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

**From     :  The Education Team**

**Date      :  24th February 2021**

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

Dear Colleagues

Welcome back after half-term – we hope that everyone was able to spend some time recharging the batteries last week. As mentioned in our previous message, we hope you were able to experience some moments of joy during the week. This can of course come in many forms which one particular news story from the BBC, that you may have seen before, illustrates very well:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-australia-55836596>

Of course, you may not be in possession of a surfing duck to entertain your friends and neighbours but many of you will have other talented pets for sure!

At some point, most of us will have explored the notion of preferred learning styles and will have come to the conclusion that although many of us have a predominance, we all learn with a complex mixture of approaches. The same could be said of the way we experience joy, happiness, contentment or a spiritual experience of God. Perhaps you might find it helpful to explore the following list to reflect on this for yourself or help to understand how this might be for others:

Naturalist - finds happiness/God through nature

Ascetic – is drawn to disciplines

Traditionalist – loves traditional approaches or historical liturgy

Activist – comes alive when supporting a great cause

Caregiver – finds happiness/meets God through serving others

Sensate – finds happiness/sense God through exploration of the five senses

Enthusiast – loves to grow through interaction with people

Contemplative – is drawn to solitary reflection or prayer

Intellectual – finds happiness/God through learning and enlightenment

There has been much talk recently about the catch up curriculum, but this list may also help us all to recognise and accept the importance of a range of experiences that can enable us and our school communities to develop spiritually but also to be happy places where children can learn effectively.

Following Boris’ announcement on Monday, we know that you will be looking forward to welcoming your talented children back to school from the 8th March. We are also mindful, however, that this will involve much work and careful preparation to ensure there is a safe and smooth transition – we hope and pray that the return to school goes well for everyone.

We will continue to provide a set of resources each week that support you in the delivery of collective worship and for other times of reflection and spiritual development. Attached this week you should find the Lent Art reflection resource for week 3, a guided reflection based on the story ‘Be Kind’ and a Lego worship/reflection resource which explores the strength of collaborative working (this also has some follow up activities included. Also attached is a PDF with our weekly notices and links to resources – it is a longer than usual so we thought it would be easier to read that way that scroll through a lengthy email.

With our very best wishes and thanks for all you do

The Education Team