

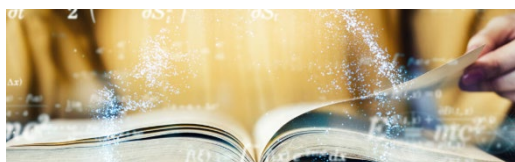
## Newsletter – DECEMBER 2025

### Time to rest

Approaching a holiday after a long term, it's important that you and your senior leaders plan carefully to ensure you have some protected time over the festive period to switch off – be it physical exercise, a lie in, reading a book, craft activities, watching a film, completing a jigsaw. We encourage you to talk with your staff teams about how they plan to switch off from work.



### Farmington Scholarships



Farmington annually supports up to 30 primary/secondary teachers working in RE or related subjects. Each teacher receives up to 30 days out of the classroom to pursue their own project.

New scholars are given a supervisor & Induction Day and take part in the Annual Conference before beginning their scholarship. At the end of their year, they present their research at the Conference, as well as at their own school to colleagues, governors, and the wider community.

Applicants must secure the written support of their headteacher and have worked at their current school for at least 2 years. Joint applications from 2+ teachers working on the same project (even from different schools) are welcome; each applicant must complete a separate form.

Farmington covers the cost of a cover teacher, as well as all conference, travel, and induction day expenses.

Applications for 2026–2027 are now open, link to form [HERE](#). The closing date is **Sunday, 26 January 2026**. For queries, please email: [institute@farmington.ac.uk](mailto:institute@farmington.ac.uk).

### SAVE THE DATE! Headteachers' Conference

Our Headteachers' conference takes place on **Thursday 18 June** at The Hayes in Swanwick.

The conference will provide you with

- Time to reflect & take part in CW if you would like to
- Time to connect and meet with colleagues

Full details will be issued in the new year.



## SAVE THE DATE! Bishop's Badge

The Bishop's Badge service to commemorate school children who embody diocesan values, will take place at Derby Cathedral on **Thursday 25 June**.

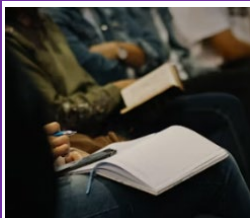
Do put a place marker in your calendar if you intend to nominate children from your school!

Full details will be issued after February half term.



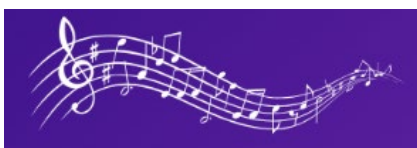
## RE Subject Leads Meetings

Reminder that the spring term briefing takes place online at 15:45 Thursday 08 January, led by Debbie Yeomans from RE Today. There is no charge for the session. Link to booking form [HERE](#)



## Chesterfield Living Nativity – 20 December

The Chesterfield Living Nativity takes place on Saturday 20 December in Chesterfield town centre. Follow the story from the old M&S doorway to the Crooked Spire. Starts at 14:30 on Saturday 20 December.



## POP UK

POP UK offers a FREE song bank for primary schools. For more information see their website [here](#) for more details.

## The Peak Centre – Primary Retreat Days 2026

The [Peak Centre](#) is based in Edale. They offer Retreat Days for year 6 (& occasionally year 5) pupils. These retreats include activities, games, singing, exercise and worship and are FREE of charge! Contact them directly 01433 670254 / [office@peakcentre.org.uk](mailto:office@peakcentre.org.uk) for more information.



## Supporting our Schools to TRANSFORM – GROW – BUILD

Showing **generous faith, courageous hope & life-giving love**, Derby DBE's actions will be to:

- affirm and strengthen our relationship with school leaders and governors,
- offer a high-quality training & development programme for school leaders, governors, clergy, RE & CW practitioners.

Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance.  
Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#).



### Spotlight on Weston CE Primary School

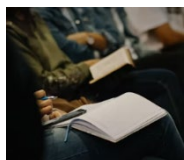
South Derbyshire MP, Samantha Niblett visited Weston CE Primary School in November, to officially open their 2<sup>nd</sup> Forest School area, with new yurt, viking tent, campfire area and huge tyre! The MP observed a maths class in the Forest School area and later attended the collective worship session and explained about an MP's work and discussed the theme of democracy.

### Spotlight on Church Broughton CE Primary School

Pupils and staff were delighted to welcome Bishop Libby to their school on Tuesday 11 November. She led a thought-provoking worship, sharing insights about her role within the Derbyshire community and encouraging the children to reflect on ambition and perseverance. Bishop Libby impressed upon the pupils that, no matter who you are, if you work hard and stay determined, you can achieve your goals.



