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Dear Head Teachers,

As we come to what would have been the end of term, not the least paradox of these difficult times is the fact that as so much of our life is reduced, many of you and your staff are having to work on through what would have been the holidays. We know how much so many of our children depend on school to help them to be safe and well looked after. You are all having to work hard to help carers and parents support children's learning and wellbeing at home. Many of you and your staff are traveling to keep the schools open for those who need them so that the key workers can continue their important activity to enable the fight to 'flatten the curve' to be successful and keep essential services running.

Thank you. Yesterday we clapped the NHS workers, but genuine and huge support for them does not obscure those others, teachers and school staff among them, who are working for us all.

Jesus called us to love our neighbour and to love God. You teach the curriculum surely, but the lesson you are helping your children, and all of us, to learn, is that the outworking of teaching is how we live our lives and what we do. Please be assured of our continuing prayers for you and gratitude for what you are doing for our children in these times.

With all good wishes,

The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally
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