



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

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A while ago I used the words of Frank Turner's song 'Be More Kind' as the centre of my bulletin. I think it's worth dusting off again.

*In a world that has decided  
That it's going to lose its mind  
Be more kind, my friends, try to be more kind –(Frank Turner –Be More kind)*

As we return to school today to see all of our pupils (or in the case of our secondary family, start testing all pupils so they will all be back with us by the end of the week) we are going to need kindness.

We need to be kind to ourselves; lockdown, family experiences, teaching in front of a computer have all put an incredible strain on us and returning to a class full of pupils for the whole day (whilst retaining bubbles and distance) is going to take resilience and energy and re adjustments – we need to be kind to ourselves in this.

We need to be kind to our colleagues; some of whom will have had very different covid experiences than us, some who will find it harder to cope some who will find it easier, some who are recovering from illness, some who have gone through the illnesses of loved ones, all who have gone through the fear of illness. Many will feel de skilled or rusty or emotionally unprepared. Many will be wishing school workers had been prioritised for the vaccine and worrying about how safe school is – we need to be kind to our colleagues.

We need to be kind to our pupils; they've been in pyjamas for weeks, they've got up later and have managed their learning according to family pressures. Some of them haven't been able to access it at all. They've been cooped up and been separated from friends and family. They go back this morning worrying for the first time in ages about how their hair looks, about who is still their friend about how much they've missed and whether everyone else in the class knows more than they do. They continually hear the phrase "catch up" something that's usually used when it's their fault – "you've not done enough you'll have to stay in at playtime to catch up" even though none of this has been their fault. They will be as exhausted at the end of the day as us and, as children, they may not have the emotional tools to deal with it in an 'acceptable' way. We need to be kind to our pupils.

We need to be kind to our families; some of whom have held down full time jobs whilst trying to support home learning, some who have lost jobs, some who have been worried the whole time about

losing jobs. Some will have done their best and fear that it hasn't been good enough others will, having carried with them their own negative experiences of school for years, have thrown in the towel right from the beginning. They have been thrown back into getting up in time, school uniforms which may no longer fit, and sorting out lunchboxes and some of them won't feel ready – and then there's the fear of whether school is safe.

Replace each of the times I've written **kind** with **love** and you will see how important it is .....

Love yourself

Love your colleagues, your pupils their families in this way you will be doing God's work in your school

In this way you will be fulfilling the two greatest commandments:

**37** Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22

Go through this week knowing that you are all in our prayers and that whatever you need we are at the end of a phone or email

God bless

Jackie

## Smile Spot

### Ravendale Lions!

We enlisted the support of some furry helpers to bring some cheer to all our pupils, both at



home and in school, particularly those in remote communities who might be feeling very cut off from their lives at school. I only actually took over as head teacher in January so for many of the children I'd only seen them for one day before we had to close the school.

The staff have been trying really hard with the children that have had to move to home-schooling, they've really pulled it out of the bag over the last few months to do everything they can for them.

We have live sessions two times a day and we have story time before I deliver a weekly assembly to everyone too but I think it is still so difficult for some of the children that come from the remote villages in this area.

We really wanted to do something that would help the children feel connected with us again and for the parents to know that the school

was still thinking about them.

We purchased the lions with money from the Friends of East Ravensdale Primary School and the teddies all have a branded t-shirt and a tag with a message for the children: 'until we meet again'.

The lions have been delivered to families this week by Miss Wilson, which was nice to be able to personally go out and meet the families and the children because I haven't had the opportunity to do that yet.

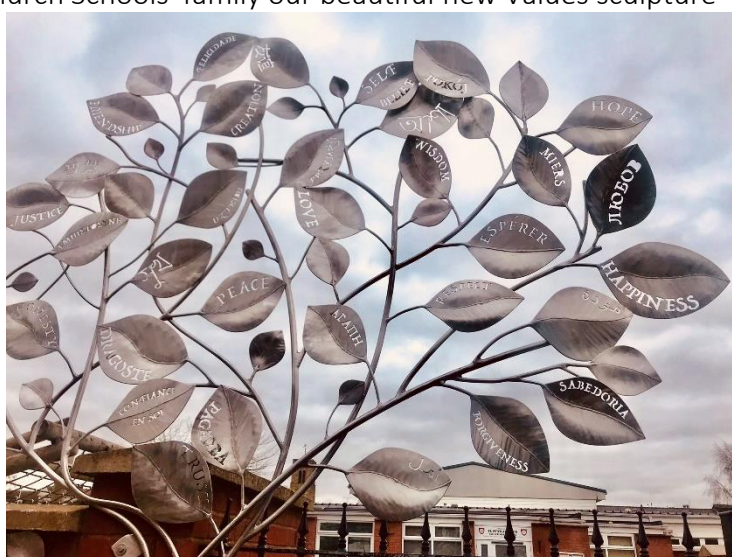
The children love them and all the video lessons this week have been full of kids showing off their lions and telling all the others about the head teacher coming to their house!

