

SDBE SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY REFLECTION

From The Very Reverend Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark Cathedral

It's 1852 in South Carolina. Rose, an enslaved mother, faces the heartbreaking reality that she might lose her daughter, Ashley, after their enslaver's death. She knows they could be torn apart, sold like property, never to see each other again. In an act of courage and love, Rose gathers what little she has—a tattered dress, three handfuls of pecans, and a braid of her hair—and packs them in a small sack for Ashley. She tells her daughter it would always be filled with her love.

That sack became a lifeline across generations. Ashley carried it through unimaginable pain, and it was passed down until Ruth Middleton, Rose's descendant, stitched their story onto it: a mother's love defying slavery's cruelty. Although Rose's bag lost its material contents over the years, its essential provision, that love which filled it, that love, in a cold climate that commercialised black bodies for pieces of silver, still remains. That bag was an act of revolution – witness to bondage and bravery, forced subservience and a free willed subversion, and to fierce, beautiful, undeterred, love. Your work in education is built on a loyalty to the future. We speak of loyalty to the past a lot, but loyalty to the future is more urgent. Rose knew that. So may we.

UPCOMING SDBE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

2024/2025 CPD programme available [here](#).

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 26 February 18:00 - 20:00 | The role of Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors |
| 04 March 18:00 - 19:30 | Financial Sustainability Workshop - for Governors |
| 07 March 09.30 - 15:30 | SIAMS Showcasing |
| 14 March 14:30 - 16:00 | SENDCO Network |
| 19 March 09:30 - 15:30 | Eco and Climate Justice Forum |
| 27 March 18:00 - 20:00 | Effective Support and Challenge – finding the balance |

SDBE, SDBE MAT AND EEF PROJECT LAUNCH

This month marked the launch of the Education Endowment Fund's (EEF) Evidence in Action Partnership, a two year project focused on 'Deepening Reading: Developing Disciplinary Literacy'. The event was hosted by the London South Research School at Charles Dickens (LSRS) who are leading this initiative in collaboration with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) and the SDBE Multi-Academy Trust (SDBE MAT). The project involves 30 primary schools and one secondary school across Lambeth, Southwark, Croydon, Lewisham, Wandsworth, Bexley, Surrey, and Sutton.

The delivery of this programme follows a year of evidence exploration involving the London South Research School, the SDBE and SDBE MAT as well as a selection of SDBE and non-SDBE schools in Lambeth. The focus and aim of the partnership were decided collaboratively following analysis of school data and Pupil Premium strategies. The partnership aims to boost reading skills, particularly for disadvantaged pupils, through strategic teaching practices. Teachers will be supported in adopting a deliberate and intentional approach to reading and vocabulary in science, geography, and history, thus improving pupils' reading skills and focusing on their ability to engage with subject-specific texts in key stage 2 (KS2).

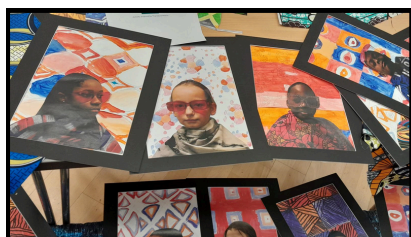
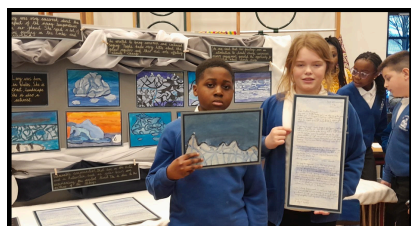
Literacy leads and subject leads from each of our schools will be trained on evidence-informed approaches to subject-specific reading and vocabulary instruction. By the end of the partnership, disciplinary reading should be embedded across KS2/3 in all participating schools. Additionally, a collaborative network of subject leaders with a shared understanding of and expertise in disciplinary reading will have been built.



SCHOOL FOCUS

KOINONIA FEDERATION'S 'WE ARE ONE' EVENT

At the beginning of February, the Koinonia Federation hosted the 'We Are One' event at St Mary Magdalene Peninsula. The event brought students, parents and staff together to celebrate equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).



Pupils, staff and parents from St Mary Magdalene C of E in Woolwich, St Mary Magdalene C of E Campus on the Greenwich Peninsula and Christ Church C of E Primary in Greenwich came together with St Margaret's Plumstead for this special event. The evening included a range of events, performances and refreshments which reflected on and celebrated EDI.

At the exhibition, Year Five pupils shared their wonderful artwork and writing with hundreds of visitors. The displays featured a variety of works including silk screen printed T shirts, self portraits and handmade jewellery. The pupils were also able to discuss their understanding of diversity. One pupil commented that diversity is 'when people respect others beliefs and looks'. Another stated, 'everyone is different and has unique skills. We can all learn from our different cultures'. Pupils from St Margaret's had reflected on equality and climate justice. Advocating for eco justice across the world, the pupils demonstrated their deep understanding through inspiring artwork and powerful letters. During the exhibition, visitors were able to vote for their favourite pieces and enjoy delicious refreshments.

The exceptional pupils from St Mary Magdalene Secondary Choir opened the performances which included Bhangra dance and poetry. There were also artistic responses to 'what does EDI mean to us' and a moving group performance of 'We Are One'. The event closed with the announcement of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Work award which was awarded to Powell Class from St Mary Magdalene Peninsula.

The event was an incredible celebration of the children and young people, their families and school community. One parent shared how much they had enjoyed the evening and hoped to join in future events which celebrated diversity at the school. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the inaugural 'We Are One' event. As another parent commented, 'we are looking forward to another event next year!'.

FEBRUARY PRAYERS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Catherine May, St Saviour's and St Olave's, Southwark

Angela Batchelor, St Paul's C of E School, Walworth

Casey Penn and Matt Jones, St Peter's C of E School, Walworth

Lynn Anderson, Trinity St Mary's and Roehampton Church Forest School, Wandsworth

Sarah Collymore, St George's C of E School, Battersea

Jo Ghosh, All Saints' C of E School, Wandsworth

Cheryl Payne, St Mary's C of E School, Wandsworth

Angela Harris, St Michael's C of E School, Southfields

Renata Joseph, Saint Cecilia's C of E School, Wandsworth