

Welcome back to another term! We hope you had a restful break and a blessed Easter. I'm delighted that this newsletter's opening contribution comes from another Education team member, Rachel.

On the 22nd of April, the world comes together to celebrate Earth Day, and this year's theme, "Planet vs Plastics," strikes a familiar chord in our hearts. Whenever we talk about the environment, I'm reminded of the enchanting world of Avatar. In the fictional world of Pandora, the Na'vi people nurtured an intimate bond with their environment, feeling its pain as their own and maintaining harmony amidst the flora, fauna, and elements. It's a fictional realm, yes, but I can't shake the thought: could this be what God envisioned when entrusting us with His creation? Yet, reality paints a stark contrast to this ideal.

But amidst the shadows of dysregulated plastic use, there is a glimmer of hope. In recent years, I've witnessed a wave of change as people swap plastic for sustainable alternatives—reusable straws, bamboo toothbrushes, and bidding farewell to single-use plastics in favour of reusable ones. And while many pessimists will insist that we are fighting a losing battle, I can't help but smile and appreciate the valiant effort of people that turn up to Tesco with reusable shopping bags. These seemingly small actions, though they may appear insignificant, echo the power of the little things. And we as people of God, are familiar with the power that lives in little things.

As a headteacher, you may ponder if the efforts you make, these little deeds, truly matter in the grand scheme. Let me assure you, they do. Colossians 3:23 reminds us to work heartily, as unto the Lord, knowing that even the smallest acts of kindness and stewardship resonate deeply. You may not see the immediate reward of your small actions but God sees the little things you do. So take heart and continue to do the little things for your school, your families, your environment and for God.

If you're seeking to learn of larger initiatives happening in lieu of earth day, I encourage you to explore the wealth of resources available on the Earth Day 2024 (<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>) website and the Dirt is Good assembly pack (<https://www.dirtisgoodproject.com/uk/earth-day>). Together, let's continue to nurture our planet and cultivate a legacy of care and responsibility for generations to come.

-Rachel B



The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. God is close to those who trust in him.

Nahum 1.7

What you need to know about SIAMS

Date: 20th May 2024

Time: 13:00-16:00

Location: Hillside House

A chance to connect with Church School Colleagues and gain an understanding of all parts of the new framework and the current inspection processes and expectations

Outcomes

- Explore the NEW SIAMS framework and what is the same and different from previous schedule
- Identify ways in which school's vision can underpin all SIAMS work and the life of a CofE school
- Understand possible processes of self-evaluation and summary required for schools
- Understand all SIAMS inspection processes (before, during and after the inspection day)

£85 face to face (2nd delegate from the same school - **£40**)

Initial registration is free. You will be invoiced **BEFORE** the training.

[Eventbrite - Edit What you need to know about SIAMS](#)



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Diocese of Bristol
TRANSFORMING CHURCH.
TOGETHER.

Summer Term Courses

Spiritual Development at the heart of your school

Wednesday 22nd May

9.30-12.30pm at Hillside House

This course is aimed at Headteachers, SLT, Governors and teachers with SIAMS responsibilities.

- *a chance to explore how your school can create a definition of Spiritual Development that will fit your context and vision*
- *ideas of where this can fit right across your curriculum, environment and life of the school*
- *practical ideas for ensuring age-appropriate questioning and activities that will deepen pupil's spiritual development*

Cost: £85 per delegate (and £40 for a further delegate from the same school/parish) Schools will be invoiced before the event. Initial registration is free. Book [HERE](#).

Prayer Spaces in Schools with Bristol Schools Connection

Wednesday 12th June

1-4pm at Christ Church Downend ***FREE*** Book [HERE](#).

Prayer Spaces in Schools enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore faith, prayer and life's questions in a safe, creative and interactive way. They work best when developed in partnership between the local church and school. We will look at how to host prayer spaces both indoors and outdoors. This training is for anyone involved in Spiritual Development in Schools: LLMs, church volunteers, subject leaders and teachers. We suggest delegates attend in pairs with a representative from Church and School.

