

In Association with
Scripture Union



In Association with
Churches Together in
St Neots



www.actios.org

UPDATE - September 16th 2020

Dear Friends,

Following the Government's decision to re-open all schools from September 2020, the Trustees of ACTIOS have taken the decision that our Schools' Worker, Elaine Thomas, should return to work on reduced hours. Elaine's contracted hours are 8 per week and she is currently furloughed for 4 hours and returning to work for 4 hours. This has enabled Elaine to contact the schools on our list to discuss with them how ACTIOS can best serve their needs under the present Covid-19 restrictions.

It has become clear that most, if not all, schools are not planning to receive visitors until after Autumn Half Term at the earliest. Elaine recently attended a meeting with Scripture Union Mission Partners which confirmed that other organisations are receiving similar responses from their local schools. However, schools are showing an interest in remotely led or video based activities and Elaine has already begun preparing some materials that could be used in this way.

As the Government has indicated that the furlough scheme is likely to finish at the end of October and this coincides with the possibility of greater access to schools, we are currently planning for Elaine to return to working her full 8 hours per week after Autumn Half Term 2020.

In the meantime, Elaine and the Trustees have agreed the following plan of work:

- Prepare a Letter in a colourful poster format to be offered to schools saying that we (ACTIOS) are praying for them.
- Contact Heads and RE leads by e-mail and telephone to offer them encouragement and support with ideas for Harvest and Christmas celebrations.
- Prepare and circulate a video message to the children from Elaine (ACTIOS) that could be shown in each class based assembly.
- Explore and prepare digital talks/lessons/events for use if access to schools' continues to be restricted.

Clearly the situation with social distancing is likely to continue to change from time to time and we will issue further updates as the academic year progresses. We are so grateful for your prayers and your continuing financial support as we continue to seek new and innovative ways of communicating the love of Jesus to both students and staff in our local schools

May we all know God's grace and peace in these challenging times.

Rev'd David Miller
CHAIR ACTIOS