**Do let us know if you would like a  
spotlight on your school!**



### RE Subject Leads Meetings

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### Upcoming Briefings

#### Headteachers

13:30 Thursday 15 January  
10:00 Thursday 12 February  
10:00 Monday 16 March

#### Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Thursday 15 January  
19:00 Thursday 12 February  
19:00 Monday 16 March

#### Collective Worship

16:00 Tuesday 13 January  
16:00 Tuesday 10 February

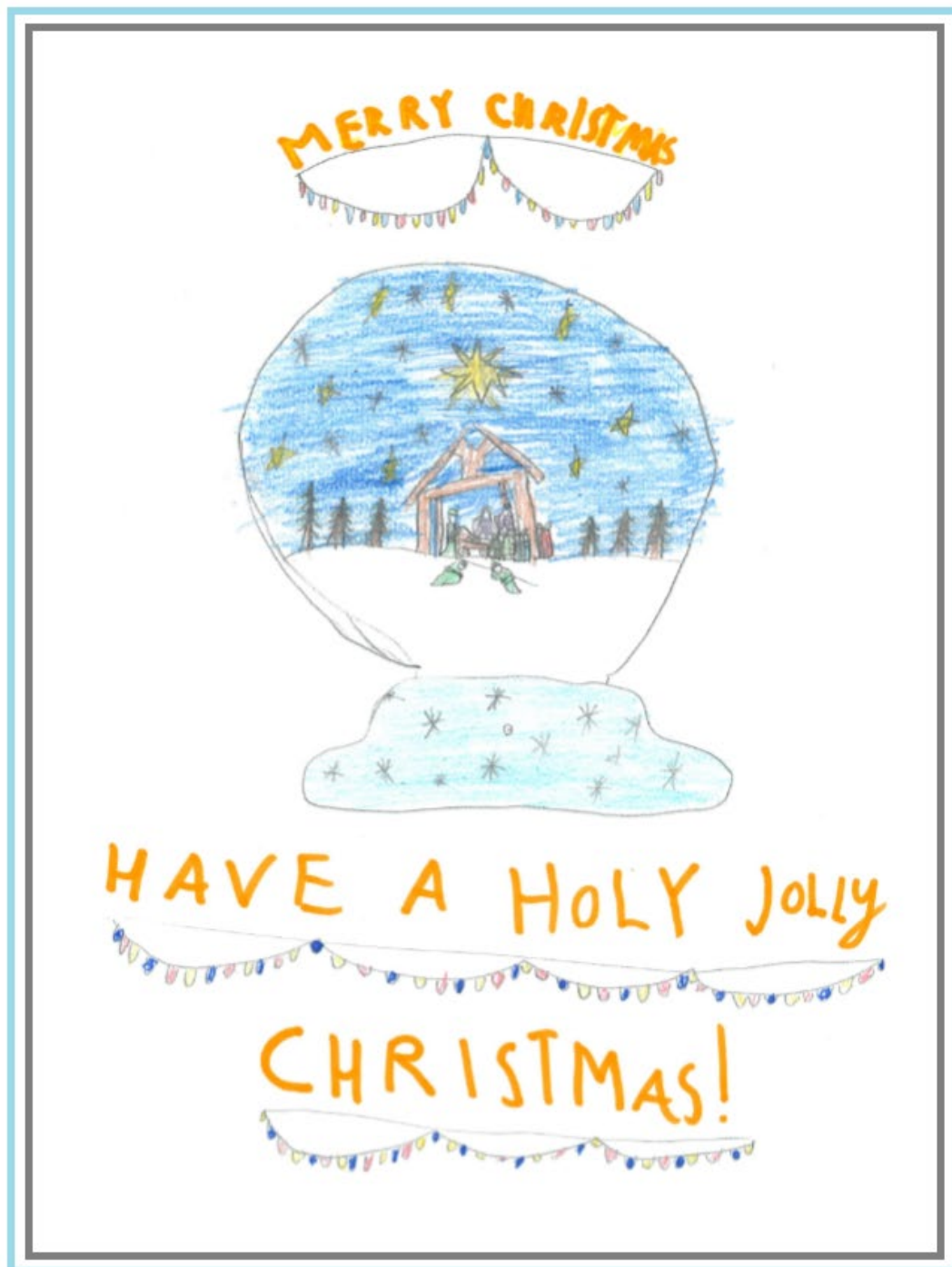
If you would like details, please contact [officeDBE@derby.anglican.org](mailto:officeDBE@derby.anglican.org)



### Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to all the schools and pupils who submitted entries for our Christmas card competition. We received so many wonderful designs and it was clear that everyone had put a lot of thought and effort into their creations. We are delighted to announce that the winner was Malachy from St Peter's CE Junior School, Fairfield. Congratulations Malachy!