For more info on Prayer Spaces in Schools visit www.prayerspacesinschools.com

Collective Worship: the heartbeat of your school

Monday 17th June

4-5.30pm online with time for questions

This training is for Headteachers, Clergy and anyone involved in planning or leading Collective Worship. Space to consider your school's priorities and key purposes for Collective Worship

- *Knowledge of the Church of England guidance 'Inclusive, invitational, inspiring' and expectations of SIAMS 2023*
- *Some ideas as to how Collective Worship can ensure your school's vision, values and sense of community*
- *Examples of great strategies and resources for planning and assessing the impact of worship on the life of your school*

Cost £50 per delegate (and £20 for a further delegate from the same school/parish) Schools will be invoiced before the event. Initial registration is free. Book [HERE](#).

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Understanding Christianity Refresher' training



Face to face	Online
At Hillside House:	on Zoom
29th April	7th May
1pm-4pm	4pm –6pm

This CPD will provide a refresher on the principles of this exciting and thorough approach to teaching Christianity, with new ideas and updates for 2024. Suitable for those new to using the resource, or those looking for a fresh reflection on its use. A great chance to ensure you have a full understanding of this important resource for meeting SIAMS and RE requirements.

Cost:

Face to face - £85 per delegate (£40 from the same school)

Online—£50 per delegate (£20 from the same school)

Find out more: Free at the point of booking, all delegates will be invoiced before the event. Alternatively, rachel.brohier@bristoldiocese.org or call 0117 906 0100.

Details and booking information is available [HERE](#).

[Understanding Christianity - Refresher \(online\) Tickets, Tue 7 May 2024 at 16:00 | Eventbrite](#)

[Understanding Christianity -Refresher \(face to face\) Tickets, Mon 29 Apr 2024 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

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Deepen your faith with Müllers Free Theology Course



Are you working in or with a church school and have some Tuesdays free?
This free course is well regarded and might be of interest to you.
Applications for the 2024-2025 STC Course are now open!

The Scripture, Theology & Culture Course, which has been running for over 20 years, is an opportunity to cultivate deep theological roots, deepen your faith with God, and strengthen your teaching of scripture.

THE 2024 - 2025 COURSE

	September 2024 - June 2025
	Tuesdays 9.15am - 4pm
	Müllers, 45-47 Loft House BS7 9FG

The course aims to feed the heart as well as the mind, so each day starts with a time of worship and prayer before teaching begins, which is delivered by Müllers' staff and qualified practitioners from across the Bristol region.

There is also the opportunity to receive an accreditation certificate in Scripture, Theology and Culture at either Level 3 or Level 4.

The course is free, and open to all, regardless of previous educational achievement. To find out more and see what modules are covered click the button below!

[Deepen your faith with Müllers Free Theology Course !\[\]\(6bb0e4f14c4133b37d2887cb37e67ddd_img.jpg\) \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

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LifeSavers
Helping children manage money wisely



Access free teaching resources and help make a difference

Discover LifeSavers. Our innovative, values-based, FREE financial literacy programme. Giving children the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to manage their money wisely.

Our FREE Lifesavers programme for primary schools provides:

- ✓ Whole school resources including engaging activities and assemblies.
- ✓ Flexible and adaptable resources to suit the needs of your class.
- ✓ Training for teachers to embed financial education into the school curriculum.
- ✓ Opportunity to help children develop positive financial habits.

**JUST
FINANCE
FOUNDATION**

Sign up for more information at
justfinancefoundation.org.uk

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Request for School Link in Bristol

Peter Halford, would like to partner/link his school with a city school from the Diocese of Bristol. The purpose of this partnership/project will be to help to support children's understanding of diversity and to understand more about life in modern Britain by comparing the experiences of children from different parts of the country (and with different backgrounds) and comparing rural with city life. It is also inspired by the school's vision of 'Growing Stronger Together' (Matthew 13:31-32).

If you would like to work with [Drakes' CofE Primary School](#) in East Budleigh, please do get in touch with us or the school. The school has just recently been [inspected by SIAMS](#) and had a deservedly good result and favourable report.

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A Prayer for this term

Heavenly Father

Please pour out Your blessings upon our whole school community so that everyone grows in the knowledge of Your truth, love, wisdom and peace.

We pray for all children - help them to explore what they can achieve and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.

We pray for all those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for our children.

We pray for all governors of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Don't forget we're here to support you so let us know if you want to chat any ideas through.

Liz and the Education Team

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