**From   :           Jeff Williams**

**To        :           Headteachers, Ex-officio Governors, Foundation Governors, Chairs of Governors**

**Date    :           13th May 2020**

Dear colleagues

You may have heard accounts over the past weeks of the touching and deeply altruistic acts of kindness performed by nurses, doctors and care assistants, particularly in cases where people have been dying, and family members have been unable to be with their loved ones towards the end of life. These, and countless other acts of kindness have permeated social media, and been highlighted in the media. Typically, if the person involved is interviewed they invariably underplay and put aside all sense of self and seeking praise, which is humbling. Which is also very Biblical!

Many years ago while visiting my family in The States, I was introduced to books, ‘car bumper’ stickers and the official **‘Random Acts of Kindness’** movement. This movement even has its own day in the American calendar of celebrations and holidays. The ethos and intention of that movement crossed The Atlantic, and exists in the UK – albeit in a very British format.  There’s a Facebook group, with 48,000 members, called the Humankind Acts of Kindness – highlighting huge, but also small acts of kindness, which changes lives, individuals and importantly, society.

I love the inclusion of ‘Random’ in the title, because it sends the message that these acts of kindness are broad, and hopefully natural, sometimes reactive but also intuitive, however big or small. For such behaviour to become second nature, natural and the default position, often we need to begin, or in some way routinely, make them part of our mindset – conscious intentions. The Lockdown has brought such behaviour in so many people – be it picking up litter, collecting food for those who are shielding, smiling at people we pass in the supermarket, saying hello to neighbours, or, as a recipient myself, having three lovely parcels left in our porch, just to brighten the day.

As our lifestyle will continue to change and develop for the foreseeable future as a nation, we have here an opportunity to be intentional about performing both Random, but also intentional acts of kindness. Not seeking reward, praise or even acknowledgment, may be a challenge -  but let’s try! Doing things because it reflects our nature as good people, and for many, living out Biblical principles in ways that Serve The Common Good, and valuing people of all faiths and none who live and work near us is easier than might appear if we start small.

The relaxation of some of the Lockdown restrictions are bringing some extreme reactions – particularly in our context with the imminent and probable broader provision in our schools – I intentionally decline from using what is slipping into parlance the phrase ‘re-opening’ because our schools were never closed………….       Some parents are fearful about their children returning to school buildings – others are keen for this to happen. At both ends of the spectrum, this can lead to emotional outpourings and often challenging questioning of our school leaders. Such expressions are rooted in deep emotions. It is here that I encourage all of us to ask those we know to be gentle with school leaders who are doing all they can to navigate totally uncharted waters, where there are no precedents or blueprints.

And, why not, with no seeking of praise, reward or acknowledgement – even if you can manage, anonymously, perform an intentional Random Act of Kindness for a Headteacher, Teacher or Support colleague. It will make their day, and further change our communities.

Thank you for all you do, but importantly who you are.

Best wishes

***Jeff***

**Recent guidance on the safe expansion of educational provision :** many of you have seen these, but for those who haven’t, and for ease of access :

[Actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-June-2020](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jYQrI-0007z5-46&i=57e1b682&c=kUw0zTPhTGsmKa0rf24qg32qOflhrcRJnNnmSics5jmn737Osa-tPXI9kYWoM_Sp8sIWmDqCOLgBpG40NzV09Tldb-_e6pf2zt_9ybQpzywhr8RY947aAJkrpqmzgUJHPNxsBDpo0AXmPGBbHCU85RCxsv0xyygdw0FjWanC_bW_wrC9XTCPVsp-4WmIVDBd27JEkZN5KLrbw0QRU88TC7-Ab0vsnMarF5s34uRUlTm3MdQ8t-rIqn3DbL8q1e2vzR3kv5AeWvCKzzzbqDkmiVxL8xpdHhjefRMEHPYjIJ56BV-IUlQ0WLxfMJf79DPZ3oTbw0MWfTncvLo6lLYW2aTkBtQwnr1ha8IPhdYmttvJwSHK2wbaLyqIbZNcOyH4bxcDhoute-XtYHyHMe90Jpja5jOtIGhxk4X7Qsa3z1dk9TOifTp1rjpxldotLq0IY1_G1pzPr9lJT8TFJ1a_PV6gQzUnrXzBCkjmHp2YGD4)

[Implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jYQrI-0007z5-46&i=57e1b682&c=pkaEobEul3TsQG6V64OsQNZfxwqPyw-EtGZuEwHTCaNmddMich00T32-gztdr4DBQBRe4-A-BjzZ-V76g_WjIhd_29bADeVXaKuCdn49qlkAAkeylSzPU5VBQVHuPYIZwmxgkXmKl0991lgQleC-PyqgftC910N75nReJZLPa4tek3tVN7CYB29WPGLCRbEpHcNN4NV-LsSCQti5vrjJaJhBL01BuF5RE8xdnuChMQoFzq0SQXOycJhZ0nNugE6fF_d6N-LKaESYwX4ljmfGqDFRDTV4Ura4mImLYEHwhF02GqLioFtw_OFZBGb0Va9OfezCkcFt5mg5t9L6Wcdf6v8Exf4nBHpw6m7tcoCtA9QrVUWMU5ID2CPfm6iM21fRwa5bD2dgSK7SbV7Pp45NwJoA_IQ21tdOB4CO8VsdnXBm1nQ4BaGHJ1W-xYG2s3bBHqcouvEUB-NHOsrhEnFFFl0fX4HdabSUI4uU2blA_og)

[Information-for-parents-and-carers-reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-June](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jYQrI-0007z5-46&i=57e1b682&c=tsOPr409H6PA4z0kgcOYW0cPKB1ct2AX9WuBL4xgOjhUQUQJJ1uMMmbksA-M6WX1EaN4xlhOGezLA5twcDbY5V_nrQGNglf6SiKN9dpZ3lVe36PUmgC1j8gwNo-S5cuqN88InBWRc0lCLQffBXlVQW9jmuOYYnIzXmK5Gb3hMGQMh2upe9aCCstH9J6ksqArtuFMezvB1SPbo_-3SQo0B96EZ1UUSUzgxi6fU45iiAkOYPwmUbotzA4CPQ53_qW3Ju2HrUXwzoXPOHzuzx_5OWCT7epvZgqimMaNDUyAlavQevMQeYf8O6HHhwbYIjOLyYrGgtz5ZXyFiAGkUPomi9M3EgHZkNOuXdCFN3zAlUUZLF2Th84pbiC9ybXaf-2PO85PPmyQOyR8F-4jKZ_A4F4OAQ2RF7Wai0qGL2yFUnM)

[Coronavirus-outbreak-FAQs-what-you-can-and-can't-do](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jYQrI-0007z5-46&i=57e1b682&c=v8hyzSb0cioepF4aBovT7X2XmZMZ2SEr4imI13QKT3_BcRhRQ6H0sujoBuK39trNrG2jmXLyqmp_pnnZKc6ElnvTNl0XeJyWKdzWvbovdHqB0h3OtD9UkEGf7nijbgsxVTROByBI2ZYt-XTMMxNRAfdTd1xkwoDDlX0XBQx817AXCqiDJTACJWPCtCf38eoqcBAYen1XspLtR0ajU-ND2TPysWRvsti1RX4BtT6RU8d5MYDnMl-E14Y3KxA5lua4FEJ8Nx4U4IUFXWeWc8k_njlmk1MogONM9XFQK-Px52b3SzVmwm8vdL8SHtPuyNirj0JkmRHDGu1DEUKfssU5zx8m-f9MAijYP7GjH_hCTR_3OR92zCE_kxTEGciBWdfa1DJLN1lgyqc1r6SxbjghNbCMKQ330AeGxW4bo9krDqY)

We are grateful for the huge amount of time and creative thinking that Headteachers and Governing Bodies are investing in considering if/how they might expand provision to cater for Year R, 1 and 6, providing it is safe, and continues to be safe for both children and adults.  The decision on what is offered and the way in which classes or year groups are managed remains that of the school – each school having different considerations and logistical matters to determine the provision. Clearly this will require even further revised plans should the aspiration that all primary children return for the month leading up to the scheduled summer holiday.

