches which you may wish to adopt. Obviously each school context is different and it is for the governing board to decide what criteria serve their needs best within the legal parameters of the code.

Checklist	Notes
Both the duration and frequency of attendance at public worship must be clearly defined and provide an obvious threshold.	<p>Duration: express this in terms of the period for which attendance is required e.g.; <i>not less than 12 months prior to the closing date specified on which the application is submitted</i></p> <p>Frequency: again, ensure this is explicitly defined e.g. <i>'not less than 8 times in ...'</i>; <i>'not less than monthly/ fortnightly ...'</i></p>
Ensure the frequency and duration of attendance at public worship is reasonable and proportionate.	Consider the age of the children seeking admission and the school calendar, so that it is reasonable to expect applicants will be generally able to meet the requirement.
Ensure that attendance at public worship is sufficiently defined.	<p>Whether attendance at worship is acceptable in admission arrangements would need to be tested against: (a) whether it had been laid out as an activity by the diocese and (b) whether it was clear, objective and reasonable</p> <p>This criterion means physical attendance at an act of public worship. Online worship and private prayers in the church building do not meet this requirement.</p> <p>Whilst the pattern of church worship naturally varies, the routine weekly services (morning and evening prayer and celebration of the Eucharist) meet this criterion, as do the many other forms of public worship found in the Church of England.</p> <p>Note that there is no requirement for attendance to be only on a Sunday in order to count. In fact, to seek to insist on this is almost certainly discriminatory, for example for those families where shift work precludes this.</p>

<p>Wherever possible, avoid restricting church attendance to only one or a small number of named churches.</p>	<p>Whilst there is nothing in the Code to preclude this and it is not unusual to see individual churches named (often where there is a particular historic link) it can create difficulty for families who may not be able to attend that specific church. The reasons for this may vary, including work, family and caring commitments, or even their preference for a particular ethos or tradition. This makes things more complicated if people have re located.</p> <p>In addition, as pastoral reorganisations increase in number and scale, it may be wiser to broaden the range of churches that are within the criteria, for example to 'any Church of England church.</p>
<p>Ensure there is a clear definition of 'churches' in any criteria.</p>	<p>It is advisable to use the definition included in the variation guidance, namely <i>'Christian church means any church which is designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York or locally by the diocesan bishop, or is a member of Churches Together in England, or the Evangelical Alliance, or a partner church of Affinity'</i></p>
<p>Check whether a priority is to be given to those of other faiths.</p>	<p>Admissions authorities are not obliged to make this provision under the Code, but many do so. If doing so, the rationale for including only some faiths needs to be carefully explained. It is also crucial to frame the attendance criteria for these faiths so that their adherents are not unintentionally excluded from fulfilling them e.g., by not specifying that attendance at worship must be on a Sunday.</p>
<p>Check that the wording on faith-based criteria of the admissions policy, the SIF and any clergy reference form is identical.</p>	<p>This is essential.</p>

Check if a SIF is required	A SIF must only be required to obtain essential information not included on the Common Application Form. It is not therefore required in every case. The two principal reasons it can be required are if the school uses faith-based criteria or takes account of social or medical need within its criteria (for which additional evidence is normally required.)
Check if faith-based criteria are still appropriate.	In addition to compatibility with the school's ethos, where the school is regularly undersubscribed to a significant degree retaining faith-based oversubscription criteria appears pointless and may be thought by some possible applicants to be a barrier to admission (however mistakenly).

As a new code is due out this is a great opportunity to really reflect on your admissions policy and whether it is appropriate for your school at this time. There is also a requirement to consult once every 7 years and, again, the publication of the code and subsequent changes to the policy makes this a good time to consult.

As always if you have any queries about admissions please email [sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org). Please be aware that the final changes to the code won't be known until it is laid before parliament, so we are unable to advise on exact wording for the proposed changes until then.

