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

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               23rd September 2020**

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

Dear colleagues

‘A picture paints a thousand words’ is so true when we reflect on Banksy’s acclaimed lockdown art that he gave to Southampton University Hospital, and indeed the large, small, bright, faded, child-drawn and professionally printed rainbows that still exist around our buildings, communities and front windows. The associated symbolism and meaning speaks volumes; and the style and decision about where to locate such pieces of art are poignant and evocative, sometimes juxtaposed with clashing aspects of life and contexts.

This week I re-‘read’ the globally acclaimed and multi-award winning wordless novel ***‘The Arrival’*** by the Australian artist-writer **Shaun Tan**. He has become best known for picture books that appeal equally to adults and children, dealing with political, social and historical subjects through surreal, dream-like imagery.  I was therefore prompted to buy another of his beautifully drawn books ***The Red Tree***. This one has some phrases and words, and is a book particularly apt for the times we now inhabit.  The book begins with a glum-looking person sitting up in bed, with significant autumnal leaves falling inside the bedroom with the words ‘sometimes the day begins with nothing to look forward to’. With sensitivity and wonder the evocative words and images open a window to our inexplicable emotions and tell a story about the power of hope, renewal and inspiration.

As we approach further uncertain times, which understandably bring anxiety for many, I think it’s important to also ‘talk-up’ hope and renewal. Reading and reflecting on such books with children, our friends and families can also change the discourse that is prevalent, while not being in denial about the realities we all face.

Next month I’ll be launching our 2021 Diocesan Education Project, focusing on Well-being and Mental Health through the lens of environmental opportunities. Looking after each other, and importantly, looking after oneself is a Christian duty, and how we do this can be multi-faceted.

So for now I commend Shaun Tan’s work – for your own and your family’s well-being, and recommend times of reflection on pictures and paintings, which can speak deeply to our psyche and soul. Enjoy the Reflections that pick up this theme in the Resources email that will follow for circulation to class teachers and any one known to you that might use them.

With thanks for who you are, and all you are doing.

Best wishes

**Jeff**

**Coastal Learning Partnership** – our mixed Multi Academy Trust is looking for two new trustees. This is an excellent opportunity to impact on children’s lives and to support our teachers and staff. Attached are details.

**‘God and the Big Bang’** team have developed a series of online CPD courses offered to primary school teachers in church schools. The courses are interactive and engaging, aimed to equip and resource teachers to tackle areas of the curriculum where science and faith collide. Please see the attached flyer.

**Holocaust Education Trust -** There are opportunities for free CPD for teachers, including online workshops and study visits to Vienna. You can find out more information on the [Holocaust Education Trust website.](https://www.het.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events)

**Covid 19 : The impact on educational professionals’ mental health and wellbeing** - this [report](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kJGj6-0003eI-5A&i=57e1b682&c=IwU3moggrd0jN3pS6mnptArp7X3jL5mmD-5fud8Rx_3ZU4r1tqKf31pcUGDEkjJhfzcLHNtlHPgeNpfi33m5j7NWcb8EpSyubw4Tw4zNrAd26kXyFCYf9PHaTREjy7jfBA82IuNbQ2AevIbUhkzA8RiKAe3IxG2Fsq3-4FHEi4dd918l7HqK5tCxoBKXqsdLqN72bmMP2vlIsot9XnCbszgzexKNqZQejGoOnUObFrkZ26OgbkO0o58QolQzomGxyO3vz0nHYYTg_89PMyJ8PVSfZOwHc7ofdf-xqYoU52FpG5DhGvrEv8afhPFRGx8n) has recently been published by the charity Education Support. The National Governors Association has published  [guidance](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kJGj6-0003eI-5A&i=57e1b682&c=4ZizbUDjzNH9Zo3bkAt0AYOza2Ip9oqKcxjHIXhzTFxVoCYS8CI8sAbVRuGLV1BJvshlokWijYZKHyF391NW8gu9f3V3K6GgPgt1FAhke6fSfVlVlTw1a8OjAzmZIVHvfvVChGn4xlVGJgZCvrr6d-e_UZoSsts_gtXsdZ55wAvaMxwRFX4sVrSO8EjUWnFwr6zVBG5qXosGAlmIrP42RylsaGzXK2u2TZukxu2TmeIhTU2e1RzWPLh9U-WhXOtDKZTbR7eH7fqjINA-7bFjodmv3GYo4WG0wDFBVp3RmrEh4tfVX-hxFzFSSZZRCRd3) for governing boards on managing teacher workload and wellbeing.

**Government funding and resources to train and support schools on the wellbeing and mental health needs of pupils and staff** in the context of COVID-19 was announced in August. National training is being delivered to representatives from all local authorities during September and early October. This training will then be disseminated at a local level, with the expectation that **every state funded school and college** **will nominate one member of staff to receive the** **training and cascade it further within their setting**. The DfE requirement is that training is delivered to all state funded schools and colleges by the end of October. Dates for Hampshire & IoW are attached – other LAs in our region will be contacting schools.

**EYFS Resources -** Gill Vaisey, author of Puddles the Cat & Freddie Fisher materials has updated planning and resources to help teachers implement the 2020-21 EYFS Reforms Early Adopter Framework which now refers specifically to ‘religious communities’ in the Early Learning Goals.  The Autumn / Harvest PLAN+3 (teachers’ planning and pupil activities) are available for both the new Framework and the existing Framework. You can receive a free copy  from  [gill@booksatpress.co.uk](mailto:gill@booksatpress.co.uk). She has also created an ‘[Autumn Bumper Bargain Bundle](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kGgrB-0005Ln-4M&i=57e1b682&c=ZBMUkRpc0qINIgrgOgLsg7dJZkQWmrXPRqioLkAlbFfWGHcYYahG95m1XrVed3Jf8h3aMURGBELtdO0Ec7Wk3fNCz6s8nAnyxbDldlAz7a89Yp02fu8gXy6JGGWEvlh_u1JYMmmylmhzBqM88p1lzZa8-aU00l6QItoKLWHeOI9X18aBLRass4xfACctt8mzz6HcigcFuI9NMQ1t9m_h5q6ZC34irF3tvY-Al4J9WruyJ6xE9sQwNBhNubQ3gMC9pC_468KXBR9dd2pigwSUow)’ which “includes a wealth of planning and resources to make RE easy for teachers and fun for pupils this term!”

**The Importance of the Child in RE** [This is a link to a blog](https://teachers-talk.natre.org.uk/the-importance-of-the-child-in-your-re/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=professional_natre_members_newsletter_september_2020&utm_content=2020-09-14) written by Justine Ball, Hampshire Primary RE Adviser, about the role of RE in building up our children’s self-esteem and helping them think through big questions about the meaning of life and right and wrong.

**Walk Through the Bible -** Some schools have been using these materials to support units in KS2. They are now offering an overview of the bible in ten 20 minute videos which can be streamed from the [Walk Through the Bible website](https://www.bible.org.uk/video-lessons.php), along with free resources that are sent out to schools beforehand.

**Classroom Worship Resources** : this fortnight’s bundles will be emailed separately, so they can be forwarded to teachers directly

Jeff Williams

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