



Dear Children and Young People

I wanted to write to you to say thank you. As Director of Education for Church Schools like your own, I write to many people - to Headteachers, Governors, Members of Parliament, and I wanted specially to write to you to say how amazing I believe you are.

In this last year you have needed to learn how to live very differently, for so much of the time away from school, or in school but without many of your friends. You have been months without seeing those special friends and family who you love very much and I am sure that at times, like me, you have felt frightened and lonely and wondered when all might be well again.

I believe that the children and young people of our diocese, of your school, are incredible. You have thought about others so much in this last year, helping your local community, doing practical things to cheer people up and where you can help them cope with all that is happening. You have learned to learn online - and shown us adults so much about how computers can be a force for amazing good - helping us to keep in touch and to help each other. I have loved watching the videos sent to me by schools during the pandemic and thank you for cheering me up too!

People often talk about children and young people being the nation's future. You have proven over and over again this year, that you are indeed this country's amazing future - the environment and care for others are in such good hands with each of you. What people often forget though is that you are also the leaders of today - and you have shown this magnificently during the pandemic. Thank you for all you have done to make this year special for the people around you.

You are about to enjoy your Easter holiday. In the Bible we learn that on Palm Sunday Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem to cheers. Days later Jesus was dead and his friends were hiding away. Everything had dramatically changed in an instant. Of course, we know the end of the story and that on Easter Sunday some brave women went to care for Jesus' body and were the first to see that Jesus was alive. Soon all of Jesus' friends discovered something new; Jesus was always with them wherever they were. This did not mean that Jesus' friends stopped being scared or that frightening things stopped happening to them, but they did find knowing that Jesus was always with them meant they could keep going and do some amazing things.

My prayer for you this Easter is that you will always continue to do amazing things and that you will feel Jesus close where ever you are.

If I was with you today in your classroom, I would ask you all to stand up. Perhaps we would all go out onto the school field (safely distanced of course) and I would ask you and your wonderful teachers to give you the biggest and loudest clap the country has ever heard. From the Cathedral in Salisbury we would be able to hear the clapping, for you, all over the diocese, from Royal Wootton Bassett to Lyme Regis and all towns and villages inbetween.

Thank you for being you. I hope you have the most wonderful Easter holiday. I look forward to learning about all you are doing next term.

Fond regards
Joy Tubbs - Director of Education