

10 ideas for School Chaplains...

...to help sustain relationships during the period of lock-down and return to school.

1. Write a letter or a postcard to every member of staff to let them know they are in your prayers.
2. Give every member of staff a teabag with a message reminding them of the importance of self-care and that its ok to take time to pause.
3. Bake a cake and leave it in the staffroom, for those who are back at school. Or drop off home-baked goodies at staff houses (particularly if they are self-isolating).
4. Record yourself telling stories for the children to watch – either Bible stories or wisdom stories.
5. When you are recording assemblies, broadcast from different classrooms so children can connect with their familiar space.
6. Encourage the pupils to each write a line for a prayer (maybe about their school and teachers) or for a song. Then collate it and publish it on the website, or maybe even record it if it is a song.
7. Set a 'Wesley's Rule' challenge for children every week. Encourage them to send a picture of their activity connected with one line every week.
8. Make a video showing staff holding up a different word or line of a prayer. This could remind children who their teachers are. For those pupils who are back at school, they could make a similar video for those pupils who are still at home.
9. Help pupils to engage with a creative arts competition. The Methodist Church is running one called Get creative www.methodist.org.uk/getcreative and RE Today runs Spirited Arts, and set up an on-line gallery for your entries. This could be done by pupils who are back at school and those still at home.
10. Have a prayer box somewhere within the school and another near to the school gates (for those pupils who have not returned to school yet), where the children, staff and parents can anonymously ask for prayers about the current situation.