



EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE SCHOOLS' NEWS JULY 2020



Dear colleagues,

It has been a very challenging few months, but you have faced up to it all with grace compassion and resilience. We hope you manage to get some rest and relaxation over the Summer and come back rested to a new Term, which we know will be challenging. Our sincere thanks and best wishes to all from the school's service team.



Below some news to share with you all.

Sacred Heart VA Catholic Primary School, Swaffham, celebrates an exciting first year

The new school of Sacred Heart came into existence on the 1st September 2019. The school is funded by the Government and supported by the Diocese of East Anglia. This became the start of an exciting time of growth and the opportunity for the children and families of Swaffham and surrounding areas. We began life on the grounds of the existing all through school, which has meant we have been able to take over the facilities that many primary schools would be envious of. We have a dedicated computer room, a science lab, a home economics room, a library, a gymnasium and a huge sports barn with additional tennis courts as well as a large field and outdoor learning areas.

We are a growing school with dedicated staff. We have classes from Reception through to Year 6 and have places available in each year group. We have capacity to be a one form entry primary school of 210 children. The Catholic nature of our school means that we are universal in our approach to those who attend the school. The fundamental Christian values and ethos permeates the way in which we deliver the curriculum and support our families in their children's learning journey and their faith. We have fun and enjoy our learning and are excited about the future.

Like all schools across the country our first year has been interrupted by Covid-19. Our staff have been on hand to support the children to continue their learning both at home and for those able to attend school. This has taken shape in many different forms, this is what some of our children have said about the time during lockdown

"I felt like a new girl again because I hadn't been in for such a long time. I was excited because I could see my friends and teachers but nervous because I wasn't sure how school would be and I couldn't get too close to my friends in the playground. There were some changes in the school, we all have our own desks and stationery so no sharing and no quarrels, brilliant! We have to sit in lines to keep 2 metres apart, but we get to eat our lunch at our desks every day. We have to move around the school in one direction and there is a lot of lining up, 2 metres apart, to wash our hands as only one person can be in the toilets at one time. We are all enjoying being back because we get more teacher time and also more downtime stuff like art, colouring and puzzles. As there are only a few of us we get to do different things that we don't usually have room for - like



learning to do the Cha Cha Slide to help us with our maths position and direction vocabulary - we are all cool movers!"

During 'Lockdown', the children were very keen to do some art and decided to make an Underwater Sea display to brighten up the gym/assembly hall, hoping it will cheer everyone up when all pupils return to school.

"I really enjoyed making it all, especially the squids and all the different techniques I had to use. I hope the display brings a smile to people's faces."



"I liked being in the art/science room, the older children use it normally, we made a penguin for Miss Lewis as they are her favourite animal."

Year 6 voted to explore how rockets are made, they designed and made their own.



We are gaining new pupils all the time and looking forward to the new normal in September 2020. We are keen to attract even more pupils and encourage parents to contact the school and come and see our wonderful school.

Aidan McGovern, Executive Headteacher

Retirement – Mrs Imelda Cooper July 2020

After 19 years service Mrs Cooper is retiring from the post of Head of School from St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School in Lowestoft.

Interviewed and employed in 2001 as yr3 teacher by the then Head Teacher, now school Governor Mrs Beryl Edwards, within a very short time Imelda became Religious Education subject leader, a post she held throughout her career.

Working under 4 head teachers, Imelda soon became an outstanding Early Years teacher (an Ofsted Inspectors official verdict, and the opinion of many of her peers!) and was promoted to the position of Deputy Head in 2015.

After a school restructure in 2018, Imelda was promoted to the post of Head of School in early 2019 working with a new Executive Head Mrs Crane.

Described by her peers “Imelda will be remembered for her calm, measured and devout leadership which is the embodiment of our school and its ethos. She has always provided a strong link between the Parish and school and will be sorely missed by all staff.”

When asked Imelda said she fondly remembers whole school events such as the Bishops picnics on the school field, school Masses, the annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham and all events where parents, children and staff could come together to celebrate. She will miss most School Assemblies and the opportunity to impart the teachings of our Lord to the very attentive children of St Mary's.

Imelda's plans for retirement included travelling, although that has somewhat been curtailed in the short term, as well as supporting the local parish in any way she can.

Mrs Cooper will leave a lasting legacy on St Mary's and will be missed by all including the staff, governors, parents and especially the children.

