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THE PRIME MINISTER

15 May 2025

Dear all,

I am writing to thank you for supporting the schools programme under the UK's 100-year partnership with Ukraine.

This historic partnership, which I was proud to sign in Kyiv earlier this year together with President Zelenskyy, is a statement of our unshakeable commitment to Ukraine – our pledge to stand with them in defending their country today and building a brighter future for tomorrow.

We are all affected by the instability that aggressors like Russia create. That is why standing with Ukraine in countering Russia's invasion is deeply in our national interest – both today and in the future. And it is why we are investing in the UK's security with the largest increase in defence spending since the Cold War.

But of course, we are not standing with Ukraine for our national interest alone – we are also standing with them because it is right. We have all been outraged by what the Ukrainian people have endured, moved by their bravery, and determined to help in any way we can.

The schools programme is part of this, as a clear illustration of the deep bonds between our two countries. Thousands of school children across the UK and Ukraine have applied to take part, and 100 schools are now being paired.

I saw for myself how powerful this can be when I visited Number 219 School in Kyiv and joined a lesson they held with All Saints Catholic Primary School in Anfield. Those pupils in Kyiv have known terrible hardship so it was wonderful to see their joy when the smiling faces from Liverpool appeared on the screen. By building links in this way, I believe we can help children on both sides expand their horizons, build their confidence, and form friendships that could last a lifetime.

So to you, and to all the British parents and children taking part, I want to say: thank you.

All best wishes,