## Updated Church of England Model Contracts of Employment for Schools & Academies

The Church of England Education Office provides a set of contracts for Church Voluntary Aided school and academy staff. The contracts have been revised in 2020 to comply with current legislation. In a VA school or MAT, governors must ensure that staff have the correct contract of employment - LA contracts should NOT be used, but National Society contracts which can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

These model contracts are available as word documents so that users can edit and adapt them as needed. These are for use for new employees and if there is any review of contracts undertaken. Academies need to remember that TUPE applies for staff that transferred.

## Leavers' Service 2021



We are delighted to give you some information about the 2021 Year Six Leavers' service.

Normally by now we would be well on our way with our planning and preparation for our year six leavers' services in the Cathedral and also at St Mary's, Astbury. Although we know there is a roadmap to lifting restrictions, we are very aware that these plans may change depending upon circumstances at the time and that in early July schools may still wish to show some caution as to the events they attend and the number of schools they

mix with.

To this end and, wanting to ensure we have something in place that won't be at risk of last minute cancellation, we have made the decision to offer our year six leavers' service online, **premiering on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30am (Please note that this is a change of date due to a clash with transition days)** through a secure YouTube link. Obviously we would prefer to meet together and sing in person but one of the benefits is the fact that we are not limited in numbers and there is no need for people to travel long distances or attend different venues so we can all be worshipping together even though we are apart. The theme this year will be **Hope**. Details of the log in will be sent nearer the time but we hope that you can add the date into your diary (don't worry if it clashes with something else as we will make it available for you to enjoy after the premier). In the meantime, we would appreciate your help in preparing your year six ready for the service in a number of ways.

**Banners or pictures** – when we meet in person we normally have a procession of banners completed by the children to celebrate their time in school. If you would still like to do this activity and then send a picture of the banner to us at [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org) then we plan to have a scrolling presentation prior to the start of the service.

**Learning Songs** – we would appreciate it if your year six could learn the following two songs. The second song 'New, New Day' is signed in Makaton so even if we can't sing along we can sign the song together.

Greater by Mercy Me [MercyMe - Greater \(Official Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

New, New day (song with Makaton signing) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hyqv6nxRv28>

**Prepare for our time of prayer** - Prayer forms a key part of our Leavers' Service, and this year is no exception. The thought of High School is both exciting and daunting in equal measure the writer in Hebrews 12 talks of needing to lift up drooping hands and strengthen weak knees as we mark out a straight path. So, in our space for prayer, we're encouraging our young people to take their hopes for the future to God, trusting that he is the one guiding the path that lies before them and gaining strength to move on. **Each person attending will need a length of ribbon or string in which to tie some knots**, all will be revealed closer to the time.

We can't wait for you to join us.

## Headteacher Wellbeing Sessions – Additional Dates

We are pleased to advise that further dates have been arranged for governors and headteachers who were unable to attend the spring term Headteacher Wellbeing Sessions. The sessions are an opportunity to put the recently released Headteacher Wellbeing Handbook to use. We will explore the handbook in more detail, look at how it can be used to support headteacher wellbeing and see what changes can be made to policy and practice to ensure headteacher wellbeing is well supported.

We are offering two sessions in the summer term; the first session is aimed at governors and the second session is for both headteachers and governors and we would encourage headteachers to attend this session with a governor. Governors are more than welcome to attend both sessions. The sessions will take place on the below dates:

**[Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 9.30am - 11am - Headteacher Wellbeing REPEAT Session 1 - FOR GOVERNORS](#)**

**[Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 1.30pm - 3pm - Headteacher Wellbeing REPEAT Session 2 - FOR HEADTEACHERS & GOVERNORS](#)**

The sessions are free and can be booked through our online booking system, Bookwhen, by either clicking on the chosen event above or by clicking [here](#).



### Here to Listen

*A volunteer listening project, 'serving the common good'.*

As school leaders, we know that a positive emotional state is vital for both learning and interacting socially. Churches know that God calls us to live and serve our communities as Jesus did – the Bible tells us he had great compassion on the crowds of people he encountered, meeting them at their point of need. (Matt 14:14 / Mark 6:34)

We recognise, coming out of the pandemic, that there are many external agendas that consume the time that school staff have at their disposal and the academic pressure to 'catch up'. We also understand that pupils and staff may need so much more to address their emotional needs too. To this end we have been looking at ways in which the church can serve schools at this time. A small working party have been laying the foundations for a volunteer listening service that will enhance the time that schools have to offer, to step back and just listen as our children and young people need to talk.

