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

(and please forward widely to your contacts & networks)

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               12th October 2022**

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

Dear colleagues

As the new senior Deputy Headteacher arriving at an 11-18 school many years back, the typically ‘late’ or ‘no show’ approach to sixth form assembly didn’t materialise on my first appearance. They turned out in droves, to see and judge the newby. Knowing that children and adults of all ages and stages love a story, and love being read-to, I turned up with a book which is typically aimed at Key Stage 1. The pictures and shiny foil adornments are critical to fully appreciating the story, so I managed to get some large posters from the publisher which meant all the 17-19 year olds could appreciate the beautiful pictures while I read the story. No one moved, laughed or coughed, and all eyes were on me and the posters (including the sixth form tutors, some of whom used the time to sort our registers and the like!).

I had no need to moralise or spoil the impact of the deeply meaningful book by ‘explaining’ things at the end. I just said ‘thank you for listening, see you next week’. Marcus Pfister’s ‘The Rainbow Fish’ is still a best-seller in many languages. The following week I turned up to a silent, expectant and full hall (which included other teachers and adults!) - this time I read ‘Rainbow Fish to the rescue’ and similarly thanked them for their attentiveness but with no laboured message to spoil the story, just a time of silence to reflect and ponder. Each week for the term I took a different children’s story book – all of which have been received as gifts by adults and children in my family and beyond.

Stories are important educationally: to offer perspectives, to encourage lateral thinking, to promote imagination, amongst a long list of other purposes. Above all, they are enjoyable. Our own life story and life narrative wefts and weaves as we grow and experience different things, which we share by telling others. We are slowly learning as a society to recognise that identifying ‘someone just like me’ in books, and in TV entertainment and positions of influence is critical in affirming and offering hope and aspiration especially for visible and invisible minority people. Seeing ‘someone just like me’ in parliament, reading the TV news, appearing on ‘Strictly’ or in any place that the visible majority take for granted, is shifting the thinking of society and the communities where we dwell, work or socialise.

Last Christmas, many of you enjoyed watching the video of author Mary Hoffman reading her book ‘An angel just like me’ and you widely used and developed the resources we created alongside the video. A number of parishes used it in Messy Church and children and youth groups, as well as during Christmas services, and we know the project was embraced across lots of dioceses both in church schools and parishes, and in Local Authority Community Schools. We commend it to you again – feel free to share the attached resources with anyone! The video is linked in the booklet and worship resource – and there’s a snapshot of what some of our diocesan schools did in the attached Celebration Booklet.

We’re also creating a worship resource to accompany the lovely 2021 book ‘The Christmas Star’ by Hilary Robinson, with great inclusive illustrations by Ciara Ni Dhuin. Just seeing the key people of the Christmas narrative looking more Middle Eastern and Mediterranean, and people with black and brown skin (and male angels!) sends a powerful message to any child reading it or enjoying someone read it to them.

And some breaking news : last December I challenged you to find Christmas decorations and cards with black faces. At last, we know that one shop is stocking some! A few days ago I received a Whatssap photo from a delighted (and surprised) colleague who was shopping in T K Maxx.

A shared and representative narrative for all God’s people is important. Thank you for who you are in our communities and appreciating this important message, particularly this month.

With blessed wishes

**Jeff**

**Resources for Black History Month** Racism is at root an issue of power, the limiting of the capacity of certain people and groups to act whilst privileging and promoting the capacity of others, solely on the grounds of racial characterisation. Our worship and the life of the Church are not free from these dynamics. The national **Church of England** has created some resources for Black History Month (which lasts throughout October), including services, prayers and links to Bible studies, music and resources for children and youth. They are an invitation to develop a constant awareness to such dynamics in our worship and the life of the Church, nourished by and borne out of the constant focus of true worship. At the heart of this invitation is an intentional focus on and attention to God and God’s will for all people: life in all its fullness according to the image of God in which all are created. Click [here](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1ogjeG-000Cgt-3t&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1665134400%2F1ogjeG-000Cgt-3t%7Cin6c%7C57e1b682%7C11094928%7C7440907%7C633FF124A0DB7F66B39E3B3664F8AB47&s=MBxVnTzFqknjCjhiFWUV3LTUIu8&o=%2Fphtn%3A%2Fatsucgl1n.siami1.nt-als%2F.agromtecc%2Fac%3Flikkca0u%3Dd0cd522a6c8a1c96%26aafde4i9698%3D5fd003b3%3D3%26320ee8ba26) to download.

