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

**From     :               Jeff Williams**

**Date      :               21st July 2021**

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

Dear colleagues

It’s amazing, no, actually it’s quite natural, that our lexicon sometimes evolves and changes slowly, but sometimes transforms rapidly, particularly in response to a trigger event, speech or incident. In February 2020 very few of us were familiar with the term *‘Furlough’* in its technical employment context; *‘Social Distancing’* as a concept wasn’t an everyday phrase; and *‘Government Guidance’* became a phrase of multiple nuances and interpretations, often depending on who and where you are.  Words that we previously used like *‘exceptional’* and *‘unprecedented’* have taken on a deeper and perhaps more impactful meaning as they became daily descriptors of our changed individual and communal lives over the past sixteen months.

The ethical and moral compasses that we use to navigate our conversations with children in Diocesan schools means that even if we haven’t used the specific words, the importance and relevance of *‘eco-anxiety’, ‘Freegan-worry’ and ‘Dumpster Divers’* and words that sadly are a new reality in our fast-changing society. Preparing youngsters for a transformed / transforming society is both a privilege and responsibility.

It looks as if summer has eventually arrived, but *‘snowflakes’* still exist in speech and writing! As we approach the end of a ‘*challenging’* term, year and situation in so many aspects, I wanted to wish you a very well-deserved, restorative and restful break, whether you’re on a *‘staycation’* or venturing further afield. Thank you for all you’ve continued to do in the face of changing advice and moving goalposts, and for the support you’ve given to staff, parents, children and indeed, the wider community in which you are situated.

With very best wishes

**Jeff**

**Irises of Hope :** we are keen to produce a visual record of this year’s mini project for Year 6, as we’ve done in years gone by for our other projects. Could we therefore ask you to send us and photos, notes and reports of anything related to the Irises project. We’d appreciate it if you could also forward this to Year 6 teachers. Would you please send any photos, reports or photos of children’s work to [Sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org](mailto:Sue.bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org) Thank you!

The Children’s Society are offering the following for families of **Forces Children** during the holiday : A **Free Activity Day at Woodmill Activity Centre Southampton on August 11th**. Also an **online training event** for those who may come into contact with **Young Carers living in Armed Forces Families 28th July 10am-12 noon.  For more details please contact** [**Esther.grabham@childrenssociety.org.uk**](mailto:Esther.grabham@childrenssociety.org.uk) **tel 07710395832**

Jeff Williams

Director of Education

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