Dear Headteachers, Executive Headteachers, Diocesan Schools Consultants, Chaplains, DBE Members, MAT CEOs, Chairs of Governors, Vice Chairs of Governors and Foundation Governors

**29th September Cathedral Service – FULLY BOOKED!**

Every seat has now been booked for our Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving for Diocesan Schools with Bishop Donald and Archdeacon Richard.  May I politely ask every school leader who has booked seats to please book your transport before the end of this term, if you have not already done so, and to be aware that there would be other schools who would like to have your seats if you are not able to attend.  In previous years, Alex has sometimes been notified just days before the service that a school is not coming, because the school was unable to book a coach, leaving no time at all for another school that would have wanted the seats to make travel arrangements.  Naturally, we would like to avoid this in September, so that every school can benefit fully from the seats which are available.

**Courageous Advocacy and Global Neighbours**

Courageous advocacy is becoming an increasingly important theme in all of our schools, and Global Neighbours is a great initiative from Christian Aid to support schools and academies in developing courageous advocates amongst its children and young people. Through five areas schools can work towards achieving a kite mark at bronze, silver or gold level. These include teaching and learning, community engagement and pupil participation. The award was originally designed for primary schools.  However, Christian Aid are now considering how this might become an award for secondary schools and academies. They are currently looking for secondary schools to work with them to pilot the award. If your school / academy is interested, please contact Tim Burdon TBurdon@christian-aid.org.

**St Luke’s Church of England Primary School**

I was delighted to visit St Luke’s Church of England Primary School on Friday and to join with the Key Stage 1 children, staff and parents for an assembly about Brazil, which included some samba dancing.  It would have been worth taking time out on Friday morning just to witness Sonia, the Headteacher, samba dancing with the staff; it was a joyous experience!  Sonia has kindly agreed to share a few words, to introduce her joyful and dynamic school to you all…

*St Luke’s CE Primary School opened in 1850 in the heart of Duston village.  In 2008 a new school was built on the housing estate, on the land of the old Princess Marina Hospital. The estate has expanded alongside the school with pupil numbers growing from approximately 70 pupils to now 420. Our last Ofsted inspection was in September 2019 where we awarded ‘Good’.*

*Our children come from a range of backgrounds and we serve a community which is very mixed. With increased housing, our demographic has changed and we have had to change the provision we provide.*

*We have developed our curriculum over the past 2 years to ensure we are giving our children opportunities that they may not have the opportunity to do. This has included a visit to the National Gallery in London, the Houses of Parliament, Birmingham Botanical Gardens and having a real space rocket in school, to name but a few!*

*Opposite our school we have a retirement village and over the year our children and residents work together. This intergenerational work has seen our children writing pen pal letters to each other, creating a Jubilee garden together and now supporting our school food hampers and providing funding for our free breakfast club.*

*Over the past few years our children have voiced about making a difference to our planet and last year we started our Eco Team. Since then we have become a plastic free school, recycle crisp packets and batteries. Litter pick within our school community daily and upgraded our garden area to start producing our own food.*

*We believe at St Luke’s that we are a family and we support our children and families in a variety of ways. Last year, we started our own school food hampers, staff within the school bring in a variety of items which our family support worker packages up and provides to families in need. We also provide a free drop in breakfast club that families can just turn up to at 8.30am and we will provide a breakfast for the children.*

*In 2020 we were the first wave of MHST (Mental Health Schools Team), this has been invaluable to us as a school, with children receiving group and class sessions to support their wellbeing, but also additional support on a 1:1 basis for those children we have identified. If you get the opportunity to be involved with this fantastic service – please say yes!*

*As a school we have a fantastic team who all work together to ensure we are meeting the needs of our children.*

**Free Bibles for Schools**

If you would like to present a free copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to each of your Year 6 leavers in 2023, GOOD NEWS For Everyone would be delighted to provide free copies for you.  Further details are attached.

**Academy & School News Update**

Please find attached the most recent academy and school news summary from educational consultant Tony Stephens.

**Thought for the Week**

May I share with you these uplifting words from Psalm 117:v1,2 to inspire and encourage you as you approach each day, and think of the whole world and the praise due to God from all people, for his everlasting love and faithfulness …

*Praise the Lord, all you nations;*

*Extol him, all you peoples.*

*For great is his love towards us,*

*And the faithfulness of the Lord*

*Endures for ever.*

**Prayer**

Finally, may I share with you a prayer from this Sunday, the fourth Sunday after Trinity…

*Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

Wishing you every blessing!

Peter

**Peter Cantley**

**Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Peterborough**

01604 887006 mob 07841032578
Education Office, Bouverie Court, 6 The Lakes, Bedford Road, Northampton NN4 7YD

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Registered address: The Palace, Peterborough PE1 1YB. Registered Charity No. 250569.

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