



RE Co-Ordinators' Newsletter

December 2005



Department for Sools & Colleges
Alexander House
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HERE I AM

Route B well launched. The Spring Term topics are 'Special People', 'Meals' and 'Good and Evil'. With the successful Cafod training we know how Cafod Fairground packs fit into these topics next term. May I remind you of the importance of working on the 'Before you Begin' sections to ensure all your staff have a clear understanding of the material content and it will also enable staff to reflect at their own level before beginning work with the children. The global dimension is supporting the Cafod Fairground material (www.cafod.org.uk). Also the use of Holy Childhood which encourages concern for children worldwide through Mission Together.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in HIA is related to the concepts, skills and attitudes to be developed, through the exploration of themes and learning outcomes for each topic. Schools are moving towards the 'mind mapping' concepts with great success – it is what you do with the Assessments that matter—do try to decide as a school when you intend to begin to level, especially Attainment Target 1. Some of you are aware that the Assessment levels are being reviewed nationally but until they are finalized we in the Primary Schools will use the present Assessment Booklet as seen also on Page 31 of the HIA files.

Prayer Experiences

Using HIA

Refer to Page 41 for a list of various forms and styles of prayer and Page 42 for a list of traditional prayers to which children are introduced from Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

RE DISPLAYS DISC

Thanks to the support of St. Mary's School, Chippenham we have a disc which is full of RE display ideas. The disc was given to all coordinators that attended the recent training 1/2 days. If you were unable to attend any of the meetings and would like a copy of the RE Display disc then please ring 0117 9025593 and Jenny will forward you a copy. The cost is £6 per disc.



SLA NEWS

All primary schools have received their annual SLA visit this year (January 2005—December 2005). Some schools have requested their visit in early Spring 2006. The response to this visit has been very productive and work on SEF 48 with you have been very rewarding as I have a clear idea of the distinctiveness of your schools and the wonderful work and standards of work that are happening. Thank you all so much for your support it has been a joy to work with you.

SECTION 48 INSPECTIONS

Shock horror! In the first two weeks of the Autumn Term schools were receiving phone calls re Inspections. Our schools are doing well and Section 48, so far, has gone well. Congratulations to all those who have been inspected this term. If you receive your Ofsted Inspection phone call please inform the Diocese immediately. All schools have received a hard copy of the Guidelines and RE Evaluation booklets and these are also available on the Diocesan Website.

RE CLUSTER MEETINGS



Thank you so much for the wonderful response to the Autumn Cluster meetings, not only was the response to Angela Warren's visit on behalf of CAFOD a great success, but it was a good opportunity for the coordinators to meet the other RE coordinators in their cluster areas. A great deal of networking and arrangements to share scrutiny of work exercises and look at PSHE development was taking place as phone numbers were exchanged. The meetings were buzzing and I look forward to meeting you all either in your schools next year or most definitely at the next set of meetings which are:-

Gloucester Cluster	Hucclecote Centre	26 June 2006
Trowbridge Cluster	St. John's Centre, Trowbridge	27 June 2006
Bristol Cluster	Alexander House,	28 June 2006
Somerset Cluster	St. George's Pastoral Centre	29 June 2006
Swindon Cluster	Marlowe Avenue, Bath Uni	3 July 2006



All start at 12.30 with a buffet lunch — Meeting commences at 13:15 —15:30

SEX EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN

The POS 'In the Beginning' has been widely accepted by the majority of the schools in the Diocese with a positive response from parents, teachers and governors. Charlie Saul the author of this programme has indicated that due to our support in implementing the new edition, if any other school in the diocese is interested he is willing to let them purchase it at £200, the original 'offer' price.

'In the Beginning' by Charlie Saul now available at £200 to any Catholic school in the Clifton Diocese



2006 COURSES/EVENTS



Governor Training	2 per term	25/26 January
Head Teachers' Retreat	Ammerdown	13 January
5 day module course	Bath	13/14 March, 3 May & 7/8 June
BANES Retreat Weekend		23-25 June
Primary Leavers Mass,	Clifton Cathedral	22 June

There will be further courses as the need arises—I am spending a great deal of time on School INSET base courses this year.

As we close this term we remember the sick and needy in our schools. Many teachers have been unwell and there have been some sad deaths in our schools from the parents of children to many of our loved ones. Our prayers go with them. Whilst visiting St. Dominic's, Woodchester this term I met Mary Witcombe, aged 9 years, who had written a beautiful poem in response to the Tsunami Disaster. I share the thoughts and prayers of this little girl on the anniversary of this tragic event. (see page 3)

**A very merry, happy and holy Christmas
and God Bless you all for 2006.**

Trisha Antolik



SISTER

I know a sister.
 she's not very tall.
 Actually I'm bigger than she is
 and she always wears a dark blue dress
 and a crucifix,
 with a long blue rectangle of cloth
 covering the waterfall of her black hair.
 She's a nun you see.

I like this person.
 She pretends that I'm part of her family,
 Chucks my cheek,
 and says that I remind her of her home
 in Sri Lanka.
 I'm like her little sister, she says.



But since Boxing Day
 it's been different.
 My friend doesn't want to giggle and play anymore.
 A wave came in from the sea and stole her sister.
 A wave from Sri Lanka.
 It washed away her home as well,
 and her happiness was crushed,
 under falling bricks.

Maybe I've seen her sister,
 wrapped in white plastic
 in the paper.
 I don't know.
 Perhaps my friend will need me more now
 and I'll look after her.
 Like a sister.

Mary Witcombe

Aged 9