

***A message from Rev Gary - at the start of the Summer Term 2026
Powick CofE Primary, Callow End CofE Primary and Madresfield CofE Primary***

Dear Staff, Parents and Children

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope you have all had a restful and joyful Easter break. Some good news! For those of you that supported our red bucket and *Easter Eggs for Ukraine* collections over Lent, I am delighted to confirm that we raised £151.22 for *Embrace the Middle East* and collected 288 Easter Eggs. The eggs made it to The Ukraine to mark the Orthodox Easter last Sunday via the charity, *Teams4U*. Isn't it great, despite our own issues that we can help others in this way? That's a defining true hallmark of Christian faith and hope, as well as a clear demonstration of each school's distinctive Christian approach. Thank you. As we return to the routine of school life, we do so in the light of the risen Christ as celebrated at Easter and we continue to live in the hope and promise of the ongoing Easter season. Ahead of us lie the great celebrations of The Ascension and Pentecost—good reminders that Christ is with us always, and that the Holy Spirit equips and strengthens us for all that lies ahead.

This is a special and significant term in the life of our church schools. Our Year 6 pupils begin their final chapter in primary education—a time filled with memories, milestones, and important transitions. As they continue to wear their Leaver's Hoodies, they also have to prepare for SATs and look ahead to new beginnings. Let's hold them especially in our prayers. May they reflect on their time in school with thankful hearts, growing confidence, and a deep sense of hope for the future. We surround them with our love and encouragement in these coming weeks.

There is much to look forward to as well, including the opportunity for some year groups to gather again for *Lifepath* at Great Malvern Priory. It will be a joy to welcome schools into that sacred space, with many other local schools, to explore our faith, and the richness of the Christian story, together.

This term also carries its share of challenges—tests, residential or day trips out, preparation for sports days, and the usual pressures of school life. And beyond our school gates, we are all aware of a world that can at times feel uncertain and worrying. In such a context, our church schools have a vital calling: to be places of hope, compassion, kindness, and steady encouragement. Places

where every child and every member of staff knows they are valued, supported, and not alone.

As the days lengthen and spring slowly turns toward summer - despite the occasional April shower (!!)- we are reminded of God's faithfulness in every season. The light is growing, warmth is returning, and new life is all around us. The snowdrops have given way to daffodils, and in their place cherry blossom and blue bells now bloom. May these signs of regrowth be a sign to us of God's ongoing work in our lives and communities.

And as we step into all that this term holds—SATs, celebrations, farewells, and fresh opportunities—I can't help but borrow a phrase from BBC Gladiators: *Are you ready?* Ready to encourage one another, to persevere, to grow, and to shine with the hope we carry.

Be assured of my prayers for you all—for your work, your wellbeing, and your witness in these weeks ahead. Maybe you can use this verse from scripture this term to encourage and support you all:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Crellin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Reverend Gary Crellin

Pastoral Note

Please reach out to me if I can help or support you, in prayer or advice. I can be contacted via www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk or the vicarage phone number – 01905 830270.