



LDBS SCHOOLS BULLETIN

March 2009

Website: www.london.anglican.org/schools

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I have been trying to get my head around what a trillion pounds is, as bail-outs, national debts and pension payments now seem to have soared past billions. The web is inconclusive as to an answer. Some say it is 1,000,000,000 (nine noughts) and others 1,000,000,000,000 (12 noughts). Is there a numeracy lesson in there somewhere? Whichever one is the correct answer, it all adds up to a lot of pounds.

On 18 March in St Martins-in-the-Fields we will give thanks for the work of Church schools in the Diocese. There will be representatives there from schools which started when William and Mary were on the throne as well as from schools which are only seven months old or which will not be born for another six months. I do not know whether the accumulated expenditure on all our 150 Church schools will have exceeded one trillion. It is however very probable that several trillion actions and interactions will have taken place over the three centuries or so since the earliest of those schools was established. Not every action done or word expressed will have been exemplary, uplifting or inspirational but I would like to think that the good actions and words were in the majority. Who knows what chain of events has been set up by teaching five year olds to read, persuading a child and his family to stay on at school, encouraging someone to follow a talent or just finding the right word for someone at a crucial moment in their lives? As the Chinese proverb has it '*Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness*' or as Portia says in '*The Merchant of Venice*': '*How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.*'

Well a great many candles have been lit in and by our schools in what has often been a naughty world. It has been a wonderful privilege and opportunity over the past 10 years to have witnessed some of the lit candles and trillions of actions that go on week-in and week-out in our schools. Long may they continue!

With all good wishes for the future

LDBS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

20th May 2009 – Using St Paul's Cathedral as an Educational Resource

This course is part of the NQT Induction Programme, but all are welcome to join. It is being led by Laura Arends and runs from 1:20pm to 4pm on the 20th May 2009. Please see the enclosed leaflet for further details or contact Pat Regan on 020 7932 1162 or on pat.regan@london.anglican.org

LDBS Headteacher Retreat

Liz Wolverson, Deputy Director LDBS is holding a headteachers' retreat at Mulberry House, a beautiful and elegant conference centre near Epping on the 26th June 2009. The cost of the one day retreat is £30. For further details please see the enclosed flyer or contact Leanne Gowar on leanne.gowar@london.anglican.org

LDBS Primary School Deputy Headteachers Conference

Liz Wolverson, Deputy Director LDBS is also running a primary school deputy headteachers' conference at Mulberry House (the same beautiful and elegant conference centre as above) near Epping on the 5th June 2009. The cost of the one day conference is £30. For further details please see the enclosed flyer or contact Leanne Gowar on leanne.gowar@london.anglican.org

Helping Children Develop Language – A one day course for Foundation Stage and KS1 Teachers and Teaching Assistants

We are interested in holding a one-day course in the summer term with the charity ICAN, the children's communication charity. The course is called '*Helping Children Develop Language*' and will be open to all Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 teachers and teaching assistants. The course will look at speech and language development in children and will demonstrate techniques and ideas that can be used in the classroom setting '*to help children to become more confident communicators*'. If you would like further details please contact Leanne Gowar on leanne.gowar@london.anglican.org or by phone on 020 7932 1159.

Modern Foreign Languages

Liz Wolverson is interested to know what foreign languages are taught in our primary schools. There is a possibility of some very interesting and beneficial links being created to aid the schools in their tuition of modern foreign languages. For further information please contact Robert Bullett on 020 7932 1161 or robert.bullett@london.anglican.org as well as to inform Liz which languages you teach.

RE, COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND SMSC

Book Resources for RE, PSHE and SMSC

Please find enclosed another helpful review of newly published books and resources for RE, PSHE and SMSC. The review covers all 5 Key Stages plus some management books. *Please pass on to RE co-ordinators and heads of RE!*

RE Scheme of Work Replacement Sections

Included in this mailing you will find an envelope containing replacement pages for your RE Scheme of work. All you have to do is replace the old pages, and you are all set to go!

Wintershall: The Life of Christ

The Wintershall Estate near Guildford in Surrey is doing an open air production of 'The Life of Christ' from Tuesday 23rd June to Sunday 28th June. The performances have been running for 11 years, attracting an audience of over 15,000 and featuring a cast of actors of nearly 300 in number. Roman soldiers galloping over the hills on horseback for the slaughter of the innocents or audience participation in the feeding of the five thousand are very memorable scenes. The performances each day are split into 3 acts, with the day starting at 10am and finishing around 4pm. Prices are £15 for adults and £7.50 for children, and there are discounts for groups. For more information or to book tickets, please contact the Wintershall Estate on www.wintershall-estate.com or on 01483 892167.

ADMISSIONS

How oversubscribed are you? Parental Preferences and School Popularity

One of the indicators of a strength (or not) of a school is how 'popular' it is with parents. With the co-ordinated admissions system, it is now possible to see the numbers (not the names) of parents who put your school as a 1st, 2nd, 3rd preference etc. However, not many LA's make this information routinely available to schools. For the past three years we at LDBS have been winking out this information regarding secondary schools from local authorities and we now have it for all of our primary schools (for September 2008) intake. That is helpful to us in seeing which schools are perhaps vulnerable and which are heavily oversubscribed, especially when there is a trend emerging.

