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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

31 March 1980

Thank you so much for your letter of 6 March with which you enclosed a letter from Mrs. Eileen Barnes of Edgeside C of E school together with the marvellous letter which the children of class 2 had sent you. Please pass on my congratulations to all of them for their lovely drawings.

I am sorry to have to say that it is true that the public money which used to go to the Clowns' Training School has now come to an end. This is because very many more people apply for grants to help their work than we can possibly afford, and so sometimes the Arts Council, who are the people who provide the money, have to end their support for particular people. They do, however, provide money to several other organisations which employ clowns, so that I am sure that the ending of the grant will not mean the end of clowns performing in schools and everywhere else.

I do hope this will make the children at Edgeside School feel a little happier.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

PS Would the children like to write to the Arts Council to let them know how the children feel?

D. A. Trippier, Esq., J.P., M.P.

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