

## February 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Leadership  
**Key focus:** Headteachers/Principals

**Pray for all Headteachers; for wisdom and discernment as they lead their school(s), making important decisions and the role they play in the life of their school(s)**

**Key question:** How can your Church support your local school(s)? What resources do you have that might be of service to schools? Both educationally and pastorally?

**Homework:** Find out all the schools and the names of the headteachers in your parish. Now you will be able to pray for them all by name :o)

## March 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Knowledge  
**Key focus:** Pupils

**Pray for all pupils as they continue to settle, develop and learn into their school(s). Pray that they will continue to develop as individuals, develop their potential and seek aspirations and dreams for the future.**

**Key question:** Are there creative ways that your church could support schools in the education of young people? For example; are there people in your congregation who might be willing to hear children read?

**Homework:** Are there teachers (including retired) in your congregation? If yes, why not ask them how the Church could support teaching staff and pupils. What ideas have they suggested? Could any of these be achievable?

## April 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Sacrifice  
**Key focus:** All teaching staff

**Pray for Heads, teaching and support staff for the time, energy they commit to educating their pupils. Pray that they will feel refreshed during the Easter holidays and rejuvenated for the summer terms.**

**Key question:** Easter is one of the Christian festivals covered by the national curriculum. Could your Church enhance a child or young people's educational experience of Easter?

**Homework:** Contact Dan Jones (youth & children's adviser) or Katy Staples (schools adviser) at the diocese on 0117 906 0100 to discuss the question above further.

## May 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Success  
**Key focus:** Exams (SATS/GCSE's/ A Levels etc.)

**Pray for all pupils who will be sitting exams over the next few months. Pray that they will not be too stressed by any pressure or expectations and that they will do their best.**

**Key question:** The Summer months can be stressful for teachers too. What support can the Church offer during these crucial months for pupils and teaching staff

**Homework:** Why not arrange for a lovely 'home-made' cake to be made for the teaching staff each week (if you can) and personally deliver at school reception every Monday morning. Everyone loves cake :o) Also enclose a card to the Headteacher and staff saying that the Church is thinking and praying for everyone during Exam times.

## June 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Guidance  
**Key focus:** School Governors

**Pray for all those who give up their time on the School Governing body. Pray for wisdom and clarity as they make key decisions that impact the life and future of the school. Also pray for the Foundation Governors in church schools who have particular roles in defining the school's Christian character.**

**Key question:** Do you know what a Foundation Governor is? If not, find out.

**Homework:** If you have School governors in the congregation, ask them if there are any specific prayer requests each month. However, If you don't - ask around: you might be surprised to discover a governor or two.

## July 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Relaxation  
**Key focus:** School staff and pupils

**As schools wind down for the summer holidays pray for those teachers and pupils who will be moving onto new schools. Pray that the holiday will be a time of relaxation and enjoyment, preparing their hearts and minds for the new academic year.**

**Key question:** How many teachers names in the school(s) do you know? Why not find out the names of all the teaching staff so that they can be prayed for by name.

**Homework:** If you have a good relationship with a church school, why not ask if you can buy the school leavers a Bible to remind them of their time at school. A community school might appreciate the gesture too - why not ask them.

## September 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** New beginnings  
**Key focus:** Teaching staff & pupils

Pray for all those starting the new academic year in new surroundings. Pray for teaching staff starting into new roles and for pupils starting new schools/colleges. Especially pray for young children starting in reception class and young people who have moved onto Secondary school. Pray that they will settle in quickly and feel happy in their new schools.

**Key question:** Have any teachers moved on and been replaced?

**Homework:** If you didn't have a relationship with your local school, you have begun to build a relationship with them now. Why not contact Dan Jones or Katy Staples again to discuss developing your link further. Why not bake more cakes, take them into the school and also offer to make tea and coffee in the staff room too during break time.

## October 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Growth  
**Key focus:** Harvest

Pray for all teaching staff, pupils and governors who are settling into the school year; that each school community will continue to listen and learn together. Pray for all children and young people as they continue to grow, constantly being challenged and also for the church's relationships with the local school(s); that God continues to bless them and open doors that will help these relationships flourish.

**Key question:** Where do you feel your school relationships are strongest? Are there any areas that could easily be improved? What or who is needed to address these areas?

**Homework:** Contact the Headteacher and see if they would like to be involved in a Harvest collection. This can be for a local charity/Foodbank and the church will arrange collection.

## November 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Values  
**Key focus:** Remembrance

Pray for the values that underpin each school as a community. Pray that all teaching staff and pupils are valued and respected, regardless of any differences. Pray for those who shape and define these values and for God's guidance when applicable.

**Key question:** Do you know the difference between a church and a community school? Research this on the internet. What other types of school are there?

**Homework:** Why not look up the school(s) website to find out their values, key dates and events and pray for them all individually.

## December 2014

**Key Prayer theme:** Servanthood  
**Key focus:** Christmas

Pray for all teachers in their vocational roles. Pray for those who endeavour to make a difference in children and young people's lives. Pray for all the volunteers who faithfully give up their time to serve the school in a variety of ways (Governors, PTA etc.). Pray for those in the church who are committed to serving the local church through prayer and visiting the school(s) in a variety of roles. Pray that the church continues to support the school(s) and grow in their involvement and commitment always seeking God's guidance on new ways to serve the school community(s).

**Key question:** How do you think the school perceives the church? Do they see you as a 'gift'?

**Homework:** Why not buy a gift for the teaching staff and the reception staff too – how about some 'home-made' mince pies for everyone to enjoy as well, delivered with a lovely card too.

## January 2015

**Key Prayer theme:** Promises  
**Key focus:** New Year

Pray for the New Year and that 2015 will be full of blessings. Pray especially for those people who are Christians in the school(s). Whether they are teaching staff, volunteers or pupils, pray that God will give them the strength and support needed to be Christian witnesses in their schools.

**Key question:** As a church, you promised to pray for your local schools for a year. Has anyone given any thought for a in 2015?

**Homework:** Your school(s) may have plans on the horizon and hopefully your relationship is now at a stage where you can ask key people; headteachers, staff, governors, parents etc. for prayer requests (Ofsted, governance, personnel matters).

## What happens now?

**Would you like to continue praying for your school(s)?**

Pray for Schools is a national network of prayer groups who meet to pray about their schools. Each region has a Pray for Schools coordinator, who sends out newsletters and supports prayer groups in the region.

Why not register and join thousands of groups who are committed to praying for schools...

For more information, you can contact them at:

[www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org)