Mrs Cooper will be succeeded by Ewa Parker as the new Head of School. Ewa is currently the Deputy Headteacher at St Mary's in Long Stratton, Norwich. Mrs Parker is delighted to be taking over and is very excited to join the team. All staff and governors look forward to welcoming her in September.

Matt Huke-Jenner – Chair of Governors



A message from - Susan Wilkinson the Chair of Governors at St Francis of Assisi

Some great news to share with you, our Executive Head Mrs Kim Payne, has taken up the role as Deputy CEO of St John the Baptist MAT, and our Head of School Mrs Felicity Hope takes up her new role as Headteacher at St Francis from September.

Mrs Hope has been in post as Head of School for two years, having taught at St Francis for 15 years, she knows the school very well indeed.

The Governors would like to thank Mrs Payne for her role as Headteacher and latterly Executive Headteacher of St Francis as she moves into the role of Deputy CEO, working closely with the CEO Mr Conway.

So in many ways we are celebrating the leadership of our school developing to support not just our own pupils but a wider body of young people in our Trust, and it is wonderful that we can congratulate both Mrs Hope and Mrs Payne for their successful appointments to new posts.

School Buildings Update – Helen Bates, Assistant Director, Diocesan Schools’ Service

Despite the many practical difficulties presented by the current pandemic, it has been possible to progress most schools’ premises related matters albeit more slowly at times than would otherwise be the case. Here is an update on a selection of schemes currently taking place.

Our Lady of Walsingham MAT was successful with two out of its three bids to the Condition Improvement Fund, an impressive success rate. These bids will provide more than £345,000 of central government grant to replace the boiler plant at St Pancras in Ipswich and the roof on the original building at St Louis in Newmarket.

St Laurence in Cambridge has finally seen its multi-purpose room built. This has been a number of years in the planning. There were a number of obstacles to overcome, not least gaining DfE approval to build on the edge of the playing field. This approval was finally received after involvement by the local MP and the CES. The room will be used to support the PE curriculum, for group teaching and for meetings.

St Edmunds in Bury St Edmunds was successful in its bid to Suffolk County Council to host one of seven SEN units to deliver support for KS2 children with cognition and learning needs. These units will provide a safe, nurturing environment as a base for integration into mainstream education, in a facility much closer to home for these children than would otherwise be the case. The unit at St Edmunds is planned to open in September 2021 and the school is currently working with the Diocese and their architect on the building design, the cost of which will be met by Suffolk County Council.

The new two-storey building at St Benedict’s in Bury St Edmunds is nearing completion. This will provide two new science labs and represents the last stage of the school’s amalgamation onto one site. In addition the £1.7M scheme, which also saw six additional general classrooms being provided last September through three modular units, will refurbish existing accommodation to provide two new technology rooms.

Design development work has begun on St John Henry Newman School, the new 3FE primary school in Peterborough. The school will also have a 26 place nursery and is due to open in September 2022. The Diocese is working in partnership with Peterborough City Council to deliver this school through the DfE’s Modern Methods of Construction Framework. This will see much of the structure built off-site, which should allow for a quicker construction programme. Capital funding for the school will come from DfE and Peterborough City Council. Whilst this design and building process continues, the Diocese is also starting to look at some of the other aspects of opening a new school including the appointment of a shadow governing body and senior leaders. Advertisements for staff appointments will appear on the Diocesan website.

For all Schools in the Diocese of East Anglia



MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrated by Mgr. Tony Rogers

11:30am Wed 15th July

Via YouTube Live

Then available as a recording.



Mass of Thanksgiving

Mgr. Tony Rogers is celebrating a special YouTube Live Mass to give thanks for all the schools in our Diocese and their leaders on Wednesday 15th at 11:30. A recording of the Mass will then be available on the channel.

[Click here](#) for details on how to find the Mass and follow the readings. You can also send in special 'shout out' intentions in advance via email.

Below you will find a few updates, reminders and dates for your Calendars.

Formatio Executive Leadership Formation Programme 2021 – SAVE THE DATE

Following the success of the Formatio Executive Leadership Formation Programme 2019/20, developed by the Catholic Education Service in partnership with EducareM and the Catholic Independent Schools' Conference, we are now seeking *existing and aspiring executive leaders* to join our 2021 cohort.