*Card design by Malachy from St Peter's CE Junior School Fairfield*



*Wishing you a Joyous Christmas & a very Happy New Year  
from all at Derby Diocesan Board of Education*



## Spring Term

CPD PROGRAMME Ensure staff & governors are booked onto relevant training. Details & booking links <a href="#">CPD programme</a>	ASAP
MONTHLY BRIEFINGS Ensure dates in diary for headteacher, chair, clerk & foundation governors. See newsletter and <a href="#">CPD programme</a> for dates	ASAP
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website <a href="#">HERE</a> Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 30 June	04 March
ADMISSIONS ( <i>VA schools &amp; Academy Trusts</i> ) Governing Body must determine (formally approve) policy for 2027-2028. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a>	28 February
ADMISSIONS ( <i>VA schools &amp; Academy Trusts</i> ) Publish policy on website. Forward a copy to LA and the DBE. Guidance on website <a href="#">HERE</a>	15 March
HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE Save the date! Thursday 18 June. Details to be issued in the new year.	
BISHOP'S BADGE Save the date! Thursday 25 June. Details to be issued in the new year.	
EXEC / HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. DBE must be involved. See guidance <a href="#">HERE</a>	

For schools wishing to use our Admissions Appeals Service,  
see overleaf for hearing dates and deadlines for submission of paperwork.

Any school considering capital works must obtain DBE and site trustees' consent.  
In the first instance, contact [Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org)

## Admission Appeal Hearings for Academic Year 2025-2026

APPEALS LODGED BETWEEN		SCHOOL CASE SENT TO DBE <b>No later than</b>	DBE SEND OUT PAPERS	HEARING
FRI 20-Jun	TUES 22-Jul	FRI 22-Aug	THURS 04-Sept	THURS 11-Sept
THURS 04-Sep	FRI 19-Sep	FRI 03-Oct	TUES 07-Oct	TUES 14-Oct
MON 22-Sep	FRI 17-Oct	FRI 24-Oct	TUES 28-Oct	TUES 04-Nov
MON 20-Oct	FRI 14-Nov	FRI 21-Nov	TUES 25-Nov	TUES 02-Dec
MON 17-Nov	FRI 05-Dec	FRI 12-Dec	THU 18-Dec	THU 08-Jan
MON 08-Dec	FRI 09-Jan	FRI 17-Jan	THU 23-Jan	THU 29-Jan
MON 12-Jan	FRI 06-Feb	FRI 13-Feb	THU 19-Feb	THU 26-Feb
MON 09-Feb	FRI 06-Mar	FRI 13-Mar	THU 19-Mar	THU 26-Mar
MON 09-Mar	FRI 20-Mar	FRI 17-Apr	THU 23-Apr	THU 30-Apr
MON 23-Mar	FRI 24-Apr	FRI 01-May	THU 07-May	THU 14-May
MON 27-Apr	FRI 15-May	FRI 22-May	THU 04-Jun	THU 11-Jun
MON 18-May	FRI 12-Jun	FRI 19-Jun	THU 25-Jun	THU 02-Jul
MON 15-Jun	FRI 03-Jul	FRI 10-Jul	TUES 14-Jul	TUES 21-Jul
MON 06-Jul	THU 23-Jul	FRI 21-Aug	TUES *-Sep	TUES *-Sept

**School holiday dates:**

Half Term 27-31 October / Christmas Holidays 22 December-02 January / Half Term 16-20 February / Easter Holidays 30 Mar-10 April / Half Term 25-29 May

# Primary Retreat Days 2026



## January/February/March

Please contact us to book.

**For year 6 pupils at Derby Diocese  
Church of England Primary Schools**

Our retreat days include activities, games, singing, prayer stations, worship, and exercise.

The events of the day will cover several PHSE curriculum topics, including knowing yourself, teambuilding, relaxation, prayer, and respecting others.

We can take one class of Year 6 pupils each day. Groups from small schools can be combined if needed to make up numbers & small schools occasionally send some Year 5 pupils (please ask us).

We have been running these days for a few years now and they always receive excellent evaluations from pupils and teachers. The material covered can be followed up and further developed at your school – we provide teachers with a sheet of ideas for this.

We aim to start at 0930 and finish at about 1415 – these timings can vary to suit your needs.

There is no charge for the day, but you need to provide transport to the centre. Children will need to bring a packed lunch. Staff will need to accompany the children and supervise at lunchtime. Otherwise, they will be able to observe the day.



EDALE, S33 7ZA

Tel 01433670254 [office@peakcentre.org.uk](mailto:office@peakcentre.org.uk)

[peakcentre.org.uk](http://peakcentre.org.uk)

