

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Exactitude and Aspiration**

*'Loveliest of trees, the cherry now,  
Is hung with bloom,  
And stands about the woodland ride,  
Awaiting Eastertide'*

A.E. Houseman

One week on from my last correspondence and much has happened. Provision has been organised at a number of settings for the Easter holidays, including Play Plus Leader, Ms Pattrina Quashie Ferguson's 'Venture' initiative, which will be hosted by All Saints Secondary School. This is a unique arrangement, and is specifically for the children of key workers. The Leadership Team have been busy tackling a multitude of tasks, so that when we eventually reconvene, everything is as it should be to ensure exactitude and aspiration remain absolute. Premises improvement works, to enhance the façade adjacent to St Mark's Road, are progressing, however, it is probable that the next stage of this project will be put on-hold until the nation-wide lock-down is adjusted. Simply put, the contractors cannot gain access to the warehouses where crucial materials are stored.

### **An Effusive Quality**

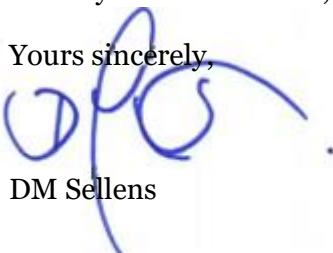
Recently appointed Senior Administrative Officer, Ms Cara Keane spent last half term being inducted into her new role. It is almost impossible to make grandiose forecasts, but first impressions do sometimes resonate and Ms Keane has certainly brought energy and an effusive quality to her position over the last six weeks. With Clerical Assistant, Ms Angela Bristow, the office is a hugely important part of what makes Thomas Jones function so smoothly. Cordial, exceptionally calm and also warm and appropriately welcoming, between them, these two key colleagues are second to none in their willingness to represent and promote what we do.

### **Accountable Early Years and Coffee**

Royal Borough Early Years specialist, Ms Jane Robinson spent the best part of a morning observing and meeting various colleagues last month. It was fruitful, with Ms Robinson agreeing to visit again in the autumn, primarily to scrutinize learning in a more formalised context and ideally to validate our judgement that our practice is consistently outstanding. Ms Natasha Peurois has again been approached to be part of the annual moderation of local Early Years settings. The highly successful 'Parent Gym' continued to elicit effusive feedback from both those in attendance and the facilitators during its tenure. Coffee mornings too, led by staff and external providers, most recently dental nurses, were well received.

Please do look after yourselves and your families. This is an unprecedented period in the modern age, the like of which I hope we will not experience again. Debilitating in the extreme, especially for anybody who is elderly or frail, my heart goes out to each and every one of you. Rest assured, you are very much in the thoughts of the Thomas Jones' staff team.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens