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www.gov.uk/number10

Head of the Direct Communications Unit

1 March 2023

Dear Pupils of Class 5CB

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of 9 February to the Prime Minister, concerning the tragic earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

It was inspirational to read of the kindness and generosity you have shown in raising money for those affected through your non-uniform day initiative and by donating essential supplies. It is also wonderful that you have reached out to your local MP about facilitating borough-wide schemes for responding to this disaster. I would like to reassure you that the UK Government remains committed to supporting all those who have been affected throughout Turkey and Syria.

The Government has mobilised a rapid and ongoing package of support for both Turkey and Syria, which includes 77 search and rescue responders, thousands of blankets and tents, and an in-air intensive care unit. UK medics are also on the ground running a field hospital and they continue to treat the people affected. The team have already treated more than 1400 patients.

Additionally, the Government has committed more than £40 million in aid funding, much of which is going to the UN and aid agencies in Syria to support the response across the border. On 19 February, International Development Minister Andrew Mitchell MP also visited the earthquake zone in Turkey and met with first responders. The Government is continuing to look at what more it can do to support the recovery effort.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I hope you are able to continue your efforts supporting the people affected by this disaster, as your help is hugely appreciated. May I also wish you best of luck with your studies this term.

Yours sincerely

MANDY GODRIDGE

Class 5CB, Old Bexley C of E Primary School