**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy; Deputy Headteachers; RE CoOrdinators :  and please forward to teachers.**

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               2nd December 2020**

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

Dear colleagues

Can you resist a pink or white marshmallow this Christmas?! On a ‘normal’ huge family gathering at Christmas, we typically resort to riotous marshmallow games, but that will be rather toned-down this year.

Molly, our giant Golden Doodle couldn’t resist pink and /or white when we joined in the Social Media video flurry back in July, with people trying to get their toddlers or dogs to sit and stare at a plate with a marshmallow temptation, on the promise of more marshmallows if they resisted instant eating while parents/owners left the room temporarily. All of this was caught on secret phone video recording of course. In our case : Big dog – no adults – free food : devour! The video was hysterical (and, frankly, predictable!).

I’ve repeatedly (with embellishment each time, of course) enjoyed sharing the original and previously less-known related research from Stanford University. My ‘reveal’ has become less of a waw factor recently, as the result of the ‘marshmallow experiment’ has become even more commonly known with the experiment regarding the psychology of delayed gratification featuring in a number of TV programmes in recent years. But the real research outcome isn’t as quickly quoted – regarding delayed gratification and more rooted and impactful and profound outcomes on children who develop into adults with particular traits, like resilience, patience and impulse control.

As we approach Christmas, we see the nativity through a lens of immediate delight and impact; the hindsight lens of killed infants during the rapid escape; but also the future impact, benefits and blessings through the adult son’s death. As impactful individuals in a realm of eternity we trust & know that the tree seeds we plant now are not for our immediate benefit but for the forests our families will enjoy; as impactful individuals in a realm of eternity we trust & know that lessons we teach now are not for our immediate benefit but for the good of society and families not yet formed.  BUT - as impactful individuals in in a realm of eternity we trust & know that the annual celebration of a baby’s birth is most definitely for our immediate but also eternal benefit.

You may recall my seemingly surface level reflection during the first Lockdown about socks – but hopefully you remember the deeper message. Thank you to those schools and parishes who rose to the challenge to give socks to homeless. If you need that ‘different’ or last minute present suggestion, why not give immediate gratification, warmth and smiles to a loved one, while equally gifting warmth, smiles and needed physical gratification to a homeless woman or man, by buying a pair of snazzy socks and simultaneously gifting a pair of socks : [www.stand4socks.com](http://www.stand4socks.com)

Thanks for all you do and who you are

Best wishes

**Jeff**

**Guidance on Nativity Plays or other Christmas events in Church Buildings** – I am sending this separately. Please remember that Covid-safe practices that relate to school buildings are different to those in Church buildings where numbers are different to what might be the number of a school bubble.

**Advent Resources** : we hope you are enjoying the bundles I recently shared!

**Diocesan Schools Christmas Video** : Thanks very much to the children and schools who’ve been involved. I’ll be sharing this for you to show in the last week of term.

**Hymnflashmob** In March, St Paul’s Cathedral created a ‘hymn flashmob’, designed to share videos of children singing their favourite hymns and songs as gifts for those who were anxious lonely or unwell. This initiative reached over 200,000 people across the world. You are invited to take part in **St Paul’s Cathedral Christmas Hymnflashmob**, to share comfort and joy with people in their communities. Details attached and here: [https://www.stpaulsresources.co.uk/resourcehub/hymnflashmob](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kjmOL-0002cF-5u&i=57e1b682&c=Rtbeg1u-lV2yaxLrkBcoOVzl8DHWLYE_JuW85NhzGKy26PX_mBN5JuivVDcyARAFIZ-yz-LlCUwNQP9QTxiZn8smQiWauWbzTOIlCysWidkYEeFKpbcPYOrXDcbMIH0mQkM39vqq6WsHJnCUnexMVHWtVtOVHEFeuHO8I4i8AYbvNyw8vugQ38VIa9g5NKXRn848xJMQM6N-q8Ixzce4eyV8U8k74A5IDi1ToqKx5cPsTmLNVUePyUtng6bJFB8d0yfOAKvI8FUDgFw1Uwmjcg) This is part of the Church of England’s ‘Comfort & Joy’ campaign, and we would like to flood the digital sphere with videos of children singing Christmas carols in the final full week of term, beginning Monday 14th December.

**Star Ideas from St Francis, Chandlers Ford :** HT Dawn Harrison is happy for me to share a Christmas initiative – details attached and you can cut and paste onto your own headed notepaper. Thanks!

