Dear Parents and children

The last day of the Lenten term, as the school breaks up for Easter, was always a special and exciting day at Our Lady’s as children (with no little help from you parents) took part in the Easter bonnet parade. This is but one of the many things that we miss due to the current situation – the day to day personal contact between staff and children is at the heart of education and summed up in our mission statement ‘ Learning to Love; loving to learn’.

As parents we are all trying to keep up to date with the news at home and abroad as we monitor the spread of this awful virus; being realistic the initial 3-week lockdown is going to be extended well into the summer. We hope and pray that we reach ‘the peak’ soon and start to come down the other side and that schools will be allowed to reopen before the scheduled end of the summer term.

Although all formal face to face governor meetings have been cancelled we, as governors, still have a responsibility to monitor the provision of education which our staff are providing to the children. We have been communicating with Mrs Batson and know that she and her team are in regular contact with you parents and, most importantly the children. We want to put on record our appreciation and gratitude to all our wonderful staff for the amazing work they are doing in such difficult time; we know that they have been in touch with both children and parents by using class dojo and the regular messages and mission assemblies as well as the Headteacher worker of the week certificates. We know that staff are so pleased with the work that the children (with your help and support) are doing at home and that the staff love to see photos of the work and are able to comment and praise the children for their efforts. It is very important that this is maintained into the summer term although parents, children and staff have earned and deserve an Easter ‘holiday’ even more this year. When the term ‘resumes’ on April 20th please try your best to reinstate the routine of home learning established over the last 2 weeks. In addition to the work which will continue to be provided and monitored by Our Lady’s staff there are many more excellent resources being developed and it is encouraging to read about the new BBC programmes that will be provided from April 20th to support children and parents (and teachers) with schoolwork at home.

Finally, we want to say a special ‘thank you’ to you parents for all you are doing and will continue to do to support Our Lady’s school and staff and above all your children at this time.

We hope and pray that this Easter season will be a time of blessing for you and all your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those that are ill, bereaved and working so hard, especially ALL our key workers at this time.

God bless and take care

Simon Everitt and Peter Griffin

Chair and Vice-Chair of Governors on behalf of Our Lady’s Governing Body