



# RE CO-ORDINATORS'

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM

FEBRUARY 2010

### **Happy New Year!**

Perhaps the latest one you have received but, this is the first newsletter of the year. Apologies for the delay however what with the disruption of the snow and visiting schools time has just gone by.

Anyway I am pleased to be able to inform you that I have been fortunate to have been appointed as the Assistant Director and will be taking up the full time post in September. Whilst it has been a difficult decision to make having been a head for the last 15 years I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities this new post brings. In the meantime I will continue in the post on a two day secondment basis.

### **UPDATE ON 'COME AND SEE' FORMERLY 'HERE I AM'**

The piloted unit has been evaluated with those having taken part in Clifton Diocese feeling that it was better than the previous in terms of it being separated into individual year groups and providing a greater range of activities.

However, unfortunately it is anticipated that the total revised scheme will not be complete until 2012/13.

### **USE OF OTHER SCHEMES**

As previously mentioned in an earlier newsletter good practice involves evaluating all available resources/schemes available and in the light of the above some schools have begun to pilot the scheme 'God matters' which is the scheme used in Portsmouth and written by Ian McNiff. What needs to be said is that any scheme is only a framework and that the scheme is not what produces quality teaching and learning - it will merely support or aid it and so we all have to be careful of thinking that to simply change the scheme will improve standards and quality. A change by any school or change in recommendation by the Diocese needs to have been preceded by a full evaluation of its content in terms of progression of knowledge, faith and theological content. This is something I am currently undertaking. It is my intention to show and discuss schemes at the next co-ordinators meetings in the summer (currently looking at dates and venues)

### **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS /SEX EDUCATION SCHEMES**

The Government have issued a new document for consultation related to the delivery of the above with the recommendation that PSHE will become statutory from 2011. CES have issued a statement in relation to the above which continues to emphasise it will remain the schools right to tailor the curriculum for SRE in ways they think suit their pupils best and Governors retain the right to determine their own approach to SRE in accordance with the ethos of the school (also taken from the newsletter Protecting children Dec/Jan 2010). Schools should ensure they have a clear statement related to their approach in their prospectus which has been ratified by the Governing Body.

**New resource to support the above worth looking at is 'This is my Body' published by Philos Educational publishers. It is linked with scripture aimed at Y6 cost £320**

## STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT THE RECORDING OF RE WORK

**ART-** teacher or peers write a comment related to the child's painting or art work in the their RE book e.g. your picture of Jesus on the cross showed clearly the pain and suffering he would have felt or a photo taken by the children themselves to develop ICT skills.

**Role Play** - Teacher or pupils make notes on the role play whilst watching and stick the notes into the child's book. Use of photos.

**Pupils involvement in Reflections-** use of a prompt sheet to get children to evaluate what they have done then stick in their book, teacher makes notes which get stuck in books or pupils make notes in their books on the feedback given by their peers. See example of a prompt sheet attached)

**Use of power points** by children in presentations retain printed copies in their books or RE folders.



### SUGGESTED LENTEN/ EASTER ACTIVITES

Take a nature walk and collect items that could remind you of the life of Jesus. For example, two sticks could be put together as a cross, a thorn could represent the crown on Jesus' head and a stone could remind the children of the big stone that rolled in front of Jesus' tomb.

**Scavenger Hunt** Using symbols of Holy Week (torn curtain, dice, sponge and vinegar, bowl and towel, wooden cross, alabaster vase, nails, 30 silver coins, thorn cross, palm branches, chalice, grapes, wine bottle, loaf of unsliced bread, donkey, rock, praying hands, rooster), have a Bible scavenger hunt where children either find the Bible reference for the object or, if given the Bible reference, draw a picture of the symbol.



### **LENTEN FOCAL AREA**

Use of a flannel, soap, bowl. of water Description of how we have to keep ourselves clean by regularly washing. Key questions e.g. how do we really feel when we are dirty, how do we feel when we have had a good bath or shower?

How do we wash the inside of our bodies/ minds? In what ways can we feel unclean on the inside?

How does prayer help clean us, How does taking part in reconciliation make us feel better?

Lay out some prayers to support reconciliation, or ask pupils to write them and place them on the area with spare paper left by the area.

Sand is a Lenten symbol. Place a bowl of sand in a prominent place. Let it remind the children of how God let the people in their journey in the desert and how Jesus faced temptations during the 40 days in the desert. The desert can be a place of retreat where there is freedom from distractions. Each time someone feels tempted, it might be a good idea to return to the bowl of sand and think about how the Lord can help them. For younger children, perhaps let them make a sand picture in a tray if you have the materials.



**FORTHCOMING PENTECOSTAL SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.**

**VENUE - St Joseph’s Chatsworth Road, Bristol 4-30 -6-00pm**

A reflection/service for teachers and support staff (but also a resource to then use with children). An advent preparation evening was prepared and delivered by Ann Fowler and the few who attended, including me, found it a great spiritual experience but also useful for work in school.



In recognition that it is difficult for people to get to Alexander house on an evening at 4-30 we have decided to provide such reflections across different areas on a rota type basis, as it is a lot of work for a poor attendance. It is hoped that by doing this it will allow easier access for staff to attend at least one when in your area.

Having said that obviously all are welcome to the above but it is hoped that this is seen as a follow on from the theological training undertaken for Bristol and South Glos.

Please encourage your staff to attend.



**Just a thought**

**Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail**

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**Cluster Dates**

All Meetings will be from 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 9th June  
Alexander House,  
Bristol

Thursday, 10th June  
St. Thomas More Primary School,  
Cheltenham

Wednesday, 16th June  
Holy Family Primary School,  
Swindon

Tuesday, 22 June  
St George’s Primary School  
Warminster

Wednesday, 23 June  
St George’s Parish Centre  
Taunton