

Dear BSC Friends

We hope that 2022 has started well for you and that you are looking forward to the year ahead. As we emerge from the pandemic, we are excited that more churches in the Bristol area are connecting with their local schools and seeing this as a key way of being church. We have had a busy academic year so far and wanted to update you with some of our highlights. Please use this update to give thanks to our wonderful God – we are humbled by how God leads, equips, and provides for BSC. We thank God for you all and for the way that you continue to be part of this amazing story.

With love and thanks
Jane, Liz and the BSC Trustees

Thank you

Thank you for all those of you who support BSC financially and in prayer. Without you, the work of BSC would be impossible. We have been particularly encouraged by the additional gifts received towards the cost of the Christmas and Easter boxes.

We need more financial supporters. If you, or someone you know, are interested in becoming a BSC supporter through financial giving, please contact jane@bristolschoolsconnection.co.uk or visit our website: bristolschoolsconnection.co.uk



BSC is a registered charity no. 1162067

Supporter Event



A special highlight for us was the Cream Tea in September for our BSC Friends. There was so much to celebrate as we heard news and stories of what God has been doing through the work of BSC. It was great to have people that we work with and those who support us financially and in prayer in the same room. We heard about how our 'Christmas in a Box' and 'Easter in a Box - The Movie' resources have been used to connect with local school children in Soundwell, Frenchay, Bishopsworth and beyond. We heard about new groups of Christians gathering in Stapleton to serve the school there, as well as experiences from more long-standing church/school relationships in Easton and Shirehampton.

'Christmas in a Box' and 'Easter in a Box – The Movie'



It's our second year of promoting these resources which were developed during, and partly as a response to, the pandemic. We've updated the resources based on feedback we received last year. We've developed webpages for both, which include promo videos, photos, testimonials and the actual resources which are free to download. You can see them here:

bristolschoolsconnection.co.uk/christmas-in-a-box/

bristolschoolsconnection.co.uk/easter-in-a-box/

In Sept/Oct we ran four online training sessions for 'Christmas in a Box' attended by over 100 people. We were thrilled that at least 19 churches in the Bristol area ran 'Christmas in a Box' in 20 local schools reaching 1,000 children! We were delighted that staff at Bristol Children's Hospital used an adapted version with some of their in-patients. Numerous churches from across the UK ran 'Christmas in a Box' too.



In Jan/Feb we hosted three online training sessions for 'Easter in a Box – The Movie'. We are hoping and praying that many churches will use it this year. We already know of around 12 churches in Bristol who will be using it. Please pray that even more churches will share the Easter story with local children through this and other resources.

Meeting up with people again!



Our biggest joy in the last few months has been meeting up face-to-face with people again! It has been a privilege to catch up with some people whom we've worked with for a long time, and to meet up with several new contacts. We are excited to see what emerges for each of these church's stories this year.

Networking



We continue to partner with organisations which chime in with the vision of BSC. We are regional champions for Prayer Spaces in Schools. They filmed their new promo video at an outdoor prayer space which we hosted in Wick, Bristol. We also partnered with them to deliver training sessions about how to run Prayer Spaces in Schools which support children and young people to recover from the impact of the pandemic.



Date for Your Diary

We hope that you can join us for the next 30-minute Zoom prayer session on **Monday 28th March 7pm-7.30pm**. We will be praying for churches as they connect with schools to share the Easter Story. We will be circulating the Zoom details shortly.

Looking Ahead

In March we hope to host a meal for some of those we have been working with from across the city for some time together with more recent contacts. Please pray that they will feel celebrated and encouraged and that some of our newer contacts will be inspired to build and deepen their connections with local schools.