

## Primary Newsletter

September 2020

Welcome to the beginning of the new school year. I hope that you were able to have a good summer break. So many staff have worked tirelessly to enable the schools to be ready to open for all the children. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in a time when everything is constantly changing. I hope and pray that everyone stays safe and well in the coming year. As your new advisor I look forward to when I can visit your schools.

At the present time in school there won't be whole school assemblies, masses or gatherings of more than one group or bubble. Singing, chanting and the playing of wind and brass instruments has also stopped, which I miss. I am always delighted by the way Primary schools overcome obstacles. I understand that many schools are using technology to record assemblies which can be seen by the children in their groups and bubbles. There are some events taking place, many virtually that schools can take part in.

### Laudato Si Anniversary

Five years ago, Pope Francis shared with the world his encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On Care for our Common Home. In his letter he calls on us all to treat the world with more respect. We are stewards of God's creation and by looking after our world and sharing our resources we can transform our relationships and live in harmony with God, nature, and one another. The anniversary will be celebrated until 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. We would like to focus on Laudato Si this year and I look forward to hearing how you have celebrated it in your schools. There are resources on the CAFOD website and the CES website <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/laudato-si-resources> Power points for different age groups will soon be available on the schools and colleges website based on the 'Stations of Creation' inspired by St Francis of Assisi.



O lord seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your kingdom,  
of justice, peace, love and beauty  
praise be to you!

Amen

Pope Francis  
(Laudato Si 246)

## Education Sunday

Education Sunday is on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The theme for this year is 'A learning people in a time of change'.

Many children learning from home and staff have had to

adapt to a different way of teaching during the last few months. This encourages us to reflect on what we have learnt about ourselves and our relationship with God. There are resources available on

[www.cte.org.uk/EducationSunday2020](http://www.cte.org.uk/EducationSunday2020)



## The God who speaks

2020 was also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Verbum Domini - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord.' Due to Covid some of the events that were planned did not take place. There are 'Year of the Word' resources available on CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Year-of-the-Word> or on 'The God who speaks' website <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/>

## CAFOD



CAFOD are inviting schools and families to support them in the Coronavirus Appeal at Harvest. The theme this year is 'How do I keep my child safe if we don't have water for handwashing?' Pope Francis reminds us that access to clean, fresh water is a basic human right. Harvest Fast Day is on 9<sup>th</sup> October. There is also a national CAFOD assembly on the you tube channel on Thursday

10<sup>th</sup> September at 9:30am. Resources are available on the website [cafod.org.uk/education](http://cafod.org.uk/education)

## Year of Communion

On the Clifton Diocese website under the Year of Communion section is a resource about the story of Sadako Sasaki. She was a young girl who was affected by the bombing of Hiroshima. One power point tells her story while the other gives instructions on how to make a paper crane. Every year people decorate her statue with paper cranes. I was moved by this story and I thought the cranes would create a wonderful display in school. It also reminded me of the people we have lost to Covid because the story is all about hope and thinking of others.



## Relationship and Sex Education

The new statutory Relationship, Sex and Health Education is compulsory from this month, September 2020. 'Schools should start teaching from that date if they meet the statutory requirements. If they are not ready, or are unable to meet the requirements, they should begin teaching by at least the start of the summer term 2021.' DFE 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The Catholic Education Service, in partnership with Ten Ten Resources, have provided online training for teachers in Catholic primary schools. The training is free and has been created in conjunction with the Department of Education. I know that many teaching staff in schools have completed the training during lockdown. I would advise that all teaching staff in Primary schools complete the training. I found it really worthwhile and informative. Please make sure that policies and resources that have been adopted have gone through the consultation process with parents and are signed off by full governing bodies.

**Black History Month**

In October we celebrate ‘Black History Month’ in schools. There will be power points about saints of colour available under the resources section of the website. I would encourage you all to think about the images and resources you use in schools. Do you use role models that represent every child? Are children inspired by the images you use? There are lots of books and resources online including <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/black-history-month-primary-and-secondary-resources/zjwf8xs> and activities on tes and twinkl. One of my favourite books is ‘Little Leaders, Bold Women in Black History’ by Vashti Harrison which has beautiful pictures of empowering black women. She has also written ‘Exceptional Men in Black History’. The ‘Little People, Big Dreams series has books about people of colour such as Maya Angelou. I was also inspired by ‘Young, Gifted and Black’ by Jamia Wilson and Andrea Pippins.



**Primary RE Update**

Please note that the Primary RE coordinators day has changed from 23rd September 2020 to **5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 1:30 to 3:30**

During the first session Philip Robinson, the National Adviser for Religious Education will cover updates on the new Curriculum Directory and the new Section 48 Framework. There will also be an opportunity to moderate work together. This will be a virtual meeting and I encourage all RE Leads to attend.

**Other Faiths**

Could you please ensure that you plan for other faith units to be taught in blocks rather than at the end of units. There will be some resources on the website for you to use at the beginning of Term 2. I would suggest that in the early years the children are given the opportunity to experience many faiths and cultures through celebrations such as Diwali and Chinese New Year. A suggested format could then be:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Judaism	Islam	Hinduism or Sikhism or Buddhism
Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Judaism	Islam	Hinduism or Sikhism or Buddhism

## **RE Leads**

It is my intention going forward to facilitate RE lead meetings within partnerships in order to provide support to all and keep RE on the agenda during these very challenging times. I am currently looking at dates which I will circulate as soon as I can.

## **Future Dates**

- **Education Mass 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7pm- under review**
- **CCRS unit on The Church Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**
- **Religious Education Link Governors 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**
- **Aspiring Leaders course Day 1 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020**
- **Governor Induction Training 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020**
- **Cross Phase Modular Course Day 1 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**

## **Please remember the Primary Leavers' Mass**

Schools from the Aquinas, Dunstan, Emmaus and Samuel Partnerships are requested to attend on Wednesday 16th June 2021. Schools from the Camino, Gloucestershire and Newman Partnerships are requested to attend on Thursday 17th June 2021.

I hope and pray that you all stay safe. Thank you for everything you have done to ensure the schools have been able to open for all the children.

**Lord, we trust in You to keep children safe throughout this school year.  
We pray that they will enjoy and excel in their education.  
Fill their hearts and minds with Your truth and light;  
and hold them steady in the palm of Your hand.  
Amen**



***Louise White***  
***Diocesan RE Lead***