**Compassion UK Concert Sunday 6 December 8pm** – we know many of you already support / sponsor a child through this charity, so are pleased to promote this Concert. [**Carols with Compassion**](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1khuNs-000AJ6-4Q&i=57e1b682&c=U2F4i0J2_pztzkma7A7Gwi8f5Q4h4wn6bfu7S13e6WONWKHNeKlHCiowL7JX_wLjnsYyf274OI9prF0XTAbfxTbBTjfkxMTNHk_nPJw5gegZZv-6QgXDjCtXFqL8tcQNBtteBlIknuaYF_m66Zi7qRJ9T3-gHWfQJRXBRBKiL5ZdNeOprKO7sRInsfA_gixdTqc-CFTSJxG0ZcbzEwAOALRRfKyquttgF0XESB2UPe9WyhKiRy07lhxon0poZ3w10x_4EDPtmHsts-1lv398HquKqRVIZd9JRVnji4m5xjc), Sunday 6 December 8pm on TBN UK (Freeview Channel 65 and Sky 582), and streamed from Compassion’     [Facebook page](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1khuNs-000AJ6-4Q&i=57e1b682&c=U2F4i0J2_pztzkma7A7Gwi8f5Q4h4wn6bfu7S13e6WONWKHNeKlHCiowL7JX_wLjnsYyf274OI9prF0XTAbfxTbBTjfkxMTNHk_nPJw5gegZZv-6QgXDjCtXFqL8tcQNBtteBlIknuaYF_m66Zi7qRJ9T3-gHWfQJRXBRBKiL5ZdNeOprKO7sRInsfA_gixdTqc-CFTSJxG0ZcbzEwAOALRRfKyquttgF0XESB2UPe9WyhKiRy07lhxon0poZ3w10x_4EDPtmHsts-1lv398HquKqRVIZd9JRVnji4m5xjc) and [YouTube channel](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1khuNs-000AJ6-4Q&i=57e1b682&c=eg42PdOAA0rtGeOKbcqU0y0CfwkqjNF3h_N7NTOtL1mHargYQ82JCzJHWwjs4Np0awPkbV2TrvaikYSVpHPej2bpoAJMv3WtpHDoh65kbhjIba9USuLdlJTTbq5PO-3S3Bz9pF7LmJQGVox2fkKEoj4XTWLj1oTYrkUZlG0NIF8x8z9LsZFKo5LK9Oz88sUuUs9XPv6pR14dMIn_djXIMhIyynT2OFTSmKoUzIb3YxykpYczvgZXL_anpHDGvzXGhp3_slZwJ9z4B0QGZNZqa_gCy51xjYPHMYB92W__jPs), featuring musical performances from Graham Kendrick, Philippa Hanna, Noel Robinson, the London Community Gospel Choir, Hillsong London, Lurine Cato, Martin Smith and Elle Limebear, alongside readings and performances by Compassion-sponsored children around the world

**KS2 Christmas Resource :** CPAS has produced a Christmas resource to support KS2 teaching about Christmas in the schools who participate in ‘School Ventures’ (subsidised weekend RE/activity residentials). [**www.cpas.org.uk**](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kiMJD-0006AT-6O&i=57e1b682&c=VB9bV0tzeSFNvZSv1LdBcVc2FuZWY_Vybt3A1VJ9rMlwsVYYtbDclws7SJZFkSAehpQiAN9N1FxKbaQ0fg3mS1GqbFbN9Bzz2RTRuPS9iyhws_lmaOwqheeI-02FWbcbd2sNgHzkY93bOB4i48Lj48MKvb6tpznAdqjI8rRRMmgoarxMYqNxU9SvcUH-rYKS6pYhRLR4Moj6i37ommA8YnvzvJiZGWMWS5Gdr-oROho)

**Spring Term Classroom Worship Resource from isingpop** : 20-minute worship with differentiation for Key Stage 1/EYFS and Key Stage 2. It includes:  An animated Bible story; A reflection on the theme; An interactive prayer activity; An iSingPOP dance routine to learn; The Lord’s Prayer. The Spring Term will consist of 12 Collective Worship sessions around the values/themes of:  Love (Spring 1), Respect (Spring 1), Forgiveness (Spring 2), Easter (Spring 2) [www.isingpop.org/classroom-worship](http://www.isingpop.org/classroom-worship). £90 -whole term/ £50 for half-term.

**Videos for classroom & whole school worship** : Set A is out now, and there will be one released each half term, Set B being available after Christmas. Sample video here: [https://www.handtomouth.org.uk/](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kgciH-0000Zi-67&i=57e1b682&c=WiI3vkpyKpdClWbMCwwtPBog-Y6oeotrgVDfsJO5XV0cvkn58eMJ61u8yzz-4_D1ylVJmxKdX0c4_SisZzBDuj7aMGvabhBqn2WottBkgDa3iTBr5OAtsn-W2D14jFj1RHg9FeCsEsG1dQLpi5fEugSNvvg99pbovV1_9_djZa4v2D0ZAAmCuMQfl2wgJDZsyvy_ItZjjq967Ipwb7scwIGZK0BInwg6Kq4ngUS1o-M)

**Tales from the Miracle Book :** Rhema Theatre Company have produced a film telling the story of the first Christmas, complete with cross curricula (RE, PHSE, SEAL, Citizenship) resources. The trailer is at  [**www.talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk**](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kgARd-0003c9-6C&i=57e1b682&c=Dx4pJHsvujLbdINfC4chSEv8Jjle_ZCybhFxGQbJrfuUI-f0sV-kBQYonQZdKB5FoyiummxzWlLVvPtonjtK3GZFgNoPlvsV5NFeHxOxddiRTepJxFI_CRb-VGTAdlXpGK319Q3EZiM9hW_w5pvctT8vvv9g0SrIlkGnUs1cgXw5HaLT_pFHq6o6iOLMOQspIwH-BUjW30Pb_n9EhHcq5GuxOUkkur0nMFPhlxNI9_Gb7WCLMi2fDa9PuZmhure1)  The film can be watched as a 50 minute movie or as 11 separate short films for classroom/worship settings (even streamable for home learning).  With this Christmas resource you also get resources for the whole year included: Anti-Bullying films and resources, the Easter story and stories of Miracles & Parables. Prices from £75

Jeff Williams

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