

From *Jackie Waters-Dewhurst*, Diocesan Director of Education

Papering over the cracks – a disastrous short cut or innovative working?

I am in the process of stripping decades of gloss paint from an old beam. It's going to be a long job! However, what I've discovered under the paint is a patchwork layer of paper. From the look of it this is a mixture of newspaper and an old book. One piece in particular is highly decorated and I'm going to try to save it in situ and protect it as part of the cottage's history.

I can only assume that someone wanted a smooth 'modern' finish and so has literally 'papered over the cracks'.



Papering over the cracks is a term used now to describe the application of something new and shiny which foolishly avoids looking at the real problems. An action which is likely to prove short term and allow the original problem to grow worse. Papering over the cracks is usually to be avoided!

But these cracks – the ones in my beam - were not a structural problem just a cosmetic eye sore to those who lived here at the time. And the use of the paper has proved to be long lasting and effective – innovation at its best. I don't know when it was done or why whoever it was didn't use filler – perhaps no one did then, perhaps there was none available, perhaps it was too expensive. Whatever reason – the paper did a good job and for a long time!

As we try to 'catch up' on all that has been left undone or lagged behind during covid – whether that's development plans or curriculum development or children's skills or stuff in our own personal lives – we need to think carefully about whether an innovative quick fix will suffice – and if so to do

that. We need to preserve our resources for those things which need a more structural answer. Our real job is to accurately assess which issue is which!

All we need is some time and a little bit of wisdom!

Proverbs 2: 6

⁶For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding

Please continue to take care this week.

God bless,

Jackie

Resources and Information

Reflection

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

Important Announcement from the Church of England Education Office - SIAMS:

Following the announcement by the government on 3rd December that Ofsted graded inspections will remain suspended until the summer term we can confirm that SIAMS Inspections will not resume until summer term of 2021 at the earliest. We will be working with the Department for Education and the other section 48 providers to consider the most effective and supportive way of resuming SIAMS inspection.

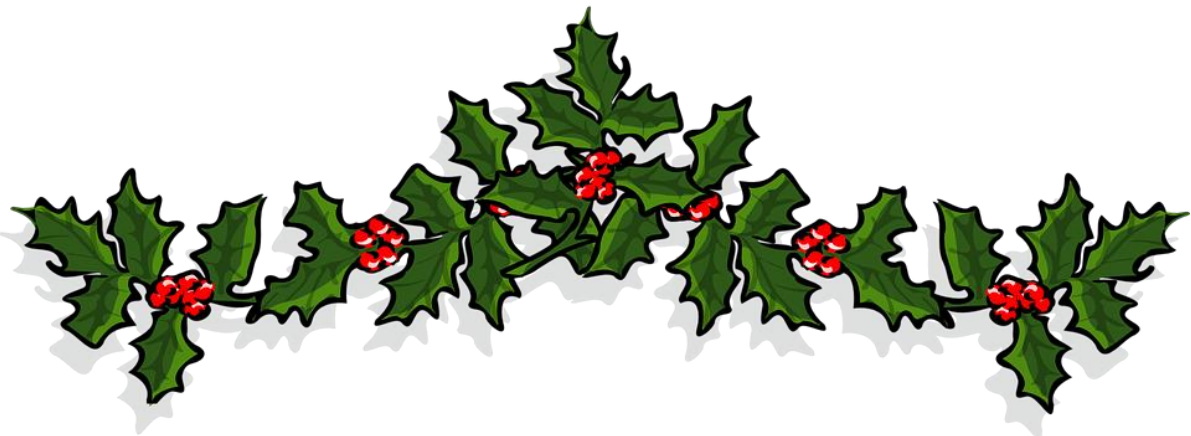
Diocesan support for schools preparing for SIAMs inspections will continue throughout the year. Please see the training menu on the diocesan website for more details.

As soon as we have more information about the resumption of SIAMS inspections, we will let all schools know.



DBE Virtual Carol Service

This year we cannot hold our usual carol service in the Cathedral, however we are still planning on coming together this Thursday to celebrate the birth of Jesus, with key stage 1 & 2 children. At 9:15 we will premiere, on our YouTube channel, a pre-recorded, interactive service for everyone to enjoy. We are also providing some activities children can complete after the service. We'd love to see photos of the children involved on the morning so please tag us @LincolnDBE in your tweets. What a great opportunity for the whole church school family to come together at the same time. (Link to the service will be sent out shortly).



Hymn Flashmob

In March, St Paul's Cathedral had the pleasure of working with Diocesan Boards for schools and individual head teachers in creating a 'hymn flashmob', designed to share videos of children singing their favourite hymns and songs as gifts for those who were anxious lonely or unwell. Over 70 schools and Cathedrals across the UK took part, and this initiative reached over 200,000 people across the world.



Christmas Carol #hymnflashmob

We are inviting schools once again to take part in our **St Paul's Cathedral Christmas Hymnflashmob**, to share comfort and joy with people in their communities. The full details can be found here: <https://www.stpaulsresources.co.uk/resourcehub/hymnflashmob>



This is part of the Church of England's 'Comfort & Joy' campaign, and we would like to flood the digital sphere with videos of children singing Christmas carols in the final full week of term, beginning Monday 14th December.

Very best,
Tom Daggett – St Paul's Cathedral

Advent Resources

We have added lots of helpful advent resources on our website for you to use –

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/page/?title=Advent+and+Christmas&pid=90>

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/page/?title=Advent+and+Christmas&pid=89>

Diocesan Advent Calendar



The Curates, IME coordinator and Bishop Nicholas have put together a virtual advent calendar. Starting tomorrow you will be able to open each day for a message:

<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/News/the-diocesan-advent-calendar-the-link-to-the-actual-calendar>