

Information Flyer

October 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the October 2023 Information Flyer. We hope you'll find the following items of interest to you and your school. **Please circulate to all staff and particularly subject leaders**

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jerimiah 29:11

As we begin the new school year and pupils, and staff settle into the rhythm of daily school life it is important to reflect on this new beginning. Often new beginnings come with lots of plans, lots of ideas, creativity and energy. By the end of the school year, it can seem that journey was tiring or may not have followed the path we thought. Jeremiah's verse reminds us that whilst we may put lots of plans in place, sometimes God has bigger plans for us, and these may take us in new directions. But whatever they are and whichever pathway we find ourselves travelling on, let us not lose the energy, excitement and hope of the possibilities we might achieve.

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1. **Hope for a Flourishing School's System – Pop UK's free resource for schools**

As you engage with the Church of England's initiative, [Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System](#), published in July, here's a reminder of **PopUK's** Inclusive, Distinctive & Relevant resources available free to primary schools and already used widely across the UK.

PopUK is a Christian charity, providing contemporary songs and resources that teach the importance of Christian values. Every song contains a distinctive teaching point elaborated through a range of teaching videos and links to relevant bible readings. **These are not confessional worship songs** and so are ideal for involving every child in increasingly diverse school communities and academies that include children from other faith or non-faith backgrounds.

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Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System:

Deeply Christian,
Serving the
Common Good



Here's a taste of the song '[Life Is Always Better](#)' helping children to understand the CofE vision for education of 'life in all its fullness' (John 10.10).

Please encourage your schools to [sign up for membership to our free song bank](#) and do get in touch if we can help support you or your schools fulfil the vision for Flourishing Schools.

2. November is Carbon Month

Take the challenge in November; cut your carbon footprint by taking part in nine simple actions, sign up to Cut Your Carbon on the [Eco-Schools website](#), take part in a Cut Your Carbon assembly, and finally record your successes on a simple online form at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgQhaO2wYvw>



3. Dance through RE with Springs

Springs provides an exciting way for children to interact with the RE curriculum through physical movement and creativity. They are now booking:

- [A Christmas Story: Refugee](#) – Inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story Refuge, these workshops will guide pupils on a journey of dance, drama and discussion. Children will uncover a relevant and meaningful telling of the first Christmas, through learning, creating and performing movement.

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- **The Nativity Project** – Want to try something different this Advent? The Nativity Project brings to life the traditional, much-loved scenes of the Christmas story, then continues the story after the birth of Jesus, highlighting the importance of showing hospitality to others. Our professional dancers can create a unique performance with children, over the course of a longer project, for them to share with family and friends.
- **The Easter Project** - These much-loved workshops provide a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. The workshops can be delivered as a one-off day or a longer project and can culminate in an informal sharing or performance by the pupils.

Other popular workshops include *The Good Samaritan*, *You Are Special*, and *Creation*, as well as our interactive **PARABLE** performance. Further details on all of our work for schools can be found at: <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/join-in/>

To book or find out more please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07775 628 442.



The workshops can explore:

- Mary, Joseph and Jesus' flight from Herod
- Family and strangers
- Expressions of love - Finding and extending shelter and friendship
- Fear and hope

Springs Dance Company delivers RE and Citizenship through dance, creative exploration and discussion.

Our workshops support children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and link to British Values.

Our workshops are a great way to utilise your Sports Premium Funding.

Other popular workshops include: *The Easter Project*, *Parable*, *The Magic Paintbrush*, *Exploring Values*, *Stepping Out* (for big changes), *You Are Special* and *The Life of Jesus*.

Springs can also bring magical dance theatre to you, saving you a coach trip and transforming your school into a theatre. To find out more about our literature linked, professional productions, please contact the office.

“Outstanding!! Our schools have had the most amazing time.” C Hutton, Church Schools Worker, Earsham



We are flexible as to how our workshops fit into the school timetable.

To book or for a friendly chat about what we can do for your school, call us on 07775 628 442 or email:

touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk

A Christmas Story: Refugee workshops are part of *Leap Into RE* supported by The Jerusalem Trust

4. Christian Aid Climate for Justice

Why not join in Christian Aid's courageous advocacy project with your pupils. Register by 10 November, more information below:

Autumn Term 2023

Creative for Climate Justice

Join in and support young people you work with to raise their voices through art!

