

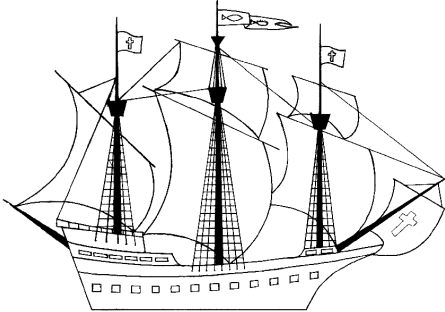
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# Dawpool C.E (Aided) Primary School

## *. . . Growing the Fruit of the Spirit*

***'The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self Control'  
(Galatians 5:22-23)***

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26<sup>th</sup> March 2021,

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week marked exactly one-year since the first UK lockdown. The National Day of Reflection on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March saw a minute's silence at 12pm, followed by a bell toll, with people encouraged to stand on their doorsteps at 8pm with phones, candles and torches to signify a "beacon of remembrance". Like many, I took this time to reflect on the last twelve months and would like to share my thoughts with you.

It was hard to imagine a year ago, when we received the first details of the Covid measures and were told to 'stay at home', just what an impact the pandemic would have on each of us, and that we would still be working through them some twelve months later. Back then, it wasn't fully apparent the many changes that we would need to make to our daily lives and routines. The numerous restrictions placed upon us, not being able to do the things we had so ordinarily taken for granted and equally not being able to see or be with our family and friends, has been tough for us all. It has been particularly difficult for those who have lost loved ones, as a result of the virus. The last twelve months has been hard in so many ways, and yet for all the sacrifices, the challenges and at times the pain and sorrow, there have also been moments and opportunities of unexpected joy and happiness, of selfless acts of kindness, love and care.

We owe you our thanks considerably more than ever, so please let me offer it now. We always recognise that, in sending your children to Dawpool, you are putting great trust in us, both to care for and to educate them. In the past twelve months, this couldn't be more true. So thank you for continuing to trust in us through this tumultuous time, particularly when there must have been times of real worry for you, as there have been for all of us.

Thank you for your patience at the start of this whole business, when we all found out that schools would be closing just days later. We had a challenge on our hands working out what school closure would look like, but we were also very aware that every delay in us sharing information with you was adding to the challenges you faced in changing work plans and arranging childcare.

Thank you to those of you who continued to serve in frontline roles, while entrusting your children to our care. You must have worried that you were putting them at risk to allow you to go to work; know that we were grateful both for your faith and your contribution to tackling the pandemic in its most worrying phase.

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***'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.'* (Jeremiah 29:11)**

Thank you, too, to those of you who, with little warning, made arrangements to keep your children at home. Very few school teachers would opt to home-educate their own children: we know what a challenge that is. Thank you for your tolerance while we sorted out remote learning, tried to balance the needs of everyone, whether enthusiastic for more work or struggling to access any.

Thank you for listening to our messages, reading our emails, letters and updates, while all around us was contradictory information in the press and on social media. Often, we found out about big announcements at the same time as you, watching the Prime Minister and his experts on the evening broadcasts. Too often we then had to wait on detail to help us – and you – to understand what it meant in practice.

To those who were confused by too much communication, or disappointed with the decisions we took, we apologise. The urgency with which we had to make decisions meant that sometimes we had to go back and change decisions. Hopefully, each change improved things for you and your children, but it was another adaptation to have to make, all the same.

And, lastly, thank you for working with us through these straitened months, without traditional events like welcome meetings, open afternoons, parents' evenings or even the Nativities and Easter Services. In some ways, it's felt harder than ever to be together as a school community but, in other ways, this period of change has highlighted the importance of working together as we do.

Hopefully, you'll agree that throughout the last twelve months we've worked to provide your children with the safest, most enjoyable and most effective education possible. And we look forward to doing the same in the Summer term and sharing news of our plans after the Easter break.

Today, we are pleased to share on our Vimeo channel a Whole School Easter Watch Party to enjoy in the comfort of your own homes. We have emailed you the access details today.

May I end with a prayer:

God of Love,

As we think about all that has changed this year,  
help us to trust that you are always with us.

As we remember those who have died,  
help us to trust they are at peace with you.

As we reach out to others with kindness and care,  
may hope shine out in every heart and home.

Amen

Wishing you a peaceful Easter.



David Burrows  
Head Teacher