We would advise all our schools and governors to track regularly this information and in particular to monitor the number of 1st and 2nd preferences you receive. Sometimes a one form entry school might say '*we are oversubscribed with 45 applications for the 30 places*' but if only 17 of those are 1st preferences and 9 are 2nd preferences, it is not really oversubscribed. Your LA Admissions section should be able to give you this information but if you have difficulty in getting it, we can let you have the figures for recent years (secondary schools) and for last year (primary schools). Contact Robert Bullett on 020 7932 1161 or robert.bullett@london.anglican.org

Reminder on Admissions 2010

With thanks to those of you who have consulted us, and a reminder to those schools who have not! The new Code has brought in a new requirement that schools **MUST** consult for a minimum of eight weeks between 1 November and the 1 March of the year prior to admission. This has meant that this year, because of the timing of the Code, schools should have started their consultation in January. Although we should have been consulted before the LA and all other groups, because of the change in consultation timing this year we are agreeing/looking at admission policies at the same time as they have gone out to consultation with other authorities. Schools should remember that they must have consulted by 1 March and have had a governors meeting to 'determine' the arrangements following consultation by 15 April.

Despite the guidance from us and other sources last year, some policies still need 'tidying up' to make them fully compliant with the Code. A few reminders:

- Be precise and give definitions for: siblings; 'regular' as in worship; and how distance from home to school is measured.
- Include exceptional social/medical criteria within, not outside of the actual oversubscription criteria.
- Do not ask for a birth certificate until after a place has been offered – asking beforehand is not allowed by the Code
- Do not include any request for information (however innocuous) on the Supplementary Information Form unless it is definitely needed to apply your admission criteria.

If you have any question email Penny at penny.harvey@london.anglican.org.

GOVERNORS & GOVERNANCE

Governing Body Minutes

Please either send your governing body minutes directly to Leanne Gowar here at Causton Street or email them to leanne.gowar@london.anglican.org

Governor Support Training Programme

Enclosed is the Summer Term Governor Support training programme and application form. To sign up to these courses please return the application form, or sign up online via the LDBS website:

www.schools.london.anglican.org/Calendar/calendar-index.htm If you would like to receive these programmes by email please let Mitch have your email details on 020 7932 1160 or mitch.gallacher@london.anglican.org

Membership of the Governing Body

There are still a number of schools that have not returned their forms giving up to date details of governors, clerks etc. Please could you send your updated Governor details to Mitch Gallacher ASAP. This form is available to fill in on-line or print off, fill in & post and can be found on the LDBS website:

<http://schools.london.anglican.org/Governors/governors-index.htm> or you can send your own version including information requested on the front of our form.

LDBS Appointed Governors

Following our message in the last bulletin we have found that a couple of schools have got themselves in a muddle over the appointment of LDBS governors. These governors are not appointed by the school, clerk or chair! They are appointed by the Governors and Appointments Committee of the LDBS Board. When an LDBS appointed governor leaves or resigns, the chair or clerk should notify the LDBS (Penny Harvey), that there is a vacancy together with the details of anyone they would like to suggest as a successor. We will then follow this through and inform the clerk when an appointment has been made. From time to time we have applications from people via the web and through the Governors One Stop Shop. We will do our best to match these applications to vacancies.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

Overseas Teachers Registration - Sponsorship under the new Home Office Points Based System (PBS)

Overseas trained teachers now have to have a registered sponsor before they can work in schools. Local authorities, other bodies and perhaps some schools are registering as sponsors. We understand that not all local authorities have included Church schools under their sponsorship umbrella. However, the LDBS is now registered with the Home Office as an accredited sponsor and is therefore allowed to issue certificates of sponsorship. Any school wishing to use the LDBS sponsorship umbrella should contact Pat Regan on 020 7932 1162 or pat.regan@london.anglican.org. There will be a charge for each certificate but at least schools will not have to pay to register.

MISCELLANEOUS

Free Theatre Tickets for Under 25 Year Olds!

A new scheme has been launched by the Arts Council to make access to theatres free for under 25 year olds – although it does not apply to school parties. However this might be particularly useful for secondary schools or for some of your younger members of staff – if they have the energy to go out to the theatre. For more details of this scheme you need to look up www.anightlessordinary.org.uk. There are 45 theatres in London taking part in the scheme including the National Theatre and RSC at Aldwych.

The John Lyon's Charity's 'Access to the Arts Fund'

This particular fund of the John Lyon's Charity will be open to primary schools in the following boroughs: Barnet, Brent, Camden Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster and City. The fund has been created to enable primary schools to gain access to, and take part in, arts activities at the many high class institutions in London e.g. transport cost to a museum or concert. In order to take part in the fund schools should be able to demonstrate an existing commitment to the arts. The fund will open in autumn 2009.

The charity also have a small grants programme which primary schools are able to apply for a one-off grant of up to £5000 for projects that fall within the charity's current priorities. For further information go the website www.johnlyonscharity.org.uk or contact them on info@johnlyonscharity.org.uk or on 020 7591 3330

LDBS Newsletter

Please send Mitch anything you would like included in the next schools newsletter. All events, pictures and poetry are welcome. You can send the information to Mitch through the post or by email to mitch.gallacher@london.anglican.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Ofsted and Denomination Inspections

The following schools have been inspected since the last mailing, and judged to be good or outstanding:

- St John the Baptist Primary School, Richmond – Outstanding
- St Alban's Primary School, Camden – Good (Up from Satisfactory)
- Christ Church Primary School, Kensington & Chelsea – Outstanding (Again!)
- Christ Church Bentinck Primary School, Westminster – Good
- St Paul's Primary School, Camden – Good
- St John's Primary School, Highbury Islington – Good
- Archdeacon Cambridge's Primary School, Richmond - Good