



## From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education –

Dear Colleagues

This week I'm going to continue with the text from last week's bulletin:

<sup>2</sup> Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy *good health* and that all may go well with you, just as you are *progressing spiritually*. <sup>3</sup> John v 2

Yesterday (Sunday) was, I suspect, one of the last days of summer. I spent it under a tree, next to a cool, clear, shallow river, on a blanket with my two daughters and my grandchildren. There was a picnic, dappled light, an 8 year old and a dog splashing in the water, sunglasses, sun hats and a baby in cotton rompers. It was all a bit.....'English'. This morning, as I look out of my office window there is mist and autumn sunlight, leaves turned brown on the neighbours cherry tree and round, fat straw bales in the field behind. There is a real sense of endings.

I love autumn – colours, smells, melancholy..... but we're in education so it's also coughs, colds, throats, chest infections and all those other contagious bugs that the pupils, having seemingly stored up all summer, choose to bring into school!

This year that's problematic, this year that means teachers self- isolating, rapid plans for sending bubbles home, memorising the PHE/DfE/LA number and always wondering at what point will the next lockdown begin and if, this time, it will include schools or not (probably not).

It is a tough time to be in education.

But you have planned and you have risk assessed and that is all you can do. And it is enough!

Keep to those plans that you have made – who knows maybe they'll reduce the usual number of coughs and colds that you acquire from the children! Look after yourselves, take the vitamins and more importantly take time to consider your own emotional needs too.

This autumn – it's very different from usual – take care of yourselves 'that you may enjoy good health'

God bless -

Jackie

# Those less well off than us

Even in these times there are those that are in a very very much worse position than any of us or our pupils – one of our LAAT colleagues is raising funds to help

“Throughout September, a group of friends and I are running/walking as many miles as we can, with the aim of raising some money for the British Red Cross and their ongoing work supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Syria, and around the world.

Originally, the ‘Team’ consisted of two people, with a target of 72 miles; the distance from Damascus to Beirut. Due to some gentle persuasion, peer pressure and with the help of a gin or two in my case, the team then grew to 7 members and an unlimited target. We are 16 days in and have absolutely smashed the original target, collectively covering 222.5 miles as of yesterday evening!

The challenge is now to collectively cover as many miles as we can, widen our circle and reach out to more people, and ultimately raise more money for such a worthy cause.

So, if you would like to find out more about our team, the reason we’re putting ourselves through this and if you are able to, to make a donation, please follow this link: <https://miles-for-refugees-2020.everydayhero.com/uk/amy-16>

Words of encouragement would also be very welcome, I am not a natural runner and my legs are really starting to ache now so I need all the encouragement I can get!

Many thanks,

Fran.”

Fran Brown – LAAT Governance & DP Officer

## Resources

### God and the Big Bang

God and the Big Bang is a programme originally developed in the Diocese of Manchester and it now offers training nationally. It’s relevant to both upper KS2 *Understanding Christianity* materials and KS3/4 RE curriculum. Flyers and more information are attached to this email.



### Reflection

Our EDO Lynsey Norris continues her series of reflections – these can be found [here](#), and attached to this email.