

22 February 2021



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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

As we return to school for the second half of the spring term, we find ourselves already immersed in the season of Lent. A time of observance and preparation, a time traditionally used for fasting or the giving up of something, an invitation to make hearts and minds ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Perhaps this year, more than ever, we understand the sacrifice and challenge involved in waiting. Waiting for good news, waiting for the vaccination roll out, waiting for lockdown to end, waiting for all pupils to return to school, waiting for Government announcements. The patience of the country had been tested and strained, no more so than within our schools.

Yet as we begin this week, we do so with a strong sense of hope, a renewal of strength for the weeks ahead, a light at the end of the tunnel, growing in brightness and leading us forward. The journey has been long and difficult, the challenges huge, the stresses tremendous but despite it all we carry on. Rising from the dark winter days we embrace the new season of spring that is nearly upon us.

As schools move forward over the coming weeks, in which ever direction they are taken, take time to pause this Lent. Look after yourselves, look after each other. Reflect on your journey, be proud of the steps you have taken. The wait is not yet over, we know there are still more challenges to overcome, but as you walk forward into the second half of the academic year, remind yourself *'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.'* *Philippians 4:13 NIV*

Produced by Carrie Prior