The parents too have said it has given them that sense of belonging to the school community back because it is so easy to lose that and feel isolated.

### Values Sculpture to welcome children back at the gates of St. Peter's

We just wanted to share with the Church Schools' family our beautiful new Values sculpture - a visual representation of our Christian Values at St. Peter at Gowts.

Last year, we started thinking about how we could develop our Values culture even further, ensuring that our Christian Values didn't get forgotten and were still meaningful and relevant, firmly at the forefront of everyone's thinking. We wanted to make sure that everyone was 'valuing our values'!



At St. Peter's we have 14 Christian values woven into a two-year overview. This large number of values aims to develop the children's ethical vocabulary and knowledge from a Christian

perspective. This understanding then enables them to make more links between the different concepts and hopefully begin to apply this and put their values into action - through courageous advocacy, behaviour and their interactions with each other.



So.... over lockdown we commissioned a local artist - James Sutton to design and make a Values sculpture. We wanted to extend our values beyond the classroom so that they became visual and relevant to our visitors, parents and the whole of the

community. We wanted to really make a statement! James designed the Values sculptures to be trees which cover our main entrance to the school. He represented our 14 values in each

of 21 languages spoken within school. The sculpture is a visual representation of our inclusivity - children of all backgrounds, cultures and languages are welcome here!

As we welcome back our children on the 8th March, we feel so proud of the wonderful sculpture which has given the front of our school a bit of a facelift. We only hope that our school can live up to those big words and big concepts.

We have so much hope for the future. I hope that our Christian values continue to be the source of challenge, support and guidance as we continue on the road to recovery. Big words that challenge us to the very core. We hope that the golden thread of our Values never gets forgotten, but continues to tie us together and be the thread that runs through all of our thinking, our teaching, our actions and all that we stand for.

We wanted to publicly thank James Sutton - the sculptor for his work, and also the diocese, who part funded the sculpture through the closed schools general purpose reserve fund.

*Charlotte and the staff at St. Peter at Gowts*

### **Quite a feat!!**

On Wednesday last week Gillian Georgiou completed a day of various training sessions. By the end of the day she had engaged with 70 schools, that's half a school less than half the total number of Church of England schools in the diocese of Lincoln which must be some kind of a record!

So, well done to Gillian!

Thank you to all those who attended and thank you for the fantastic feedback:

*As always, Gillian and Lynsey are wonderfully inspiring. Thank you.*

*Gillian is so animated - I could listen to her forever as she is extremely knowledgeable but makes things understandable and relatable - THANK YOU.*

*Lynsey's reflection 'Where there is no vision, the people perish' was extremely powerful and I will carry this with me.*

*A fantastic, and productive couple of hours.*

*Thank you - amazing session. Gillian is INCREDIBLE and always has me hooked. Thank you*

# Resources and Information

## Picture Books to Support Primary RE

Karl Duke, headteacher at Blyton cum Laughton, has helped our RE Advisor Gillian Georgiou put together a list of picture books to support primary RE.

He has been absolutely amazing and put together a PowerPoint of suggestions that can be accessed here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mu4Jcu4m2zCOT3LJ14SXAXPIDWHLJ0bW/view>

## Prayer & Reflection – Video

There is a new video up on our website – this week it's Jackie Waters-Dewhurst:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/prayer-videos>

## Conference for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chairs of Governors and Clergy

### **POSITIVE LEADERSHIP**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
FOR HEADTEACHERS,  
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS  
& CLERGY**

We are delighted to announce this year we are running our Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Clergy conference virtually on the theme of 'Positive Leadership'. We are excited to deliver a conference with excellent key note speakers and workshops to support

you in all you do in your schools and for the children.

Click [here](#) for more information and to book!

## Lent & Easter Resources

We have introduced a dedicated section of our website for Lent and Easter resources – this can be found at:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/lent-easter>

## Clerk to Governors Network Meeting

This FREE meeting will be an opportunity to hear Diocesan updates relevant to your role, meet members of the diocesan team and other clerks, and also come with questions you may have. We'd love to support you in the role you do and this will give us an opportunity to find out how we can do this.

Click [here](#) to book.