

Weekly Bulletin from the Diocese for the week beginning Sunday 2nd October 2016 for the Head Teachers of Diocesan Schools and Colleges

Bible readings for this week: Lam 1:1-6; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10; Psalm 37:1-9

Schools being prayed for this week: Clandon Primary, Cranleigh Primary, Crookham Infant

Issue 5



Theme for week

In the lectionary readings for this week we come across the following words of Jesus: "And the servant is not even thanked, because he is merely doing what he is supposed to do." (Luke 17:9, NLT). In my first headship I had the privilege of leading a very tough school. We were inundated with advisers from

the Local Authority dispensing a range of, often contradictory, advice. One piece of advice I do remember well. I was told that the teachers in my school were giving too much praise. At first my hackles went up. Did these advisers not understand how difficult it was just to get the children into school from homes where they were often not encouraged academically? But the advisers were in some senses right. Yes, of course, it is vital to praise children frequently for working hard and making progress, especially when this is 'against the odds'. However, it is possible to 'over praise'. This seems to be the principle that Jesus is illustrating here. In the school context, if we always praise mediocrity then we will only ever get mediocrity. The skill of the teacher is to know when to praise and when not to. Jesus, the model teacher, had a very high view of humanity and high expectations of what humanity could achieve.

Ideas for assemblies on this theme

Please note these are entirely voluntary and should not replace existing assembly plans for the year. Do we always look for rewards without working hard? Do we ever do things for others without expecting anything in return? Are we good servants, or do we only do things when we can benefit ourselves? Depending on the values being explored in your school, this story may speak into the values of servanthood, hard work, commitment to others, commitment to God or self-sacrifice. See for example:

[Putting others first](#)

Or

[Jesus showed us the meaning of service](#)

Or

[Teaching children to be servant leaders](#)

Or

'It's not easy to be a Christian', based on the reading from 2 Timothy and found in the link below for this week:

[Acts of Worship – The Diocese of Ely Education Directorate](#)

CPD – The Lifblood of an improving organisation

- Tuesday 4th October, 4.15pm-6.30pm, 'Senior Leadership Programme and School Self Evaluation', at the Education Centre
- Thursday 6th October, 1.30pm-4.30pm, Senior Leaders and Governors – 'Models of Successful Governance', at the Education Centre
- Tuesday 11th October, 10am-12noon, 'Prevent FGM & CSE Update', at the Education Centre
- Wednesday 12th October, 4.15pm-5.45pm, NQT Session 2, 'Planning and coping with stress', at St Nicolas Infant
- Save the date: **Thursday 3rd November, 8.30am to 4.30pm Head teachers Away Day at Waverley Abbey House**

News from family of Church schools

- Deborah Pepper (Academies expert) at LBMW solicitors with other strategic managers from other dioceses to find out about the range of academies models available around the country to benefit diocesan schools
- Peter Simpson has been invited by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) to join a sub-regional forum on academies
- Training on PSIS (Prayer Spaces in Schools) will take place on Saturday 1st October. This will be run by Jane Whittington and involve many church folk, who are needed to support PSIS (hence the Saturday)!
- St Jude's Junior school, Englefield Green, delighted with the confirmation received last Thursday to build two new classrooms which, hopefully will be ready by 2018
- Buildings team exploring whether it is possible to support VC schools more than is currently allowed
- CIF (Condition Improvement Funding) bids should be in early with plenty of detail as the last round of this funding is December. It doesn't matter that schools have already been successful – such as The Holme and St John's – it is still possible to secure further improvements. After December such funding will operate through the MAT (GST) differently

Education News

- Labour "will defeat" the government's plans to expand grammar schools in England, shadow education secretary Angela Rayner has said.
- The Department for Education announces that Peter Lauener is appointed as the Shadow Chief Executive for the Institute for Apprenticeships.
- Updated Analysis and links to data sources on children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) in England. Click [here](#)
- Updated Guide for schools and local authorities (LAs) on submitting data about school-employed staff for the school workforce census 2016. Click [here](#)
- Initial teacher education inspections and outcomes as at 30 June 2016 and published 22 September 2016: main messages. Click [here](#)