**To           :              Headteachers; Chairs of Governors; Foundation Governors; Ex-officio clergy; Deputy Headteachers; RE CoOrdinators  (and please forward widely)**

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               29th September 2021**

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

Dear colleagues

I’ve recently read the autobiography of the most capped rugby union player of all time. In the opening pages he describes walking into the National home team’s dressing room before each international match to be faced with a big photo of a team huddle on the wall, with the slogan beneath it  : **‘How do you want to be remembered?’**

Perhaps you could pause for a moment and consider how you might answer that question – honestly. Then perhaps ponder on the way others might actually remember you if you went to a higher place today?

**Reality and Perceived Reality** are metaphorical cousins – sometimes very close cousins, but sometimes distant cousins. It’s a levelling and humbling activity answering the question posed, but also affords us the opportunity to do something with our lives, however small, to feel content about the reality and/or perception of our contribution to those with whom we live, socialise or work; to The Common Good; and in optimising our God-given potential and giftings.

If you haven’t realised, the stadium is (of course!) The Principality, in Cardiff, and the player is Alun Wyn Jones :   ‘giant of a man in all respects’. Towards the end of the book he describes how he crouches besides his dad’s headstone at the cemetery in The Mumbles, ‘before big games and after big wins’. He shares with the reader the gold lettering on the dark polished gravestone :

In loving memory of Timothy Gilbert Jones

And when the final whistle blows

It is not who has won and lost

But how the game was played

So perhaps the remembrance question now takes on a different perspective – not about achievement, but about lifestyle, relationships and being, as well as doing?

Concurrent with reading this autobiography I had the joyous privilege of viewing a video made by Danielle, a pupil at St James’ Primary, West End. This was linked to a ‘Celebrating Differences’ fortnight at the school.  Danielle’s video speaks far more than my reflection on Reality and Perception, and is a fantastic, impressive and bold piece of personal sharing. Please view the video – 3 minutes of your day well spent right now! You would do well to use it with your children; and do please share it widely (Danielle’s parents have given permission).

*Today we are doing our differences and mine is dwarfism (hypochondroplasia) this is a video I made all about it with my dad when I was in year 4. Danielle.* <https://youtu.be/wPxdVNVfk_Y>

Thank you for who you are and what you do

**Jeff**

**Termly Briefings for Headteachers, Governors and ex-officios :** these will remain virtual this term. The agenda will be circulated in advance, but we are sending the dates now to assist with diary management. We are including one evening meeting at the request of a number of governors. Please contact sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org for meeting links.  **Tuesday 2nd November 6.30-8pm  Thursday 4th November 9.30-11am  Wednesday 10th November 1.30-3pm**

**RE Network meetings (virtual) :** will be taking place on **October 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 14th from 4:00 to 5:30 and on October 12th from 1:30 to 3:00.** These are a great way to meet up with other RE leaders and share ideas and resources. This term we will be focusing on the changes to the agreed syllabus (Living Difference IV and Any Questions?) and on ideas for celebrating Interfaith Week in November. Please contact Jane.Kelly@portsmouth.anglican.org.

**Ten Ten *#flourishing*** : A reminder that there is a **worship video** to accompany our 2021-22 project which we hope will assist in outlining the project to pupils and colleagues. You can access the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kj031_08m4Y&ab_channel=CofEWinchester>  **The deadline to access free trees from The Tree Council is this Friday 1 October**[https://treecouncil.org.uk/schools-and-education/orchards-for-schools/](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1kLMcv-0009Qr-3o&i=57e1b682&c=nDWzwfgdtPyUDavHfPyHXFLWZYZ6tyURb6JxKMrPJSr9fnVzCMuIEFQ4x-O7p9LXQdcvWmBF4mIBU91ExpGHDHpI9tEmw3g2rcMmLT6_FgR793YTZk8IOKshEWCkQWJchSiXuq6Jj_KiYH0nX9ZpXa9Mkp2zYYiHMf0QKOUUsag0NmpaS3PtTf3s69DYucQiYSmX4K_D5PSaF2PTESM7QU6PVlhs7pw8pUESLh6w7ecbGnHlROlVwzvcknYLHLehuwEleMM00W0Ukb-OZIpKLxk9J3SQx2joGoXuQJV5N1c)

**Additional Reflections to support Ten Ten *#flourishing*** : Sue has created some more resources focused on **The Tin Forest** book. Some of the information reflects Literacy work if your school uses **‘The Power of Reading’** scheme – but these are equally accessible for all schools. Resources are attached.