We're now looking for volunteer schools to pilot this in the Autumn Term 2021. If you would like to find out more about this, and think that your school community may benefit from being supported in this way, please contact Jen Mcilveen for more details.

[jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org)

## Church School Links During & After Lockdown

### Pott Shrigley Church School



Each month St. Christopher's Church prints a wordsearch in their Hot Pott magazine. Ms Bromley decided to set KS2 the challenge of completing this month's edition which was quite a challenge and encouraged the children to reach for their Bibles in order to be able to complete the task. Everyone enjoyed the activity, and it has been decided this will be a regular activity to be completed in class.



### Elworth C of E Primary School



The Feel-Good Club at Elworth CE School started during the second Covid-19 National Lockdown and was originally designed as an online meet up each week between the Learning Mentor, Sara Roberts and the children of KS2 together with myself as Chaplain of the school.

The Club has wellbeing at its heart and aims to reach out to those children who may or may not be struggling emotionally during this uncertain season. Activities are designed around a weekly check in where the children give a judgement as to how they are feeling that week. There is always an opportunity for a follow up if a child grades themselves low for that week. Then a range of games, video clips, challenges are engaged with, all aimed at helping the children to explore their emotional wellbeing and their choices and responses to specific situations.

During the first few weeks of the Club, the number of children joining online gradually increased and specific children were identified who might need a little extra emotional support with the day-to-day situation of living in such challenging times.



So successful has the club been that the school has decided to continue now that we are all back in the classroom. Each week a pre-recorded session is available to the children and currently in excess of thirty children have been attending online after school. The plan is that the resources produced for the club will be available to both KS1 and KS2 at levels appropriate to their stage of learning and development.

As Chaplain, being part of the Feel-Good Club is integral to my role at Elworth CE School. Through the exploration of our various topics, a spiritual element can be explored too and the children can be provided with the knowledge that God loves them and can be relied upon to work through the help of others. For those who believe, personal prayer is a comfort and support and the children also know that I pray for them too as part of my spiritual commitment to the school community. There is huge value to a school community where the Wellbeing and Mental Health teams work together with the Spiritual Team of the school to produce young people whose physical, emotional and spiritual needs are being met.

Cathryn Houghton, Chaplain.

## Ramadan Resource

The Muslim festival of Ramadan runs from April 12<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> May, in which 1.6 billion Muslims are fasting and celebrating around the world. During this holy month, families around the world will prepare their iftar meals after sunset to break their daily fasts. This short film ventures into the kitchen of five Muslim women preparing food for their families in five different countries, from India to Syria to the United States. Though none of these women have met one another, there is a bond of tradition and global community that connects them. To view the video, click on the image above.



## Springs Dance Company



A brand-new professional performance and integrated workshop experience by Springs Dance Company, providing schools with a chance to boost children's engagement with RE. Delivered with Covid safety at the forefront, PARABLE is an exciting opportunity for children to encounter and overcome creative challenges, accomplish tasks, and influence the outcome of the show. For further details on PARABLE please visit <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/parable/>

**PARABLE**  
**INTERACTIVE**  
Performance Workshop

Also being delivered this summer are our popular workshops *Get Fit Go Green, You Are Special, The Selfish Giant* (with a focus on values) and our *Back to School Wellbeing Workshops*. To find out more please visit <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/join-in/schools-workshops/>

To book and for further details please email [touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk) or call **07876 752 910**.