The Professional Associations and others remain in discussion with the DfE over expectations placed upon schools in these unprecedented times. The joint unions’ letter to the Secretary of State can be viewed at : [https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/unions-set-out-needs-safe-reopening-schools-letter-education-secretary](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jXKgO-0005wH-5Q&i=57e1b682&c=DCME2cPjkgW9E8fxXfkdHJpplONtFMHDU8ltuQK0yLCNwaD-wU8IPwm6ldkbnTK-hNTybEyEXEzDg7TZ_KOYhZPwk3rNfjUl8woeBMy5m9G0WNYn2IsWzIsgxqMwIoq2OaM7SfM_ggNgyo2Gbv1alav6xqFXLo1vjYrdZol_7LzMrGQiHZVgpzFuchPYcRQydujQk1QjiJKNg43FQbDeLiAJZEzXbF-KiIfuda8HTiK84nr0-xJyaSzHsPqKJlSUxoX_8r4VJb7V9ImReN95VfNxYQu84rnq7k__x3QBqr5Uj9AjfZuUZ70XyWYsmnj5)

Also attached is the document ***‘How to cope after covid’*** from Hampshire Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, and Hampshire’s helpful document ***‘Discussion Tool : Strategic planning for Primary Schools Recovery’***

**The National Governance Association** continues to update its guidance for Governing Bodies – updates can be accessed at : <https://www.nga.org.uk/Knowledge-Centre/Executive-leaders-and-the-governing-boards/Coronavirus-Information-for-governing-boards.aspx>

**Year 6 Leavers’ Services :** The restrictions on large gatherings, closure of church buildings to worshippers and social distancing ramifications, means that the Year 6 Leavers’ Services will clearly not take place at the Cathedrals this year. This rite of passage, and formal marking of the end of CofE Education for the vast majority of children, is an important and valued occasion. I have been in detailed conversation with both Cathedrals, and we are in the process of organising a short video. If Year 6 children do safely return to your school, it would be good for them to watch this together at the end of term – for those who do not return, we hope it can be posted on school websites with a reminder for them to view it. I’ll be sending details to Headteachers later. Meantime, if you are able to begin making your peace poles, with those Y6 children or others who are returning to school, we will feature them, as the theme of **Standing Together** remains for this year, and has become even more relevant at this time.

**Storytime :** it’s great to see so many of you posting videos of Heads/Teachers reading a story for the children and keeping them connected. Last week the Bishop of Southampton was featured; this week I’m pleased that the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, **The Ven Peter Leonard** reads a story about bravery, which is so topical : Hiccup The Viking Who Was Seasick. You can watch Peter read this book here : <https://youtu.be/jT6BOFlRj1w>

**Resources :** I’ve had many requests each week about the resources we’ve been providing. Please feel free to share them, and any from previous weeks as widely as you wish. It’s good to hear that they’ve been valued by a wide audience and different contexts.

**RE Support :**  *RE Today* are providing the following RE teacher support products and services as a fully integrated support package.