**Termly Worship Resources.** The next set of resources (on Love) for October half term to Christmas were shared in a separate email – a reminder that these and this half term’s Worship resources can be found here: <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/Guidedreflections/>      <https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/education/resources/guidedreflections/>

**Interfaith Week :** 14th to 21st  November and you can find out more on the [Interfaith website.](https://www.interfaithweek.org/) This would be a great way to raise the profile of RE in your school. You might consider inviting in a speaker (on Zoom?) from another faith, or asking children to explore faiths you don’t normally cover in school. It might be an opportunity to use curriculum time creatively and do some cooking, art, or dance  from another tradition. Some schools combine this with [Anti-bullying week,](https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week) which is held at the same time,  as a good way of embracing diversity. More ideas will be shared at the October RE network meetings.

**Free song resources :** Post pandemic, there has never been a more important time to use music to support children’s spiritual, mental and emotional well-being. Songs are powerful tools for helping us learn and remember. Songs we learn in childhood often stay with us through life. Memorable tunes stir our emotions and powerful lyrics open our minds to new ideas.  In an uncertain world, a song is an anchor children can return to again and again, familiar and reassuring, lifting our spirits and offering hope for today and the future.**For the next twelve months, free song resources are available to all primary schools through standard membership.** The songs have been carefully written to maintain a Christian distinctiveness, yet can be sung by children of all backgrounds and cultures. Here is an example sung by a small group of children from Chethams, Manchester <https://youtu.be/dx56YDXc-0M>. You can view other song resources here

**Free resource : Community Matters :** The resource provides activities and ideas to help pupils explore why community matters, looking at **social and environmental issues** and how children and young people can play their part in creating positive change, particularly as we rebuild our communities post-Covid restrictions. Great for **Global Citizenship** priorities. Find out more here: [www.abyyt.com/communitymatters](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1mNdE6-0005eh-4V&i=57e1b682&c=h75ATekxqFl7xLalJdcZHdJsAs_2FajjDjvBr5IpcWXdZMMwBjmUMcKkKbJbNSvjbQ_eNg0VmIR802y6xaVAa0TK1ml_0_smWf5iqf5nWcrR52tuBYbfVKCBW3fDQ74eJJHsXsqqt8cGZWsd3aL6P08Cr2hlCBdRoM9WF0LZ9sJqoPIBzxg8X9eakYa_3Vx7Efo3kPXHqhOncOgYprzTBRLMzrTOrsy3FZ4ztkpreB_M_tQL8hOUfDMtnCqX5jlK)

**Free Harvest Resources from Send a Cow :** available here <https://48n2c.r.ag.d.sendibm3.com/mk/mr/8KmJCcsSDO0VskaY300Qu9bRfY4Vxb0kTarb3XSdAjn7t7reso-Tli_DiSsFM2pBqBDUGFgEP1B58j71AoJOtRuoixh2rWYWPc7S4gjBsqUbauzy>

**Free Harvest & General Resources on the theme of Climate Justice from Christian Aid  :** available here <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/drink-well-schools-resource?utm_source=christianaid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20210902-CA-SCH-enews&utm_content=txt-body-well&_cldee=amFuZS5rZWxseUBwb3J0c21vdXRoLmFuZ2xpY2FuLm9yZw%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-65e2ca3505214deba414fe3248de1d84-6704d30b017d4dbdb7a5cf4f9d1ed6ff&esid=87b94f76-260b-ec11-b6e6-0022481a933b>

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