## April & May 2021 Courses

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
23/04/21	<a href="#">Heads Chairs &amp; Incumbents Briefing</a>	ON-LINE
27/04/21	<a href="#">Religious Education &amp; the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule</a>	ON-LINE
28/04/21	<a href="#">Fresh Voices -Young People &amp; Participation</a>	ON-LINE
29/04/21	<a href="#">Chairs' Clinic &amp; Networking Group</a>	ON-LINE
05/05/21	<a href="#">NQT Course 2020 -21 -6 Day Programme ** Please Check Course Details for Rearranged Dates **</a>	ON-LINE
05/05/21	<a href="#">Building Work in VA Schools</a>	ON-LINE
06/05/21	<a href="#">Headteacher wellbeing Session for Governors **REPEAT SESSION**</a>	ON-LINE
06/05/21	<a href="#">New Headteacher -Online Catch up &amp; Networking event</a>	ON-LINE
17/05/21	<a href="#">Chairs' Clinic &amp; Networking Group</a>	ON-LINE
19/05/21	<a href="#">Valuing all Gods Children</a>	ON-LINE
24/05/21	<a href="#">Vision Ambassadors- A Pupil Conference **RESCHEDULED COURSE **</a>	ON-LINE
26/05/21	<a href="#">Preparing for SIAMS- An Inspector's Eye View ** REPEAT COURSE**</a>	ON-LINE

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

CLUSTER GROUP	DATE	TIME
<b>SUMMER TERM DATES 2021</b>		
Chester HTs	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	10am-12pm
Macclesfield HTs	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	10am-12pm
Nantwich/Congleton HTS	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	10am -12pm
Northwich HTs	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Rural Chester HTs	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	1.30pm -3.30pm
Stockport/Tameside HTs	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May <b>*NEW DATE &amp; TIME*</b>	10am -12pm
Trafford HTs	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	10am -12pm
Warrington HTs	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> May <b>* NEW DATE &amp; TIME</b>	1.30pm – 3.30pm
Wirral HTs	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10am -12noon

Joining instructions will be sent out nearer the meeting date. For any queries, please contact [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

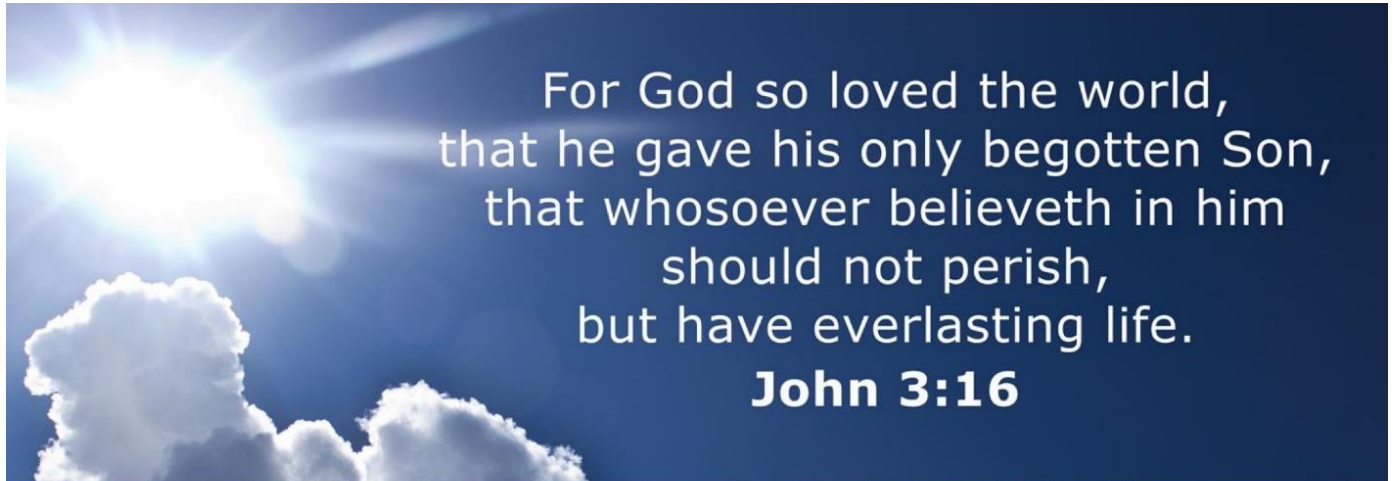
## DBE Officer New Contact Details

Please note new contact telephone numbers for members of the DBE team have been added to enable schools to contact officers by phone as well as e-mail during this period.