* A wide selection of **recorded webinars** for both primary and secondary RE teachers as well as several live sessions throughout summer term, which are filling up fast! You can see what is available on the [website](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jY3oZ-0004tD-56&i=57e1b682&c=x3_lom1l8gU2vZj0mSAtzD5cSLeDJoVVwe3-9S-nUN9mH43y_-xqGIX5YAEzatu4Ieup-fqpE6FVPGlfF8DZ4RwAM83al672r5qqyxYOKv6joZGGvIsJ9BG2k9qEDMxgonXlPSheMTkSGOVppVe1Xk5-EH2589mB4H4fJ5mgzJOd2gKitXuWKQcG2uxC8APDzrcowJZNipRKoAP06rBKAWNbHiHTgJNCbiyhN6XsOgKLfQqldXMt6PVwU7-0SamTRjWWtzKq9hD9l9DU5c9WFFbDSHzfxY8mSb5Qs4u_RA8q2jHYTHL_aKv-B-W-LadTJ7i8jvNkj0Xzh5qlGNAU1Xrt_SbSqTABtQpv8tS7MZg)
* **Online RE resources** through the NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) membership package*.  RE Today* has launched the **FREE** membership trial :  [www.natre.org.uk/free-trial/](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jY3oZ-0004tD-56&i=57e1b682&c=8j1xNyrfQww7CYtYtdnK8PxAuk5LzWK-UH_0YF7Ojd8jWOGR-zbGOvdZazHwoyAN-Fx47rYB2ucN7YOvkmcbMa78spC4vhqrrucAIBmy1H4tiGTyHVoySR4QMDsaWt7vE4DVB_gTuqd42ZRdM4Ge6Voy4tzLqleh0QuuKLg-IVBcT31SMwhN0b2N_KWddb8g7wskwzCjL1aWHfcCj2p0aEJcoFS5hZKQWoUnqL1P9sGL3rlYQeu6pjioCgosCVnB)
* A new **CPD course directory** which details a wide range of current teaching and training support initiatives which you can view and download [here](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jY3oZ-0004tD-56&i=57e1b682&c=Afvj0OYDPMeacHqqU25MlU3e-RMN-AljNWHCu-S7evliSCtvC5w3_uhWei_l7fiaUtk4zTq0RVeEdk1ZmyIOrELECi0VHPrs2wBV0sVrUIYn0GSr-ClouW6mFaSfKk4bb7z6uwD2GRC0zns045YRGXsxuV61722Bc6OTbj5J2fDCGzIpgNuzRXGj6mAmi3lCjQ7b8Tz4DqzmRLYdIxgJDJ7g0nvyto80-otRZcELy4ehxAZQJ4LVbl8XMOoFy4HstOTArRNEq8aWUQcQDzvhbuRk9CEj5t2lDoMbF1xzI3ZjCoGTJdEU5DTlr19p1d2uBzRGqfO68thJ1oTeyZ7GaQ).
* And for parents and children - RE Today, in parentship with NATRE, have produced a series of free, quality-assured online resources to support parents and their children with the provision of RE activities for use during the coronavirus crisis.  These resources are available for anyone to access at: [www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jY3oZ-0004tD-56&i=57e1b682&c=PO7jSRfAXKs1Sk2RT87D2x97XLcsVBZEVoqR2V9v8LTrUgAXbwFQTYJPbRas41nbhH_x_FmW-dwkrFKT4U4haUujx6nsDGWyBs86Z-5wuSHTCgQsZ0zlgzm9-tDO0TYdHOHZjEGC8Q9pPbgyBpYSZdiyNBClTz1jz66FwcbxecU0xv3RKFjt6EHAirUhXv_1lOcIIFUGRMCJAm6ha78EQJ7kz5MYzPmB3sMYef8UiDJWSJXUBbyvvnWa7rZeGRJl2C59Z0c0HqlKp4q_BTkEQkQVAjPrh_trVmBpwCJ8AW4)

**Support for Schools** : our ministers remain available for schools to contact for support at this time, even though the physical church building remains closed for worship. My team continues to be involved in Governing Body meetings and advice, recruitment of Heads and senior staff and a range of other matters. Do let me know if we can help in any way and particularly what sort of support would assist as we move into this next challenging phase.

Thank you for all you do, but importantly who you are.

Best wishes

***Jeff***

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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