

Dear colleagues

The whole of Chichester Diocese, of which you are a valued part, is about to begin the Year of Prayer at the start of Advent on 3rd December 2017. We are very keen that your school gets involved with some (or all – if you wish) of the events and opportunities planned for this year.

A brief map of activities is included for your information. One aspect that I would warmly recommend to you is to take this opportunity to set up Prayer Spaces activities for a week or so during this year. You can find out more information by visiting the Prayer Spaces website or you can wait to be inspired by Sandi Wickens who will be leading a session at our Headteacher s' Conference on Thursday 1st March. Many of our schools have already taken part in this initiative and report how positive the whole experience has been. Even if you have run Prayer Spaces in the past, please do run another sequence of sessions again.

One other aspect of the Year of Prayer that I would also commend to you is to establish a Quiet Garden in school. The need for all of us to have a sense of peace and time to reflect is essential. Looking after everyone's health and wellbeing along with nurturing each one of your communities Christian spirituality would be a wonderful gift. Creativity could flourish – by using a range of colours, textures, scents and stimuli it could be a valued place to nurture the soul!

There is also, once again, an element of competition and you will find a competition pack attached for your delectation and delight! If you have any questions please contact us in the office. Please do join us this year!



Ruth Cumming
November 2017