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org">sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org</a>	Governance & Administrator	07549 109590

# News from Schools

## Altrincham C of E Primary School



## Bollington St John's C of E Primary School



Children and staff in school dressed for World Book Day.

Pupils from Class 4 recently went to the recreation ground to help plant a Japanese willow tree in remembrance of all who have lost their lives during the pandemic. Bollington council wanted to plant the tree as a symbol of hope. Some of the children wrote prayers to hang on the branches.

## Broadbottom C of E Primary School

### A Blast from the Past

Last year a remarkable thing happened. A gentleman by the name of Cyril Istead, who lives in London, contacted school after 80 years. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Cyril had been evacuated to Broadbottom in 1941 and had attended the school. He arrived from London on the train and came to live in Broadbottom with Mr & Mrs Ashworth opposite the train station.

At a similar time, an ad hoc visitor came to school one day, this was a gentleman called Fred, who had moved to the area at the same time as Cyril and lived in London too. Fred had previously visited school in 2019 to have a look around and reminisce about his school days. He was born in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, in 1930 and moved to Broadbottom in 1934 because of property and there was plenty of work in Manchester. Fred started his schooling days in Broadbottom in 1935 and enjoyed every minute. Both men were later put in contact with each other via school and shared lots of memories, although they could not recall one another.



Fred recalled two of his teachers, who he said were wonderful, Miss Edith Evans and Mr Frank Edward Mason, he was incredibly happy at Broadbottom and proud to have become Head Boy. Fred says, 'There was always a class divide between those above the railway station and those below and as I lived in Mill Street (now demolished) I knew my place!'

Below is a photo of Fred and the whole school which was taken about 1937 and an individual school photograph (above) which he thinks was, taken at the same time. Fred had kept his last school report safe for all these years, which describes him as an excellent pupil.



Report July 1937  
Fred Smith

Subject	Marks possible	Actual
Reading	20	20
Recitation	20	20
E. Language	50	47
Composition	40	38
Writing	10	8
Arithmetic	100	78
History	50	41
Geography	50	47
A.P.	20	16
Drawing	30	23
	<u>330</u>	<u>336</u>

Position in Class: 2

Teachers Remarks: Very excellent results, a conscientious, steady, reliable worker, worthy of a staff & house.

Cyril has continued to stay in contact with us sharing many fond memories of his time as a pupil at Broadbottom. Recently, he has written a letter to the pupils with details of school life in those days and sent a picture of himself and a school report.

Everyone at school has been very humbled to have made new friends and intend to keep in continuous contact with Cyril and Fred. Cyril had enjoyed life at Broadbottom so much, that he sent a gift which has enabled the purchase a reading bench (below) for the children and fondly named it 'Cyril's Bench.'



## Lostock Gramam C of E Primary School

Within the school's worship theme of Respect and in conjunction with new work on the Global Goals, the children have been exploring how they can nurture and protect God's creation, especially within the school grounds. The children have used recycled wood from old PE sheds to build a Hide where they can closely observe God's creatures and recycled railings from a prior mobile to create a safe new pathway into the woodland. The aim was to encourage wildlife back into the school as due to local new housing the children were worried that animals were losing their homes. Therefore, the children have made bird boxes, a hedgehog house, and a bug hotel to provide safe habitats and hopefully bird song once again. Everyone is enjoying the new woodland area and listening to nature's song that God created.

Children and staff were delighted to be back inside their beautiful church once again last week to watch a pre-recorded Easter worship. It was definitely a goose bump moment for each teacher as they stood back and watched the children's eyes darting everywhere trying to take it all in. Even the Reception children visited for the first time. Everyone was given sunflower seeds to take home as sunflowers turn to the light in order to flourish just as the school mission statement reminds us that Christ is the light that guides us in our lives.

## Lower Peover C of E Primary School

**Have been awarded the Gold REQM award.**

***'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord' Colossians 3:23***

On their return to school following the most recent national lockdown, the whole school's vision was revisited. The children came up with the idea of a tree to represent the vision and Christian values. All classes created a branch and root from recycled items and every child created a leaf. The tree was then constructed and displayed in the entrance alongside a canvas of an owl (the school logo) made by three of year six children; reminding us daily of the vision and values we behold.



