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

**From     :             Diocesan Education Team**

**Date      :             17th  March 2021**

**Re          :             Weekly resources from the Diocesan Education Team**

Dear Colleagues

Please find attached this week’s bundle of resources:

Lent Art Week 6 presents the conclusion of this resource series which we hope has contributed to an interesting journey of reflection throughout this Lenten time. Also attached are resources that you may find helpful in the lead up to Easter – one being a further daily reflection resource and the other a resource that supports exploring Easter with children at EYFS. Finally, another guided reflection using the story ‘Grump Monkey’ that explores the theme of handling negative emotions.

Today being the 17th March means it is of course St Patrick’s Day. There are a many reflections that could be drawn from the life story of St Patrick but one sad consequence for the team still working remotely is that we will not get to sample a slice of Nigella’s Guinness cake that one of our colleagues in the Portsmouth Diocese enjoys baking (it is well worth looking up the recipe if you haven’t tried it!). More importantly however, if you read the story – of which there are various versions – you will read about someone who achieved against the odds, stayed faithful to the cause, something that is definitely true of the work you have all been doing this past year and no doubt will continue to do.

It was said of St Patrick that he was not an eloquent writer or speaker but that he got alongside people and met them where they were – he was an encourager, compassionate and his care for others was clear to see. These were the qualities that had a significant impact on the people around him.

Working hard to improve standards is of course important with children benefitting greatly from quality teaching but we hope that you will all agree that a focus on the Christian values that underpin the work of our schools also has a huge impact on the lives of those that learn and work in our diocesan schools and that children’s well-being remains at the forefront of all that we do.

So, today being the day it is, our message to you ends with the words of a traditional Irish blessing:

*‘May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.*

*And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.’*

With our very best wishes and continued thanks for all you do,

The Education Team.

**Admissions**

Just a reminder for our Academies and Voluntary Aided schools that determined School Admissions Policies for 2022-23 should now be published on school websites in addition to an Admissions Appeals Timetable for 2021 – thank you.

**RSE Policies**

Thank you to all the schools that have sent us their RSE policies for review and comment. The majority of schools will now have concluded parent consultation processes and be ready to publish. If you have not yet sent us a copy of your policy, we would be pleased to receive one before the end of term – many thanks. Please send to Robert.Sanders@portsmouth.anglican.org or Robert.Sanders@winchester.anglican.org