**To           :               Headteachers**

**CC           :               Chairs of Governors, Foundation Governors, ex-officio clergy**

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               25th March 2020**

Dear colleagues

Good afternoon. Before you read this update, you might like to spend 2 minutes enjoying a short video of some of our children at Bransgore sharing prayers with our Rwandan partners, and a prayer from a child in Shyogwe. Our love and commitment remains global. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqa1au88kp8>

**In touch regularly but proportionately :** we are very conscious of not wanting to divert your time and energy, so are deliberately not overloading your inboxes. We remain committed to you, and hold you in daily prayer, thanking you for all you are doing at this unbelievably challenging time.  Our sincere thanks and admiration are matched by our offer to help as best we can – so please ask at any time.

I will be sending one email each week on a Wednesday, unless there’s a serious need to contact you – as I did yesterday with the updated government advice to schools.  Meantime we remain available as individuals to respond to any questions, or indeed, to spend time in phone contact in any supportive way we can.

**DfE and Local Authority pivotal position for all our schools :**  the DfE has asked Local Authorities to coordinate the work and education provision across all schools, including academies. Thank you for your continued liaison, particularly regarding school provision for vulnerable children and Key Workers. We know this situation is fluctuating, and are grateful for your reporting and liaison with LA colleagues. Each LA has issued detailed guidance to schools and is in regular contact. I am attaching the most recent information from Hampshire County Council, and know that all LAs with which we work are sending similar updates.  I am also attaching yesterday’s clarification from HCC regarding Child Protection Conferences.

The DfE website is being refreshed daily at the moment and I commend routinely checking it for updated guidance as the situation develops <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

You’ll be aware that the DfE has a dedicated Coronavirus Helpline : 8am-6pm Monday-Friday 0800 046 8687 [DfE.Coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.Coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

**Resources :** we intend including in the weekly email a link to our website with resources that we are producing or flagging which you may wish to complement those you are sharing with children and parents/carers.  The Schools’ Advisors will be happy to receive anything that you think would be appreciated by other schools.  We are also refreshing our website regularly with updates for Governors from the NGA and our team.  I’m grateful to colleagues for their work on these, which we hope offers additional ideas and activities – feel free to share as widely as you wish.

Attached this week and available at <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/education-coronavirus-resources/>  are:

* Our current **Newsletter**, which I hope gives the opportunity during a quiet moment to reflect on what continues to sustain, drive and underpin what we do as Church Schools, in times of joy and concern.
* A **Picture Challenge  -** which links RE concepts with Literacy, hopefully in a creative and fun way that will engage your children and does not necessitate having lots of resources for children who are at home. It has been converted into a PDF format to make emailing easier. The slides have been written in a special dyslexia-friendly font. If you would like any more of these to address particular themes or to suit an area of the curriculum then let us know.
* **Make a Time Capsule** – a colourful resource which could be used in school or sent home.
* **Prayer Space – ‘**Prayer Spaces in Schools’ have created some really good resources which are designed to specifically address our current situation.

In addition we **commend :**

* **Heartsmart create** – Schools linked with Heartsmart are reminded they have created extensive resources specifically for families to use at home: <https://heartsmartprimary.com/what-is-heartsmart-creative/>Schools not currently subscribing to Heartsmart are invited to use the free samples they have made available at:       <https://heartsmartprimary.com/course-structure/>
* **NATRE   -** a bank of free resources for schools:

[www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/?utm\_source=emailmarketing&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=free\_home\_learning\_resources\_for\_you\_and\_your\_pupils&utm\_content=2020-03-20](http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=free_home_learning_resources_for_you_and_your_pupils&utm_content=2020-03-20)

* **Free Wellbeing Resources –** from Maureen Bowes, who is involved in our region in Coaching with School Leaders :<https://whenthetensiongoes.com/>

I’m including here the Archbishop of Canterbury’s message as a further encouragement and acknowledgment of the central role schools are taking during these unprecedented times :

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **A message from Archbishop Justin Welby to school leaders and teachers, thanking them for their work in the challenging circumstances of COVID-19.**  This is a particularly unusual and painful time for everyone, not least the many students and staff who have found themselves adjusting to such an unexpected change in educational provision.  I know that children and young people will be feeling a range of emotions as they face their school year ending so suddenly and in such uncertain circumstances, and students, teachers and parents remain very much in my prayers.  I know I speak for all the bishops across the Church of England in expressing my heartfelt thanks to all the school leaders and teachers who are working hard in these extremely challenging circumstances to maintain educational provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers. Keeping these children safe in school is vitally important as we fight this pandemic together, and we cannot thank you enough for your continued efforts.  On top of this, you are putting a huge amount of effort in to provide food or distribute vouchers to ensure all those entitled to free school meals receive that support. Schools are also providing resources to help children staying at home to continue learning and make progress in their education. School leaders and teachers are serving their communities and caring for students in ways that are truly inspiring.  Our Church of England vision for education is to be deeply Christian, serving the common good. We are fully committed to the work of education and provide schools for over a million children in the nearly 4,700 communities which have a Church of England school. I know that Christian teachers and members of our churches work with thousands more community schools across the country for that same common good.  Our vision for education speaks of hope. We offer an education which enables healing, repair and renewal, teaches children how to cope wisely when things go wrong, opens new horizons and guides people to fulfil their potential. I know that our Church of England schools will be prioritising the mental health and wellbeing of children, working in partnership with local churches to seek ways of ensuring that the spiritual life of families and households is nourished as they offer a range of resources to help grow faith whilst children are at home.  Please be assured of my prayers for you all. As teachers and leaders on the frontline in education, you have my utmost admiration and gratitude for the work you are doing in the service of our children and young people, and for the common good. Christ calls us towards a vision of hope and service, to care for our neighbour and to be a light in the darkness. All those who work in schools are truly a sterling example of this, at this time and always.  *The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury* | | |

With sincere thanks for all you are doing to serve our communities

Best wishes

Jeff

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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