*The tree represents the school, the Lord's creation.*

*The branches are our families, staff, governors and trustees who all work together to ensure the leaves reach high and flourish.*

*The leaves growing on our tree represent the children and each one of them grows to be the best they can be, under God's guidance.*

*The roots of the tree are our six core Christian values in our school which underpin everything.*

*The trunk is the heart of the tree, where our strong Christian ethos and distinctiveness runs through all aspects of school life.*

*The rays of sunshine shining on our tree shower our tree with light and show that all children shine in our school.*

*The owl represents the wisdom, knowledge and responsibility we all strive for at Lower Peover.*



**Moreton Christ Church C of E Primary School**



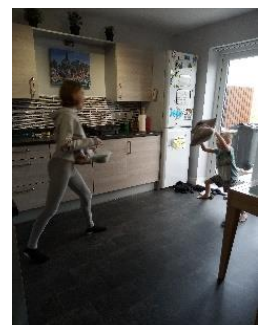
During school closure Team Christ Church worked really hard to promote and celebrate the community’s resilience, support and togetherness during school closure. Everyone had lots of fun making a video to demonstrate how they managed to stay together, despite being apart in so many different ways. There were regular challenges and events that brought the community together.

Please click this link: <https://youtu.be/q1P0sQt8q40>

or use the QR code to see exactly how much joy this brought to our whole community.



Children across the school took part in the Joy of Moving Festival delivered by 73 EFL Trust Network Club Community Organisations including our local football club Tranmere Rovers FC. Our children always rise to a physical challenge and some of our older



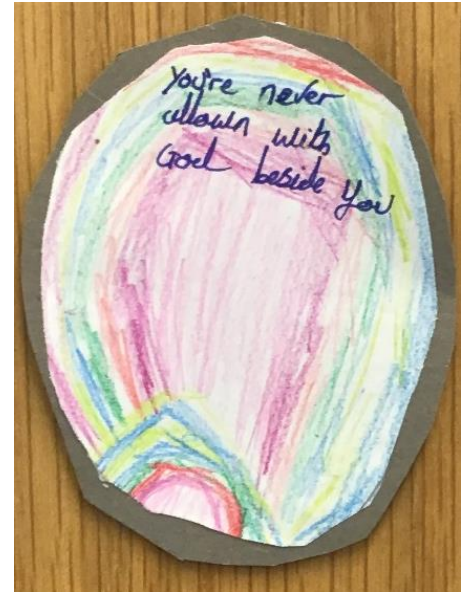
siblings demonstrated great patience in completing the challenges with their younger siblings.





Post lockdown the school motto is, **‘Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us’**. This promise is true, and it has been shown through such a smooth return to school for all the children and families. The children have

settled back into their routines really well and are enjoying reacquainting themselves with their friends. The focus is on the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of the children and teaching an enriched curriculum that maximises the use of the outdoor forest school classroom and allotment area, as children develop their social skills and friendships. It is a joy to hear the school once again filled with a chorus of happy children learning safely with their friends.



### Mossley C of E Primary School

#### ‘They shall have life, life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10)



Year 4 class recently had a Zoom lesson with Reverend Langton-Miller from Wellspring Methodist Church in Congleton. The children learnt about the colours used throughout the church year and what they represented.

Reverend Langton-Miller showed the Year 4 children the different photos of what she might wear during the Christian calendar. From the information that the children

learnt, they designed new robes for the Reverend thinking about the important colours and Christian symbols.



Year 5 had an ‘Experience Easter’ Zoom lesson led by members of Wellspring. The children had an Easter story puzzle that they had to put together which created the shape of a cross with Jesus in the middle. During the session, the children also learnt about crosses from around the world. They had the chance to research and then design their own cross using scratch art.

## Pott Shrigley Church School

The children worked in mixed age groups during the recent Christian Values Day where they looked in depth at Hope, Bravery and Compassion. It was a fabulous day which saw the children plant bulbs to represent Hope, create courage jars to help them be a little bit Braver and design pebbles with a Compassionate theme. The children enjoyed time for reflection during the day which was concluded with a wonderful service in Church by Reverend David. Many thanks to two foundation governors Sally & Audrey for joining everyone on the day.



