



Welcome Back

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to thank you and all the staff in Primary Schools for your resilience and dedication last year. It was another challenging year for families, schools, churches and communities across the world. Thank you for rising to every 'opportunity' that was placed before you which included home learning, online teaching, reorganising of classrooms for the bubbles, distancing and all the extra handwashing. I am so proud of the assemblies, collective worship, charity and chaplaincy work your schools were still able to provide. I am looking forward to meeting many of you in person this year.



The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration that unites Christians in praying for our common home. It was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015 and is celebrated from the 1st September to the 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This fits in with most year groups in the Creation topic in 'God Matters' and Beginnings Topic in 'Come and See.' It can also be incorporated in Catholic Social Teaching Stewardship. There are Collective Worship ppts available on the Clifton Diocese Schools and Colleges Website. <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/season-of-creation#:~:text=The%20Season%20of%20Creation%20is,by%20Pope%20Francis%20in%202015.>



There are ppts for Nursery and Pre-school, Reception and Year 1, Year 2 and Lower KS2 and Upper KS2.

There are free resources on the Season of Creation website <https://seasonofcreation.org/> CAFOD have Laudato Si resources for Primary Schools which can be accessed through this link: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Laudato-Si-for-children>



COP26 and the Eyes of the World Campaign

COP26 the United Nation's Climate talks for World Leaders will take place in Glasgow this year on the 31st of October to the 11th November. Pope Francis will also be attending. CAFOD is asking schools and colleges to join them in a campaign to call on the Prime Minister to support the world's poorest countries. Thank you to all the schools who have Already taken part in this campaign. Resources can be accessed through this link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Eyes-of-the-world>

The children of Holy Family Primary School in Swindon can be seen on the Cafod Fratelli Tutti assembly which can be viewed on this link: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Fratelli-Tutti-for-schools>



Education Sunday

Education Sunday will take place on the 12th September. The theme this year is 'A Word in Season.' A word in season is taken from Isaiah and explains that the one who was to come would be an anointed teacher. The theme was chosen as an acknowledgement of the weariness that may have affected the education sector with the

disruption of Covid and to keep in mind the strength that will enable us to open up to the possibilities that lie ahead. There are primary resources available on the website including a Primary Collective Worship.

<https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=293134>



2021: A Word in Season

Relationship Sex Education and Health Education

Please make sure that your school's policies and resources are compliant with the statutory requirements. Ten Ten 'Live life to the full' are releasing some updated vocabulary progression maps for each class (labelled 'glossary of terms') and skills progression maps for each class. My thanks to Janet Payne from St Mary's Primary in Churchdown for always keeping me updated.

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CAFOD

CAFOD are encouraging schools and colleges to 'Go Green' for this harvest. The appeal will support the communities protecting the Amazon and to stand up for people dealing with climate crisis. The Harvest Family Fast Day is on 1st October. The National Assembly for Primary Schools will go live on Thursday 16th September. A fundraising pack including posters and stickers are available to order online. Resources are available on this link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources>

The Advent assembly will take place on 2nd December 2021.



CAFOD clubs

CAFOD clubs help children learn about the world and strongly support the Catholic life of your school.

Register to receive your free box of starter resources including a world map and stickers: cafod.org.uk/cafodclubs

Catholic Social Teaching

CAFOD Schools Volunteers are offering pupil workshops on CST this term (contact schools@cafod.org.uk) to book a visit. There is an accompanying teacher pack, which CAFOD are trialling this year and will then adapt following feedback from teachers. Resources are available for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

[Catholic Social Teaching resources for children | CAFOD](#)



The God Who Speaks

There are free resources available to download on 'The God Who Speaks' website. Resources include activity sheets and Collective Worship resources. They can be accessed using this link:

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/> and look under Education.



Noah Day

The September Focus is on Scripture and the Environment during the Creationtide season and in preparation for COP26. There are resources available on this link:

godwhospeaks.uk/noah-and-creation-care

Resources have been created on a special Noah Day for schools with help from Clifton and Westminster dioceses.

Noah Day - godwhospeaks.uk/run-your-own-noah-day



The Year of St Joseph

The special year of St Joseph ends on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on the 8th December 2021. In the Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde* 'With a Father's Heart' Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, a working father and a father in shadows. Pope Francis drew parallels between Saint Joseph and the ordinary people, discreet people who we have noticed more during the pandemic such as NHS staff but also shop assistants and delivery people who gave us hope and kept us going during the pandemic. There are resources available on the Mission Together Website <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/feast-of-st-joseph/>

The Diocese of Westminster <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/St-Joseph-final.pdf>

The Diocese of Salford <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/resource-centre/education/collective-worship/collectiveworship-stjoseph/>

The Diocese of Brentwood <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/resources/education-resources/year-saint-joseph/>

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle <http://edurcdhn.org.uk/school/yojoseph/yearofjoseph.php>





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Clifton Diocese Project

This year we would like Clifton schools and colleges to support the Clifton Diocese Project. In Laudato Si Pope Francis reminds us that “Each community has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming Generations.”

