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

**From:               Jeff Williams**

**Date:               8th December 2020**

**Re:              SIAMS update (& Education Team re-structure & Spring Term Classroom Resources advance notice)**

Dear colleagues

**SIAMS :** At the end of last week the Secretary of State and Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector announced that Ofsted graded inspections will remain suspended until the summer term 2021. As SIAMS inspections are part of DfE and government-commissioned and funded inspections, on both a  legal and statutory basis, the programme is best delivered and linked to Ofsted decisions.

I can therefore confirm that SIAMS Inspections will not resume until the Summer Term of 2021 at the earliest.

We will be working with the Department for Education and the other section 48 providers to consider the most effective and supportive way of resuming SIAMS inspections. However, currently we have no further information to share about scheduling and catch-up intentions.  As soon as this is known I will update you.

We have continued to deliver training for schools via Zoom and MS Teams while my colleagues remain working from home, and I would therefore ask that if you are in the inspection window, that you take advantage of **SLT, whole-school and Governor SIAMS preparation training** that we offer. Please contact Sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org  and Richard.wharton@portsmouth.anglican.org and they will be happy to arrange a virtual session during the working day or an evening.

**Diocesan Education Team re-structure** : Portsmouth Diocese, our employer, has been significantly impacted by the financial ramifications of Covid 19 on Churches, which in turn relates to a significant part of our funding stream.  We have therefore had to re-structure, as have other teams in both dioceses, and I share this information so you know who to contact in my team going forward (our websites in Winchester and Portsmouth summarise this for future reference).

We continue to support you with professionalism and commitment, but please bear with us as we adjust to new scenarios.

Sadly last week we said goodbye to Sharon Taylor (Governance Co-Ordinator), Bethan Fogill (Portsmouth Diocese – Youth, Children & Schools Advisor) and Karen Stubington (School Buildings Assistant), all of whom have served us with commitment and energy, and we wish them well in their futures. Jane Kelly moves to part time in a revised role as RE & Children’s Spirituality Lead, and Barbara Millet to part-time as School Buildings Officer; Tracy Dawkins continues as part-time School Buildings Officer. My PA, Sam Powell takes on additional administrative duties and part time as PA to another colleague.  Sue Bowen and Richard Wharton’s role descriptors change to Diocesan Education Advisors, reflecting their additional focus on direct support to parishes and their work with CofE and Community Schools – and Sue becomes the lead on ex-Officio Governors, and Richard as lead on Foundation Governors. Rob Sanders takes on responsibility for Admissions and Appeals.  If in doubt, please email Sam.

**Spring Term Resources for classroom worship** : I’ll be sharing before the end of term resources for **Epiphany, Lent, Valentine’s Day** and lots linked to the launch of our **Ten-Ten *#Fourishing* 2021** Project in January. And of course, can I encourage you to ask teachers to schedule 20 minutes during the last week of term to view our **Diocesan Christmas Video** with their class – it’s in the final stages of editing, and I’m so grateful to the schools who represent you all in this lovely piece.

Best wishes and thanks for being you and doing what you do

**Jeff**

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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