## Sale St Anne's C of E Primary School

### Part of the Puzzle Art Project

After the UK went into its third Lockdown, and within the early days of schools closing, the importance of looking after the emotional wellbeing of all children and families became clearer than ever. Wellbeing Wednesdays became an integral part of the weekly timetable and aimed to provide children with the opportunity to participate in a choice of screen-free activities designed to encourage a mindful return to connecting with themselves and the world around them.



During Mental Health Week, a whole school art project was launched inviting children to design and decorate a jigsaw puzzle piece which communicated something about themselves. Children at home and in school Key Worker bubbles used a variety of art skills and techniques, ranging from charcoal drawing to collage, creating puzzle pieces personal to themselves.

The project had the highest return rate of any school projects and everyone was thrilled to see that members of the wider school community had also participated: pupils, parents, grandparents, and members of staff were all keen to use the medium of art to tell us something about themselves and how they were feeling in the midst of the global pandemic. The individual pieces were returned to school and can now be seen displayed together in the school hall. The resulting collaborative piece of artwork demonstrates that every member of the school family is unique, special, and valued. Even though everyone was apart during Lockdown, they all have a place in the puzzle of St Anne's CE Primary School. Follow the link to view the artwork: <https://video.link/w/z1XTb>

## Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School

***We aim high in our hearts and minds as we blossom in God's garden.  
Luke 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God***



It was wonderful to welcome everyone back on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Shocklach has come alive once again with learning, laughter and love. Witnessing special reunions and the forging of new friendships has highlighted that joy is contagious as is love, compassion and generosity.

### British Science Week

The children loved celebrating British Science Week with lots of creative and practical activities. With its theme, 'Innovating for the future', we learnt about the importance of bees and had lots of fun making seed bombs! The children also learnt about renewable energy sources, how to make electric circuits and the different types of plastics.

### School Dog, Ronnie

Ronnie has been particularly excited to see all the children again in school. He is looking super smart in his new Shocklach branded harness and is always on hand for when a cuddle is needed.

### Wind Chimes for the Forest

Taking advantage of the blustery conditions, Foxes Class set about making new wind chimes for our forest area. They particularly enjoyed developing their skills with saws!

### Virtual Mystery Readers

To support our love of reading in school, we have surprise mystery readers zooming in to share a chapter of a favourite book with the children. Last week, the children were absolutely convinced it was *the* David Walliams but it was later revealed to be an ex-Shocklach pupil who is now at Bishop Heber! We have parents, grandparents and friends of the school lined up, along with some author talks, for next term.

### Mother's Day Service

It was lovely to be a part of St Mary's and St Edith's virtual Mother's Day service. The children wrote some beautiful prayers to celebrate and thank their mums, not least for being such incredible teachers and multi taskers when schools were closed! Reverend Tim and Norma also shared the children's stunning artwork that made special Mother's Day gifts.

### National Day of Reflection

At the time of writing, staff are busy planning for the children to come together on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown and reflect on the past year and share hopes for the future. Behind the statistics and whatever the cause, every death has been devastating for the people left behind. We will be giving children opportunities to reflect, connect and support.

## St Mary's Runcorn C of E Primary School

### Runcorn School's Work Tackling Global Poverty Recognised with Christian Aid Award

Pupils have been presented with a Bronze Award from [Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Scheme](#) for their global citizenship work. From curriculum work on 'Saving our Planet', and the toilet twinning Blue for Loo activity, to links with Uganda to donating food for local people, pupils and staff have been working hard to take their place as global citizens.



The accreditation scheme celebrates schools that are helping pupils learn about global poverty and the Christian responsibility to tackle it, as well as giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world.

St Mary's Runcorn C of E Primary School has achieved Bronze Award status in recognition of its wide-ranging steps to love their global neighbour.

It's wonderful to see how staff and pupils have taken this to heart and are seeking to tackle injustice.