**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy**

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               18th November 2020**

**Re           :              Fortnightly email and resources from the Diocesan Education Team**

Dear colleagues

My daughter was slightly embarrassed when I ordered ‘arvo’ for breakfast while visiting her in Melbourne. I messed up on Auzzie slang. Arvo of course is ‘afternoon’ – I should have said avvo! “Poached egg and afternoon on toast” isn’t quite what she wanted - Dads eh?!

Her first Advent gift this year will be an avocado Christmas tree decoration; the exact same one is also hung in a Bishop’s home in Rwanda! I gave it to him while at his home to remind him of the Waitrose chocolate Easter Avocado for said daughter that he was amazed to see when he came to our home just over a year ago. I gladly gave it to him to take back to Africa, only to discover that they’d sold out of the same size when I went to replace, so had to upgrade to a huge chocolate avvo. That was VERY well-received on Easter Sunday! The Bishop’s avocado plantation meant that we got a carrier-bag full of avocados when his colleague came over, which was especially thoughtful, and a delicious gift, enjoyed over several days.

As we prepare for Christmas, Advent is a time to look forward, but equally, in order to prepare, we necessarily need to reflect on both the present and the past. Reminiscing about avvos therefore isn’t just an indulgence, but an opportunity to prompt me to a whole host of conversations, emails and reflection, both about my own family and friends, but also those with whom I’m connected in Rwanda.

In amongst the fun of the social media ‘get your tree and lights up early’ lockdown campaign, I hope that we can all enjoy the joy of the season, especially in these challenging times – but also that we take this time to prepare during Advent for Christmas in deeper and wider ways, both personally and collectively. I therefore encourage you to consider the Reverse Advent Calendar (details below) and our Advent Resources (see my second ‘Resources’ email).

Clearly the avocado emoji on my phone will be regularly used this Advent.  And a fact for the day : avocados are actually single-seeded berries – did you know that?!

G’day and thanks for all you do and who you are in our communities

**Jeff**

**Lockdown Poetry Burst** : distinguished poets **Wendy Cope and Lachlan Mackinnon** will judge Winchester Cathedral’s Christmas Poetry Competition. It’s open to adults and children, with prizes up to £80. The title is ‘This Christmas’. Details are on the attached flyer and can be found at [https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/poetry-comp-v1.3.pdf](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kfJnB-0003Cy-3p&i=57e1b682&c=-k5G8mNEGh_TAJeUZN3P4vCTQFAnFomI1IAKU5_E_h6XnTaPN_lkLYHCjHCKCh1uOGcOb5wlSSXQlupb3YkAkm-SEw7CSe1cDSC2o-bir0CztVFjvMhq78J26GGkaL1lRx9NXKF6nP6rGb7eHn0wBeX5P4inhYq42T1JE0ZECGY2H0hXQ7kIJ3IqvcFMZ0VD02th74ZY91CiD7oKIfh-v5eiAW8uSnEn5WJRihqArtBdo5msp4eBlyV5EEPU7ATEflHdOrWVcBd-vM-nNddcEyiUdRnD_jYbE4B86Y2uRs8)    I hope you take part and perhaps do this in class with children – enjoy and Good Luck!

**Reverse Advent Calendar** : a practical way of thinking of others this Advent. Why not do this as a class, whole school, church or at home? I’ve attached two versions – one that can be used daily, the other as a once-a-week focus.

**Flexible Christingle - Doing Christingle differently :** The Children’s SocietyVimeo link [https://vimeo.com/childsoc/review/475932192/0f5229c704](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1keyHl-0008s9-4U&i=57e1b682&c=zVEhyO0iaPPd0mX8MF0nskZbnikZHMWYmS9MThVj5mLqkf4NsyXVZ5Tqf2tsQRoAEhZZo9RU0_j6YijNj53JnzP22pIjEh0UmXspWjvopd0cfQ1pK5Zz2Aait_DIk08Z5zAaE5jpuoCh1KNVGZEI1Z0pIqzZ5Mk5c-P1Adcs0PCg9SKCMydb1texrol91WVLaiu9tIoCd3bsvE2nVGkZJ5NsAH9wLNDuOzbsFO2vDvU5hvEljkqzSV6sD7YpNIVZUgaS-KXz1gaB5o79yYUG5A)   All Christingle resources available at[www.christingle.org/resources](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1keyHl-0008s9-4U&i=57e1b682&c=XR9mkZn30OREsSFlxku--NfIu6ilHA7n-VG1A265GNaNCqJYQphbgJ5j86PY5ucdmTkReynw2_lhqagrOxrdVphSOYkk66Jwey_2L6UfbeYxvgbRr8ewKAkrhktZaThH8s66S3UW0OF3rk-XjHUmCjbV60hg0XK2BsVYOePgOecoqCuAaitqOnlTfecci3KAE0yTpmiwdYNu0rbkblga_rPG0YMKfkXJKKXwaU1A9qE)

**Hearts for Care Homes :** Spread joy to others and raise awareness of those who have become isolated due to the pandemic. It’s a simple idea for children to share messages of happiness and joy on a heart for a resident in a care home. Details are attached

**EduCare – free Mental Health Resources :** available at <https://www.educare.co.uk/>

**Lilly Jo Project – free Mental Health Resources :**The free Bronze package available at : [www.thelilyjoproject.com/bronze](http://www.thelilyjoproject.com/bronze)  (and if 15 diocesan schools sign up to the Gold package there’s a 10% discount)

 Youth Trust & Prayer Spaces in Schools

**The Foundation for Educational Leadership** has made the decision to deliver next year’s  [Church of England Professional Qualification for Headship](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kcwxc-00009r-3k&i=57e1b682&c=1qSbf9NLE_lwMzv2kikT5bi6NpCLtOgkOU6L3QHYNG4ziSy59lOTyn9lJQj6ArY1m4_aERtpU--FB4UTcD_LEUt1N8Zfxs1OSOhD6-RE9OYm56J1RwzKtvZX9x6CzzEOJvbiVDHTxPrkAOY2i1Xw7dMUEPei1dAo2rwRbQCFzKPUbO3cnZevlza0nQeBEiKDI_CuR169p0wpiAKKv9DdB9o-cpsDclnmcR7O35n9rlTmObaMq_q8wl0b-HqR6yLy) primarily virtually. This will be provided at the lower price of £1150+VAT. In light of this change, a final opportunity for leaders to apply is being provided-  the deadline has been extended to **Thursday 3rd December** at noon.  In addition, there are **20** remaining All Saints Educational Trust **bursaries** which give any school under 210 pupils a £500 reduction from the total inc. VAT price, moving it from £1380 to £880 incl. VAT.

Jeff Williams

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