We would like to raise enough money to supply 23 schools in Uganda with water pumps to enable them to attain water security, irrigate the tree nurseries the project will help them plant and will improve the communities public health, sanitation and hygiene, increase the farm productivity and income. 30 schools in the diocese have already pledged their support. If you would like to join the project this year please email Stephen Whelan at St Edward’s School, Melchet Court.

SWhelan@melchetcourt.com

There will be assemblies and resources available for Primary Schools on the Schools and Colleges Website in the next few weeks.



Primary Leads RE Update

The first course will take place on the 22nd September at St Dunstan’s Parish Hall. There will be updates about the new RECD and Section 48. There will be opportunities to share good practice and resources in RE, RHSE and Collective Worship. We will spend some time looking at the role of the RE Lead, the coordinator’s file, monitoring and preparing for Section 48. At the second course on the 27th April Ann, Fowler will introduce the new RECD and there will be opportunities for collaborative planning.

Education Mass

The Education Mass will take place on the 9th November at Clifton Cathedral. This will be the first time we have been able to gather together in person for over a year. It will also be an opportunity to pay thanks to former heads and the department personnel who, owing to Covid, were not able to be thanked in the usual way. All members of the school community including parents and pupils are invited to attend.

Chaplaincy Service

This year there will be a service for Primary student chaplains only on the 12th November at Clifton Cathedral.

Judaism with Jeremy

I have booked Jeremy Michelson to facilitate a virtual course about an overview of how Jewish festivals are celebrated throughout the year on the 6th of October. The virtual training will start at 3:30pm and last for an hour. Jeremy Michelson has taught children and young people about Jewish life through his post as the Education Officer at Manchester Jewish Museum and through ‘Judaism with Jeremy.’ He has trained primary and secondary teachers at the Catholic Diocese of Salford from EYFS to GCSE. Places are limited to 25 people. Please book your places as soon as possible if there is a lot of interest, I will book another course.



The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

The RE Curriculum is changing in all key stages. The CCRS is a national qualification, and our modules are adapting to take account of the new syllabus to enable staff to feel better prepared to teach. It is a nationally recognised course designed to give staff an understanding of basic Christian theology. Each year students have found that the course gives them a chance to explore the Catholic faith, study the Bible, discuss and understand church teaching, explore the work of scholars past and present, look at how faith is put into action in the world we live in and share teaching strategies. The course offered in Clifton is directed at all those teaching in Catholic schools or who may wish to teach in a Catholic school. The course consists of eight modules run over a two-year period. Each module takes place over two days, a Saturday (10-2) and a full day on a Monday. Full details are on pages 13 and 14 of the courses booklet online. In order to achieve the national qualification, you will need to complete a 1500-word assignment for each module but you can attend purely for interest and receive a diocesan certificate of attendance. **All Governors and Headteachers** are asked to support and encourage their staff to attend this course, so they are better prepared for the challenges ahead. The first module will begin on the 25th September and will be on the Old Testament.

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Heads of RE, RE Coordinators and Religious Education Link Governor – Working Together

I have organised a meeting in partnership schools for Heads of RE, RE Leads and Religious Education Link Governors. The meetings will take place in partnership schools which I considered to be a central point of the partnership. Guidance will be provided for Governors relating to the monitoring of RE and RHSE during the meeting. I would like to say thank you to the partnership Head Teachers who have agreed to host the meetings.

More Key Dates

- Religious Education Link Governors 2nd October and 4th November 2021
- Aspiring Leaders Course Day 1, 15th November 2021
- Governor Induction Training 18th November 2021
- Cross Phase Modular Course Day 1, 2nd February 2022
- World Mission Sunday 24th October 2021
- CAFOD Advent assembly 2nd December 2021



Please remember the Primary Leavers' Mass

Schools from the Aquinas, Dunstan, Emmaus and Samuel Partnerships are requested to attend on Wednesday 22nd June 2022.

Schools from the Camino, Little Way and Newman Partnerships are requested to attend on Thursday 23rd June 2022.

The theme for the offertory will be Fratelli Tutti, more information will follow.



Prayer

Holy Spirit,
inspire us and renew us
as we embark upon a
New school year.
Spark out imaginations,
fill us with desire to
enhance the lives of our students,
and help us to be grateful
for the privilege of being involved in education.
Amen

Louise White
Diocesan RE Lead Adviser

A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE
CLIFTON DIOCESE