Get Creative for Climate Justice in Autumn 2023! Christian Aid is excited to invite schools to take part in a courageous advocacy project:

- supporting children to learn about climate justice
- using creative arts to share their messages
- engaging their local MP and wider community.

In partnership with Oxfam, CAFOD, Send My Friend, and The Climate Coalition, we'll be hosting an exhibition of children's artworks in Parliament in December.

We've created a range of accessible resources to support your schools participation in the project; they're available on our website (scan below).

The deadline for submissions for the parliamentary exhibition is November the 10th. Further details can be found in the Resource Pack.

Schools must be registered for the project for artworks to be considered for the parliamentary exhibition.

For more information and to register for the project email jgrear@christian-aid.org

Scan with your phone



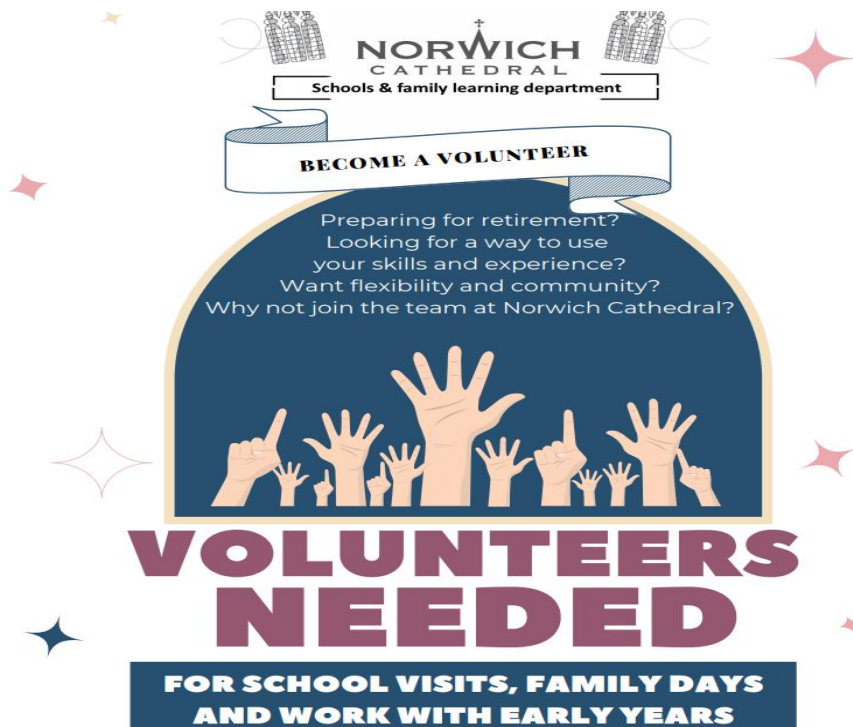
Artwork created by pupils at Marwood CE Infant School, Yorkshire, UK.



Artwork created by Adhithyan from Bishop Hodges Secondary School, Kerala, India.



5. Norwich Cathedral – Volunteers Needed!



Contact headofschools@cathedral.org.uk or 01603 218320 for an initial informal conversation.

6. Active RE Promotion

If you haven't experienced Active RE in your school, then read on and consider booking onto our training! The approach taken is to offer physically active exploration of Bible stories and key themes. Attendees will get the specially developed resources free – Lesson Plans, Active RE Games Booklet and Active RE Visual Aids. The course is led by Tim Henery, who created and developed the resource. It takes place in three school settings as this is active teacher training so wear your sports kit!

Cost: £95 (includes the complete resource of lessons, games and visual aids)

Follow link and select the appropriate date <https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/schools/training/>

Dates:	Venues:	Times:
23 January 2024	(West) Gayton CE Primary Academy, Kings Lynn	14.00 - 16:30
20 March 2024	(South) The Bishop's CE Primary Academy, Thetford	14.00 - 16:30
18 April 2024	(North) Horsford CE VA Primary School, Norwich	14.00 - 16:30