**All Are Welcome Project -** We have put together a series of resources based on children’s picture books that celebrate racial diversity, including *The Proudest Blue, My Hair and Look Up!* The materials include classroom reflections, RE and art ideas and are aimed at Year 2 pupils, although they can be adapted for older or younger children. They have been trialled by Jan Thomas at Copythorne CofE Infant School and we are repeating this week’s online training on Wednesday 9th November. **This project is equally useful for parishes who link with Local Authority/Community Schools.** Please contact Jane Kelly if you would like more information and a Teams link. Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org Project resources are now available at  <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/?s=%22All+Are+Welcome+Project%22>

<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/education/resources/projects/>

**Large Scale Art Installation at Winchester Cathedral** Peter Walker, artist-sculptor has now installed **The Light of Hope Star inside Winchester Cathedral**. We have 50 schools engaged – there’s still time to get involved. If you’re interested, please contact Sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org or Jane.kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org In addition to the Resources from Peter Walker, we have created a set of resources for schools. These are particularly useful for any school with Hope as one of its school values – but are good for everyone!

**Year 6 Leavers Days 2023** – a reminder that the **booking forms** need to be returned to Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org by next **Friday 21st October.**

**Academisation Consultation : Phase 3 meetings**

As promised when we met before the summer holidays, at the next Phase of meetings I will outline a range of structures, models and academy destinations that the Diocesan Board of Education will consider. When the DBE is close to coming to a decision, we will engage in Phase 4 discussions with you. If there are specific questions or areas you’d like me to consider including at the next series of meetings, please email my pa Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org

It’s important that places are **booked in advance** – please contact my pa Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org Thank you.

Thursday 10th November,  1.30pm – 3.30pm - St Pauls Church, Oak Road, Bursledon, Southampton, SO31 8DU

Thursday 10th November,  6pm-8pm. Online – MS Teams

Monday 14TH November, 10am-12pm – St Barnabas Church, Fromond Road, Winchester SO22 6DS

Tuesday 15th November, 10am-12pm – St Katharine’s School, Rolls Drive, Southbourne, Bournemouth BH6 4NA

**SIAMS National Update 3rd November** - further to the flyer two weeks ago, we have been sent this message by the SIAMS National Office:

*The National SIAMS Team would like to thank all those who have registered, or who have tried to register, to attend one of the national update sessions on Thursday 3rd November. Due to an unexpectedly high response, the session registration capacity has been reached and the link that was shared previously is no longer allowing people to register their attendance. Consequently, we are now sharing the link that will allow you to gain direct access to the session of your choice. Please do not share this link with anyone apart from those members of your team who plan to attend the sessions. Thank you.*

*Thursday 3 November 10am-11.30am* [*Click here to join 10am meeting*](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1663776000%2F1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w%7Cin6f%7C57e1b682%7C11094928%7C7440907%7C632B363C2FA847BD107FA7045DFD66F3&s=xEnJAOrwehWRb8-Y-vzj2v_ipYw&o=%2Fphte%3A%2Fttsr.amsicosm%2F.of%2Fomltcjtmeip-oeum9n%2Fe3ae1%25YgtiMMzyn_NOjkdMtT4WR0iMLYWki0ONWJQItDkzkEyMMMTwm2h%25jEe0tr14%3Fvado%2F0c.27xnt%25%3D%25bet2i223%252%25Td22a%2565e429-33b7b04-a-9b48c15-a477c0e8f7e2%25%252Oc%25222a2id2%253%25%252f627-a8ca819e7-4e7a-ee99cd5aa-%2548b244224d7%25)

