

R.E. PRIMARY ADVISER'S NEWSLETTER



**CLIFTON
DIOCESE**

DEPARTMENT FOR SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

AUTUMN TERM 2009

Welcome back and I hope you all had a very restful and enjoyable break, although I am sure many of you continued to work throughout the holidays as you do! As you can see from the name at the end of the newsletter I am still currently acting as the interim adviser on a part-time basis, pending the appointment of a permanent new adviser.

The job will again be advertised this term, with the hope that an appointment will be made. The department appreciates that for you at grass root level, it is not ideal having a part time adviser however, it hopes that you support the view of ensuring that the right appointment is made. Prayers are therefore requested to assist in this challenging process.

TRAINING

Many thanks to all those who recently attended the Co-ordinator and Deputy Heads training days in June and September. Feedback from both was very positive in terms of their usefulness. I appreciate it can be difficult to attend owing to cost and time however, I cannot emphasise enough just how beneficial they prove in supporting you in your leadership roles.

HARVEST FAST DAY October 2nd



RE CURRICULUM

The first unit of the revised 'Here I am' - 'Come and See' is currently being trialled by some of our schools with an evaluation to be undertaken at the end of October.

Clearly the aim of any RE curriculum is to deliver one rooting in enabling outstanding teaching and learning opportunities. Hence the Diocese is currently looking at how it promotes and supports you as schools in providing this. As part of the process I have visited Portsmouth Diocese who make use of a scheme called 'God Matters' and have spoken to the producers of 'The Way the Truth and the Light'. The key principles in looking at any framework are that it fulfils the curriculum directory and provides challenge and opportunities for clear pupil progression in terms of theological and spiritual development. In order to have a clear evaluation of these materials some schools may be asked to pilot some of the aforementioned materials with the aim being to acquire a clear, informed opinion on the framework upon which the Diocese should approve and support. However, I need to reiterate that currently 'Here I Am' in the old format is the approved scheme and schools should continue to use this effectively.

Any school piloting 'Come and See' or any other materials must ensure that their Governing Body is not only informed but have approved the change.

SCHOOL VISITS

I was very privileged to be able to visit many schools last year. The intention is to offer visits to many more this term. Visits will be prioritised according to whether you are awaiting an Ofsted, have just received one and wish assistance in addressing specific issues. or due a visit as a result of not having had one for a while. Whilst this is the plan should you wish support either as a school or cluster please do not hesitate to contact me.

FUTURE DATES FOR THE DIARY

12TH OCTOBER

Cross phase conference at Alexander House.
Led by Kevin Treston (this is designated as a co-ordinators autumn meeting).
Future co-ordinators meetings have yet to be set, as the department is still looking at the most effective way to provide them in terms of cost and impact.
To assist in providing effective training beyond updates I would appreciate your input so please e-mail any ideas.



DIOCESAN WEBSITE

I am pleased to say that the schools team, led by Ian Mc Niff, has met with Tom Bigwood the Diocesan Communications Officer regarding the Diocesan website in order to look at ways to make it more effective for use by schools. It has been agreed that the site design will be developed and expanded. The intention is that from January 2010 all information i.e. newsletters etc will only be available on line and will not be distributed as hard copies or individually. Resources etc will also become available on the website.



SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS

As you know the Ofsted framework has changed from September 2009 and Ann Fowler has been working hard to bring section 48 in line. Training for Heads and Governors is taking place shortly and this will be rolled out to co-ordinators as well. In the meantime if you are being inspected this term you should still use the old section 48 self-evaluation forms. However from January it will be the new form that you should be using. The new Forms will be distributed as soon as they are available.

IMPORTANT LITURGICAL DATES FOR AUTUMN

1st November – All Saints
2nd November – All Souls
22nd November - Christ the King
29th November- 1st Sunday of Advent
8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception



Colleen Collett, Primary Adviser

September 2009

RESOURCE IDEAS

Music –to support 'Here I Am' (taken from Westminster website)

Friends

Theme music to the TV series
You've got a friend' James Taylor

Preparations

Messiah
Christmas Carols
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Christmas Oratorio

G.F.Handel
various
Menotti
J.S.Bach



There are also some lovely PowerPoints on their website to support the topics

CAFOD NEWS

New resources available from CAFOD:

The global alphabet for the Foundation Stage CAFOD and ideas for assemblies and activities about global issues and climate change. All are available on the Primary page of the CAFOD website.

Look out for *The Child's Guide to CAFOD*, which should be arriving in your school this term. This is will be useful for the topic *Neighbours*.

Finally Just to keep you going

**God understood our thirst for knowledge,
and our need to be led by someone wiser;
He needed a heart of compassion,
of encouragement, and patience;
Someone who would accept the challenge
regardless of the opposition;
Someone who could see potential
and believe in the best in others . . .
So He made Teachers**

(author unknown)