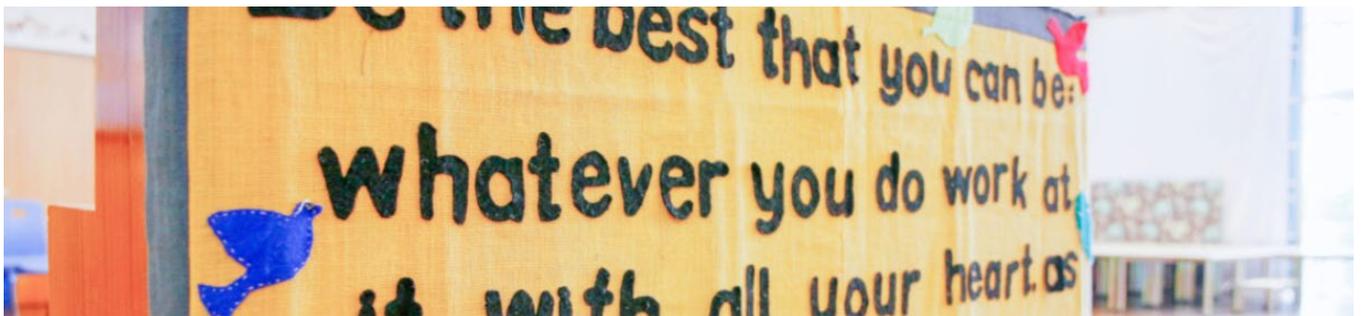


## Diocese of Ely Schools' Newsletter Spring Term 2021



*Image from St Augustine's CofE (VA) Junior School, Peterborough*

### **Welcome to our newsletter February 2021.**

There is no doubt that we live in strange times. Maybe enough said at the moment. Our newsletter includes aspects which we want to share with you, without overburdening you and your teams. We want to share and celebrate all that you are doing in schools, in challenging and ever changing patterns.

### **Let's start with a prayer...**

Loving Father, our schools are full of busy and inquisitive children, whether they are in school or online at home, we share with them in having a love of learning, a love of our community and a love of caring and supporting each other. But we are tired and weary now and need that ever loving joy you can bring to us. Be with us as we open the school door or open the online learning platform and start that journey of learning together. Be a living presence this term and forever. Amen

*Rev'd Sue Martin*

## **Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge 2021 Hope and a Future**



*Image of Rainbow over The Washes from Bishop Dagmar*

### **Join us in the Lent Challenge 2021!**

We start after half term although the season of Lent starts on Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup> (half term!).

We would like to enable an open-ended approach to the Lent Challenge this year. We hope to hear from children and staff about their ideas and their thoughts; from doubt and fear to hope and a future. We would like you to be creative in how this is expressed and communicated.

The challenge is to make this year a digital year with all responses to be in a virtual form. This can be prayers, hymns and songs, video stories, podcasts and ways your school has reached out to others.

Christian hope is not about trying hard to be optimistic for the future. Rather, Christian hope is what happens when we are set alight with the vision for God's world as one where all can flourish. Christian hope energizes us to walk towards and into this future to which God calls us, and already to realize this future in our lives and schools and communities.

It is available on <https://www.elyeducation.org/main/> as the complete version with the message from Bishop Stephen.

We would like the completed materials from school to be returned in digital form, and there are two deadline; 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for those who can complete by the end of term or 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021, if you need more time to collate materials.

We do hope that you take part and enjoy looking at how we can find hope in our lives.

*Rev'd Sue Martin Bishop's Officer for Schools' Mission*

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## SIAMS Update

A new statement for schools was released by the National Church to announce, “We will wait until Ofsted make a further announcement before we can consider what if anything can or should be done about restarting SIAMS inspection before September.”

The Diocese of Ely has taken the decision not to share the whole of the National Society letter with schools, but simply to release the key information that 1) inspections, when they resume, will be centrally co-ordinated and 2) inspections look unlikely to resume much before September. The full letter can be found on the Church of England Education website

There is the slimmest of chances that SIAMS will resume before September, however it is looking increasingly unlikely, given the circumstances.

Whilst this may still cause some consternation in schools, in the National Society’s defence, they are legally linked to Section 5 inspections, so if Ofsted suddenly decide to recommence from Easter or May half term, then there is a legal requirement for Section 48 to be back in action at the same time. However, any ‘early’ start will only potentially affect 3 or 4 schools and they have been fully informed of this situation.

Should any school wish to arrange SIAMS support, then please do contact Caroline Vinall [caroline.vinall@elydiocese.org](mailto:caroline.vinall@elydiocese.org)  
We are currently looking at flexible online SIAMS training for staff, which will be trialled just after half term.

## RE

We are very grateful to the Diocese of Ely Board of Education for funding the purchase of a new scheme of work for schools.

RE is integral to supporting the recovery of schools post-Covid and we are delighted that the DBE has invested in RE for the diocese.

So far, 24 schools in the diocese are commencing work using the new scheme from Easter, with a further 31 schools beginning in September, with six schools already using the same scheme. Training will be offered flexibly via live sessions and powerpoint walk-throughs of units from next half term.

There are additional resources for each unit, which have been prepared to reduce workload for classroom teachers and to provide a foundation for further teaching and learning development. Twenty four schools have been sent the resources for 5 units for KS1 and 8 units for KS2 at the moment, there are still 6 units in KS2 World Religions to be completed and these should be ready to send out to schools by Easter, ready for Summer 2. Apologies that they are not all ready in one go, but hopefully there are enough units for schools to commence Summer 1!

