**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      :               22nd June 2022**

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

Dear colleagues

When individual human beings are grouped into categories, there always exists the possibility that some people fail to see those human beings as individuals, and set-aside the hopes, fears, personalities and dignity that all humans deserve to be recognised and valued, preferring to see such individuals as a label. It’s easier to be critical and uncaring for individuals (albeit with perceived ‘rational justification’) if they are lumped into one category and become a ‘problem’ per se.

Monday this week marked World Refugee Day - an international day organised every year on 20th June by the **United Nations.** It is designed to **celebrate and honour** refugees from around the world. The day was first established on 20th June 2001, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees. World Refugee Day shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but also thrive. While it is important to protect and improve the lives of refugees every single day, ‘international days’ like World Refugee Day help to focus global attention on the plight of those fleeing conflict or persecution.

Sadly, many people in the UK will have scorned at the very notion of such a day, particularly in current contentious circumstances, but thankfully, many will also appreciate that the grouping of individuals into the ‘refugee’ title does not diminish or remove their individuality, dignity and personhood.  When hearing the word ‘refugees’ many Christians automatically reflect on the thousands of families that fled Israel 2,00 years ago, including **Mary and Joseph, refugees whose baby was under threat of death** along with all other **toddler and baby boys** in the country under the age of two.

We had 2,000 children at Winchester Cathedral last week for the **Year 6 Leavers’ workshops and worship**, and have the Portsmouth Cathedral days this week. As part of our **Ten:Ten*#flourishing*** project culmination, schools are bringing  flowers, made from a whole host of materials, to add to a set of **banners we are creating each day** that will be displayed in Churches and a range of settings as well as touring with us for various meetings and events (do contact me if you’d like to display one – an excellent talking piece, worship focus or sermon material – literally!). Children from **Longparish Primary school** brought a flower with the petals creatively made from newspaper cuttings focusing on **Ukranian refugees.** There are **photos attached** of the Year 6 children and their flower. The children wrote that *‘we used black and white newspapers to show lack of colour in these places, and the key words from the headlines to highlight the sadness, horror and grief. The stamens represent blood spilled and the flower is slowly dying’.*

A number of our schools now have Ukranian refugee children enhancing their communities, and we thank the schools, staff and children for the ways in which they are demonstrating and living out Christian values in a practical way. We are pleased to share the attached **prayers in English and Ukranian**, which we hope all schools will find useful and meaningful. Although World Refugee Day has passed, I’m attaching some resources that you may find useful at some point.

You may be familiar with **‘reverse poems’** – they are read from top to bottom for one meaning, then from bottom to top for another meaning. The attached example is powerful.

With best wishes for all you do, and who you are in your places of presence and influence.

**Jeff**

**Photos of Cathedral Days and any Ten:Ten*#flourishing* activities – PLEASE!!**

We are in deep joy celebrating our Year 6 Leavers’ Days in person for the first time since 2020!

Each year towards the end of term, we create a Special Edition Newsletter, in which we celebrate with photos, quotes and insights into how our schools have embraced the Diocesan project. We have superb presentations from some representative schools at the Cathedrals, but would really appreciate seeing what all our schools have been doing. Would you please send photos, quotes or paragraphs so we can share and show our network what our schools have been doing  - please? During the ‘work in progress’ and ‘final’ stages are equally engaging! We’ll share the information widely, including on our Diocesan and Cathedral websites and social media platforms, in our Special Edition Newsletter (circulation is to several thousand recipients, at home and abroad!) so do ensure that appropriate permissions apply with any photos. Sue Bowen, our Diocesan Education Advisor for Schools and Parishes is coordinating this – so would you please send Sue any photos of the Cathedral Days, school activities or completed outcomes  : [Sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org)  Thank you – you’ll enjoy the Special Edition Newsletter, as will your parishes, staff and children even more if featured.

**Agenda for Summer Term Briefings :**

Please book with my pa [Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org) There is one meeting left in this round : Mon 27 June morning – 9.30am online

1.**Jeff’s regional and national update** on matters emerging from meetings with the Regional Schools Commissioner; The National Schools Commissioner; the DfE; +Paul Butler (CofE Education Lead); Baroness Barron;

**2.Becoming Adoption & Fostering Friendly Schools and Parishes** : with inputs from one of our Secondary Headteachers who has significant experience of emergency and long-term fostering of teenage boys; the manager from a not for profit fostering charity with resources, training and support for schools; one of our Primary Headteachers who has developed a school approach to supporting adopted and fostered children that benefits the entire community.

**3.Academy Headteachers’ perspectives** : reflections from two of our Diocesan Headteachers leading academy schools to inform the Consultation on The Government’s White paper (item I covered at the last Briefings)

**4.Bereavement Support** for children and significant adults – a charity representative offering resources and training.

**Academisation Consultation Meetings - July :** It’s important that places are **booked in advance** – please contact my pa [Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org) Thank you

Monday 11th July,  10am-12pm, St Pauls Church, The Green, Tadley, Basingstoke, RG26 3PB; Wednesday 13th July, 10am-12pm – Cornerstone CofE School, Bader Way, Whiteley, Fareham, PO15 7JH ; Wednesday 13th July, 2.30-4.30pm – St Barnabas Church, Fromond Road, Winchester SO22 6DS specific focus on Small Schools - the most commonly used definition is ‘fewer than 210 = small school’ (i.e. smaller than one class of each year group) and ‘fewer than 105 = very small school’ (i.e. smaller than half a class of each year group). This is the definition which the CofE uses and the definition which the DfE seem to have last used in their guidance on academy funding.; Wednesday 20th July 6pm-8pm & Thursday 21st July 6pm-8pm – online

**Isle of Wight Global Neighbours**

Some of the Island schools are planning to work together next year on the [Global Neighbours accreditation scheme.](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme) You are invited to a meeting at St Francis’ CofE Primary Academy on Friday 15th July at 1:30 to discuss ways of supporting each other with global learning resources and activities. Please contact Jane Kelly for more information. [Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org)

**RE Network Meetings**

Please see the attached flyer for details of RE network meetings in Term 6. Most of these will be held in person and will be an opportunity to meet up with other RE leaders, carry out some work moderation, review the year and hit the ground running in September. If anyone will be taking over RE leadership in September, this would be an ideal opportunity to start thinking about your goals for RE in the new school year.

**Picture News Impact Awards**

Picture news are looking for schools that have made an impact in their local communities or the wider world. Please see the [Picture News website](https://www.picture-news.co.uk/blog/the-return-of-the-picture-news-impact-awards/) to download a pack.

**Send my Friend to School**

Send my Friend to School is a campaign supported by the Church of England Education Office, which gives children opportunities for teamwork, problem solving and global learning. You can download a campaign pack with differentiated resources and more information [here.](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme)

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

Diocese of WINCHESTER &

Diocese of PORTSMOUTH

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