

# St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School



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Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the spring term, I wanted to write to you and say a huge thank you for all your hard work and support in making the return to school such a success. It is wonderful to have had three and a half weeks of relative normality and I am so proud of the children and the resilience and enthusiasm they have shown. None of this would have been possible without such supportive parents who work so well in partnership with the school. Whether it was your efforts during remote learning, the help and support you have given the children since their return to school or the kind words you have spoken to staff, I am truly grateful for everything you have done to support the school, the staff and the children this term.

As ever, our amazing PTA has continued to work on creative ways for us to come together as a community. Their wine tasting was greatly enjoyed by all those who participated and the Easter Fair activities were a wonderful way to end the term for all the children. A huge thank you to the committee and to all those who have taken part; we have managed to make over £2000 this term and have some fun together along the way. Please don't forget to let us know your thoughts on the Summer Fair via our survey <https://forms.gle/hWfuZYKbujkLr8Ax6>.

I am also incredibly grateful to the staff at the school for all their hard work. We had planned, trained and prepared for remote learning but I was so impressed with how hard they worked to engage the children and to continually develop and improve what they were offering. Your kind letters of thanks reflected what a wonderful job they did, and this has continued as they have worked tirelessly to ensure a successful return to school for our pupils.

We are incredibly blessed with the support we receive from the Parish. Father Adrian has worked so hard with Mrs El Khoury and Mrs Saunderson to help prepare our pupils for their First Reconciliations and First Holy Communions. He continues to be a great source of spiritual support and guidance to our pupils and our staff and his visits to the school have resulted in thought-provoking questions and wonderful work.

This week, we have been reflecting on the Easter message during Holy Week. The events of this very special week are full of such mixed emotions: of anger, betrayal and sorrow, but also of hope, joy and love. Our collective experience over the last year in many ways reflects this. We have, as individuals and as a community, been through so much. There have been moments of great happiness but also for many, times of great and ongoing sadness. I hope that the school has and will remain a consistent source of support, and I would ask you to hold those in our community who continue to endure hardship and heartache in your thoughts and prayers.

Signs of spring are appearing all around us and we have much to look forward to in the summer term. I am hopeful that the school will remain fully open and that we will be able to welcome back some of the extra activities that enrich our curriculum such as clubs, trips and visiting experts. I am also optimistic that towards the end of the term, there will be opportunities for us to come together as a community once again. It is with this hope that I wish you all a happy and healthy Easter with your children. I look forward to welcoming all the children back, in summer uniform on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Hughes, Headteacher