*Thursday 3 November 6pm-7.30pm* [*Click here to join the 6pm meeting*](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1663776000%2F1ob2Ds-000Cdm-4w%7Cin6f%7C57e1b682%7C11094928%7C7440907%7C632B363C2FA847BD107FA7045DFD66F3&s=7uiOrtRakUZivkBUE7K9ZiMnJBI&o=%2Fphte%3A%2Fttsr.amsicosm%2F.of%2Fomltcjtmeip-oeum9n%2Fe3ae1%25YgtiNOT5n_OMTldItDlGE0lOLMG3S0ZOTgdQtT0TMQkNMNTw20h%25TIe0trw4%3Fvado%2F0c.27xnt%25%3D%25bet2i223%252%25Td22a%2565e429-33b7b04-a-9b48c15-a477c0e8f7e2%25%252Oc%25222a2id2%253%25%252f627-a8ca819e7-4e7a-ee99cd5aa-%2548b244224d7%25)

*The sessions will consist of a presentation by Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS, and no questions will be able to be taken to the high number of attendees.*

**Interfaith Week**

[Interfaith Week](https://www.interfaithweek.org/about) will take place **between 13th and 20th November 2022**. This is a great way to raise the profile of RE in your school and to reach out to your local community. Many schools combine it with [Anti-Bullying Week,](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2022-reach-out#:~:text=Anti-Bullying%20Week%202022%20is%20coordinated%20in%20England%20and,socks%20to%20celebrate%20what%20makes%20us%20all%20unique.) which starts off with Odd Sock Day, a simple way to celebrate our uniqueness.  Do come along to one of the RE network meetings to find out more, and for recommendations for visits and visitors.

**2022-23 Diocesan Education Project – ‘Everyday Ubuntu : Growing & Developing Together’ - *This academic year’s project will be launched next week.*** But if you want a taster, we are using Desmond Tutu’s reconciliation theology as a basis – clearly not ‘go-to’ reading for children, but what will appear in our podcasts, videos and project in age-appropriate, inspirational and exciting activities and opportunities. In addition to the project booklet, packed with ideas and off the peg packages, a new feature this year will be podcasts, seminars and other activities for adults.

**Training Events for teachers, governors and parishes (relevant for Church Schools and Local Authority / community schools)**

Please email my pa Sam.powell@portsmouth to register for details of the remaining sessions this term:

**All Are Welcome**   : 9th November , 4:00 – 5:00   Online training to launch our new diversity project, based on a selection of  picture books. It is aimed primarily at Y2 children, but can be adapted up or down.

**Global Neighbours**  :13th October, 4 – 5:30    Online training for school leaders and governors on how to develop and embed global learning in your school.

**Kindertransport workshops**  7th November, 3:30 – 5:00 (Northern schools) or 10th November, 3:30 – 5:00 (Southern schools)  A practical workshop for Y5 / 6 teachers with activities and resources to teach their pupils about the Kindertransport and the lessons we can learn from history. Ideal for use on Holocaust Memorial Day January 27th 2023.

**Joint school parish eco projects** 15th November 4-5.30pm A session to inspire and encourage joint eco projects between parishes and schools

**Induction training for recently appointed foundation governors** 15th November 6.30-8pm

**Collective worship training for foundation governors** 30th November 6.30-8pm

**Flourishing Together: CofE Foundation for Educational Leadership National Conference 2023.**

The conference will take place on Friday 27th January 2023 at Union Chapel and St. Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington, London. Details on speakers, workshops and how to register can be found [here](https://url6.mailanyone.net/scanner?m=1od6OK-0001ZI-4l&d=4%7Cmail%2F14%2F1664268600%2F1od6OK-0001ZI-4l%7Cin6d%7C57e1b682%7C11094928%7C7440907%7C6332BAC468C05CC554BC9B5323DA411A&s=4iiaS4G_-o0yzyePZnBPx0lcP8Q&o=%2Fphth%3A%2Fctsnhurlfegcof.anrfaodt4nms0t%2F9.e3353).

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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