



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

While writing this week's bulletin I am mindful of the sad news of a friend's death which I received last week.

I am not alone in this, during this pandemic more people than ever have had to come to terms with friends, acquaintances, relatives, partners no longer being here. Another friend has just lost her brother and cannot comfort her beloved sister in law or even go to the funeral.

Amongst that I talked to so many heads last week who described the joyfulness of children and staff back in school; how noisy it now was in comparison to a couple of weeks ago! My Grandson is 9 on Wednesday and the plans being made now will mean that that will be as joyful a day as 9 year olds birthdays can be.

In these times it is hard to know what to do with our emotions. To block out sadness, roll up our sleeves, get on with it because it's happening to everyone and we must keep morale high or to squash out any joy because to feel joyful would be to deny and disrespect the pain and sadness around us?

The Bible has advice for us:

Ecclesiastes 3

A Time for Everything

3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

There is room for both joy and sadness – they inhabit our lives side by side. We can sit with those that weep and laugh with those that rejoice, they do not rule each other out.

We are still in Lent moving towards Holy week– what an example of joy and sadness combined, the joy of the palm waving crowds cheering Christ’s entrance into Jerusalem, the depths of despair in the Garden of Gethsemane, the agony of the crucifixion and the elation of the resurrection.

In our sadness we can remember hope and in our joys we can give hope and comfort to others.

That’s what church schools are good at; walking alongside and meeting our children (and adults) where they are; gently sharing their pains and their joys and helping them come to terms with them and grow from them.

How good it is to be part of that family.

God bless

Jackie

Resources and Information

Conference for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chairs of Governors and 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!

Prayer & Reflection – Video

There is a new video up on our website – this week it’s Revd David Dadswell, Diocesan Secretary:

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

Marie Curie – National Day of Reflection



Tuesday 23 March marks the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown and since then many thousands of people have died.

Behind the statistics and whatever the cause, every death has been devastating for the people left behind.

To mark the day, the Marie Curie charity is hosting a National Day of Reflection to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future. They have provided a school toolkit to help you mark the day.

There is also a resource called Reflective Colouring Pages: Prayers for Marking a Year of COVID-19 These have been produced 'Illustrated Ministry' for the National Day of Reflection, you can find all the resources here:

<https://www.lincolndioceseeducation.com/wellbeing-bereavement>

Recovering Well – Free Resources

Schools have been through a tumultuous year, adapting at extremely short notice to a completely new way of delivering education, and managing to offer families huge levels of support. Now that we are returning to face-to-face teaching, we must consider the impact of this year and help our school communities to recover well. CPAS, a Church of England charity, has produced a set of free online resources to support this journey of recovery. They are available at:

www.cpas.org.uk/browse-everything/leading-through-recovery-resources-schools

Recovery is important after an illness, a traumatic event or an unexpected challenge in life. It takes time, often longer than expected, and involves a process of engaging with our emotions, integrating our losses, and embracing our new reality. Healthy recovery includes:

- Remembering.
- Reflecting.
- Recuperating.

The resources give a range of ideas of how to support these three stages in a variety of ways across the school community (with ideas for PHSE, Collective Worship, Prayer/Reflection spaces, a Staff meeting and sheets to support at home).

Called, Connected, Committed

Please click [here](#) for this week's Called, Connected, Committed from the Church of England Education Office.