If you have any questions about the scheme, or if your school would now like to purchase the scheme, please do contact Caroline Vinall [caroline.vinall@elydiocese.org](mailto:caroline.vinall@elydiocese.org)

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## Spring Term EDRA Activity

Your EDRA (Ely Diocese Regional Advisor) will keep in regular touch to see how you are managing during this current lockdown. At this point it is hoped that a Zoom meeting can be arranged with every school for the week before or just after half term.

Please don’t hesitate to contact your EDRA or any member of the Diocese team at any time for information or support.

Should you have anything happen at your school that you would notify the local authority about please do also contact your EDRA. They will advise the Diocese Education Team who can look to provide additional support or guidance if necessary.

## **Forum**

This term's Forum will take place via Zoom on Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup> between 10am and 12 noon. Please reserve this date in your diary. You will be notified of the Agenda nearer the time.

*Christine Page    Diocesan Head of School Performance*

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## **Collective Worship Spring Term 2021**

Firstly, a reminder that you can find an Act of Worship for every week of the school term on <https://www.elyeducation.org/main/> , through the Collective Worship header. Many schools are using it very successfully and adapting it for virtual delivery.

We know that many of you do wonderful Collective Worship and we would like to be able to share that across the schools in the diocese. Please contact me to find out more information [sue.martin@elydiocese.org](mailto:sue.martin@elydiocese.org) . We would like to add these to our website ElyEducation to enable others to access.

*Rev'd Sue Martin    Bishop's Officer for Schools' Mission*

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## **Governors**

Chairs of Governors and Clerks have been receiving twice termly Governance Updates and there is termly Foundation Governance training offered. The next live Zoom training is the 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 7pm-8pm for any Foundation Governors who wish to update their knowledge and understanding of their role in a church school.

Please do let Caroline Vinall know if there are any changes to the Chair or clerk, so we are able to update our records.

VA schools are reminded to ensure that their admissions arrangements have been sent to the Local Authority before the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

We understand that there are some schools with FG vacancies at the moment and that church closures are making it more difficult to recruit. Please do know that Foundation Governors should be Christian, but do not have to be Church of England, so please do reach out to your ecumenical partners for potential Foundation Governors.

The next DBE meeting is in June, so please have any FG applications for ratification sent in by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

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**WEBSITE**    **ElyEducation.org**

<https://www.elyeducation.org/main/>



*Image on ElyEducation from St Augustine's CofE (VA) Junior School, Peterborough*

Newsletters, current events, vacancies and information are on ElyEducation.org . we are always updating and adding information to the site. Please let us know if there are any changes or additions needed.

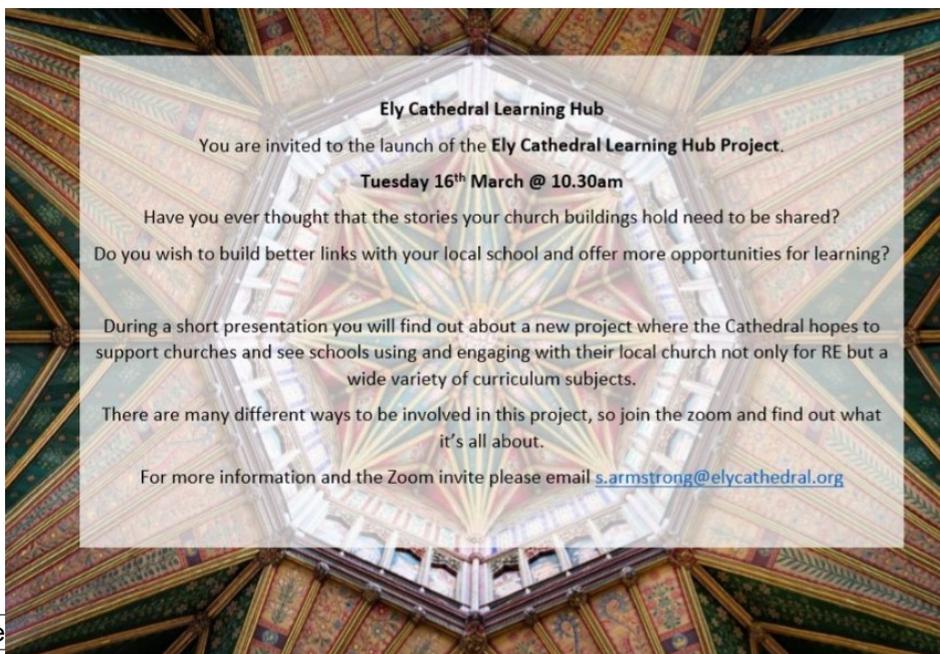
Acts of Worship are current to the end of the Summer Term 2021 and available in pdf form to download.

Sue.martin@elydiocese.org

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## **Ely Cathedral Parish Church Learning Hub**

A new venture of the Learning department at the Cathedral. Over the course of the next year they hope to become a hub for learning for both schools and churches offering training, resources and advice on both History and RE as well as helping schools access more opportunities for learning outside the classroom and supporting churches in providing these opportunities.



## Dates and Events

Leadership Forums – 16<sup>th</sup> March

Depending on Covid and Schools there will be more information added later.

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## OUR TEAM CONTACTS

Our team and contact details are:

Andrew Read	Diocesan Director of Education	Andrew.Read@elydiocese.org
Christine Page	Head of School Performance	Christine.Page@elydiocese.org
Caroline Vinall	Senior Officer for SIAMS, RE & Governance	Caroline.Vinall@elydiocese.org
Rev'd Sue Martin	Bishop's Officer for Schools' Mission	Sue.Martin@elydiocese.org
Sally Batchelder	PA to DDE & Information & Data Manager	Sally.Batchelder@elydiocese.org

**The DBE team wish you all a peaceful and relaxing half term break.**

Diocesan Department of Education  
(DBE) Grace House, High Street,  
Ely, Cambridgeshire,  
CB7 4JY