The programme is aimed at those leading, or aspiring to lead, two or more Catholic schools and will focus on faith formation and professional development in the context of the evolving role of executive leadership.

The programme features two residential events in 2021 (Residential 1: 8th – 10th February 2021 and Residential 2: 5th-6th July 2021) with input from experienced executive headteachers, industry specialists and other stakeholders. Further details will be issued at the beginning of the Autumn Term 2020.

Enquiries and expressions of interest should be sent to Eileen Williams at the Catholic Education Service ewilliams@catholiceducation.org.uk. Please could you also let Flavio know of any potential interest. Flavio.vettese@rcdea.org.uk

Catch a Pebble!

Here's a set of weekly themed ppts for next half term based on each Sunday's gospel. They are easily adaptable to help with however you choose to do assemblies, class based prayer etc. You can download copies and edit them for use with any Key Stage.

CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day is Friday 9th October. Once they have put their resources online, I'll update that week's pebble.

To view a pdf with links to each week's pebble [click here](#).

Thanks

Alex Savage, Chaplain Notre Dame High School

Dates for your Diary:

Primary RE Leaders Day – Autumn Term

Many thanks to those that have responded, but if you haven't there is still time. Due to the current situation and the Autumn Term not as it would normally be, we have two suggested dates below, when Margaret and Jan could hold a Primary RE Leaders half day session, via zoom, depending on the interest. If we have more than 12, (this was felt a good number for a discussion meeting), we would need to put you into two groups, hence the two dates.

The two dates are:

Thursday 15th October 2020 9.30 – 11.30am

Friday 16th October 2020 9.30 – 11.30am

Each session will be an open session about how the year has been so far to date, for example, practical implications for schools, sharing of positive initiatives and of concerns with regard to religious education, addressing RSE and where schools are with this, along with national updates from Margaret and Jan.

The cost of the session would be no more than £35pp, depending on the number of people. **Please could you let Jane know if you are interested and whether you have a preference as to which date asap, ssc@rcdea.org.uk.**

Once we know numbers etc, I will send out a booking form and an Invoice for Payment.

Nearer the time I will send out a Zoom invitation to those of you that have booked.

Please could you also let me know whether you are interested in attending via zoom in the Autumn or Spring Term a CPD Session by Sue Price on Spirituality for Children, this could be done either as a Twilight or Saturday morning session. The cost would be £15pp.

Spring Term 2021 – 11th & 12th March TBC

Summer Term 2021 – 10th & 11th June TBC

These dates are subject to all being well with Covid etc. Nearer the time we will confirm whether they are virtual or actual meets.

Whole School Mass – Friday 25th September 2020 at SJB Cathedral. – This will not go ahead but we are possibly looking at arranging something virtually, not necessarily on this day, but we will let you know.

Headteachers/Heads of School Autumn Conference –

Deputy/Heads of Sch./Assistant Heads Autumn Conference –

The usual conference days may go ahead later in the Autumn term or early in the Spring term, depending on pressures in schools.

Staff New to Catholic Education Twilight Sessions, we are postponing until the Spring Term.

New Senior Appointments over the last 6 months

Mrs Clare Clark – Executive Headteacher St Laurence, Cambridge & St Louis, Newmarket

Mrs Ewa Parker – Head of School, St Mary's, Lowestoft, (from September)

Mrs Felicity Hope – Headteacher, St Francis of Assisi, Norwich (from September)

Mrs Kim Payne, Deputy CEO, and Director of CMAT Improvement, St John the Baptist CMAT

Mrs Sue (Susan) Blakeley, Head of School, St Louis, Newmarket (from September)

We wish them all well and look forward to working with them in their different roles.

Retirements – Senior Posts

Imelda Cooper – Head of School, St Mary's, Lowestoft, we send our very best wishes to Imelda and wish her a long and happy retirement.

If we have missed anyone please accept our apologies.

Remember, we want to share your news, so please tell us about special things happening in your school or anything we can celebrate or acknowledge together.

Send your news to ssc@rcdea.org.uk

Please remember to forward these Newsletters and those sent by the CES to your governors.

Wishing you all a restful and restorative break and many thanks for all of the hard work and dedication you give, especially in these challenging times, where you have surpassed all expectation of what could be asked of you all.

from: Julie, Flavio, Helen and Jane